

The home stretch

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The final pieces of the puzzle are falling into place, which means **Paul Salter** and his family finally should be moving into their new home around the middle of August.

Salter is the Sarasota teen-ager who was left without the use of his arms or legs after a football injury in 1999. John King of Rampart Homes has been building the **Salter** family a house on Camphor Avenue that is designed to meet **Paul's** needs for decades to come. The 2,200-square-foot house will give him a sense of freedom that he lacks in the small home his family now inhabits. It has been a volunteer effort by King and many other members of the local building community who have donated labor, materials and expertise toward this most worthy project.

King said construction has been delayed because it has been difficult, on occasion, to get tradesmen to work on the house because they are so busy with paying projects. "People have the best intentions," said King. "I know they are coming from a good place, but when it comes down to the time to do the work, it's inconvenient. Not only are they giving up other jobs, but it's taking away their own time."

King has felt such pressure since ground was broken last fall. He has spent countless hours managing the project and arranging for donations, at the expense of his own booming business. "Unfortunately, I am as busy as I have ever been in my life," he said. "There is not enough time in the day."

King said the United Way has funds in an account for **Paul**, but the builder has refused to tap into that money to hire out some aspects of the job. "That money is for **Paul's** nursing care, and he also needs a college fund."

In the next week the interior painting will be done, then flooring and tile, landscaping and irrigation, cabinetry and the finishing touches. "We're getting down to the nitty-gritty," said King. "It's right there."

If you'd like to donate money, materials or labor for the **Paul Salter** house, contact King at Rampart Homes, (941) 925-4835. Checks, payable to Sarasota Bank, **Paul Salter** Construction Escrow Account, may be mailed to the bank at 2 N. Tamiami Trail, Suite 100, Sarasota, FL 34236.

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