



ON THE ROOF, David Noren (above) helped Rob Lewis put shingles on Cathy Almquist's house. Caleb Koerperich (below) tore off a part of the roof. The Oberlin Teens for Christ group started on the roof around 8 a.m. Saturday and finished it before dinner that night.



Teenagers volunteer to re-do woman's roof

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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A group of teenagers and four adults volunteered to re-roof an Oberlin woman's house on Saturday.

Doug Mason, Oberlin Teens for Christ leader, said 15 teens helped tear off and roof Cathy Almquist's house on West Adams Street. They started around 8 a.m. and got the project done before dinner.

Mr. Mason said Ms. Almquist's roof was in bad shape. She had pots and pans catching water in the house and couldn't afford to hire someone to do the job.

He said his wife walks the dog past the house and had thought it might be a project for the teen group, but wasn't sure how to approach Ms. Almquist. Then the homeowner approached them and it all worked out.

Mr. Mason said Ms. Almquist had the roofing materials ready for the

workers. Rob Lewis from Teens for Christ in Oxford, Neb., came since he has experience with roofing, said Mr. Mason. He showed the kids what to do.

Actually, said Mr. Mason, some of the teenagers have had some roofing experience on mission trips.

Mr. Lewis brought his tools and was able to teach the kids some things. The group was short a nail gun and Joe Stanley, owner of Stanley Hardware, let them borrow one.

The group tries to do two or three service projects a year, said Mr. Mason. One of them is the annual Porch Light Food Drive, he said, and the other projects seem to find them.

All of the church youth groups in town, said Mr. Mason, plan to do a drive for the Decatur County Food Pantry in November.

The group meets at 118 S. Rodehaver at 6 p.m. Sundays. It's open for kids in seventh to 12th grades.

Sunday night, he said, they broke a record with 34 kids at the meeting. The previous record had been 33, said Mr. Mason.

"It's exciting," he added.

The group needs Christian adult volunteers to help with meetings and events. Anyone who's interested can call him at (785) 505-7395 or 475-4021.

The group also needs another van. While they just got a 15-passenger van in May, with 30 some kids, and several events coming up, another vehicle could be used.

One of the group's upcoming events, he said, is the seventh annual Dodgeball Tournament in Oberlin on Saturday, Oct. 8 at the high school. Area Teens for Christ groups will bring kids and dodgeball teams.

One team is coming this year from Missouri and plans to do the half-time program, he said.



TOOLS IN THEIR HANDS, Triston Sepeda and Daniel Lerew helped tear off the old roof.