

Friday April 20th

6:00 p.m.

End of the work week and it was a productive day for a mission Friday. Volunteers are usually ready to pack it in and head for home early on Friday afternoon. We wanted to finish all our projects before leaving, and we were almost successful. The nice little tile job would be our nemesis. The tile glue did not dry overnight, so we could not grout. This phase must be completed before tiling the walls. This means that we were unable to finish tiling the shower.

We did complete the plumbing job, as you can see from the pictures. This is another one of those tricky little jobs that other volunteers had started, but didn't know how to complete properly.



Crimping PEX plumbing connections



The finished job

As we were packing up the tools, we got a little surprise job. The Pennsylvania Presbyterian volunteers who were installing kitchen cabinets hit a snag and did not know how to proceed, so we were asked if we knew anything about installing cabinets. One hour later all the cabinets were in place.



Some Presbyterians may wonder why we are working for Catholic Charities in Joplin. We should explain. First, we would never move into a disaster site unless there is an established faith based organization managing the reconstruction. For volunteers to enter a disaster area with no organizational oversight would be chaos. No-one would know where to start or who to help. PDA has not yet been able to establish a camp in Joplin. Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri has been on the ground in Joplin since the tornado hit. They have been providing disaster case management and have been coordinating volunteers from all denominations from around the country. They have assisted over 10,000 disaster survivors in Joplin.

Now you understand why we are so willing to work for the Catholics.