

habitat[®]

THE MAGAZINE OF HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



Honoring Our Habitat Humanitarians

JUNE 2018
habitat.org

Opening doors to opportunity



What action can you take today to help us reach that next family who so eagerly awaits those keys to their better future?

There's nothing like the energy on a Habitat build site. The camaraderie. The hammering and wall raising. The knowledge that every task completed helps families move closer to their dream of owning a home.

My favorite build-site job is anything I get to do alongside future homeowners. I love hearing their stories and getting to know them and their families. My absolute favorite thing, though, is the moment when they are handed the keys to the new homes they helped build. Every dedication ceremony is a holy moment.

That was certainly true for Ashlee and Amanda, two hardworking moms from Nashville, Tennessee, who built their homes as part of this year's Home Is the Key campaign. I was thrilled to be among the volunteers who worked alongside them.

Both of them are so excited about what owning an affordable home will mean for their children. They know that the keys they now hold so proudly will unlock more than just their new front doors. "I think it will be great for my children's future," Ashlee says.

We know that she is right. Research supports strong connections between decent housing and the stability it creates with positive outcomes for a child's development, health and outlook.

Pediatrician and researcher Dr. Megan Sandel has studied the effects of housing on children for two decades. She has seen firsthand how housing affects children — and, in turn, how that affects all of our communities.

She compares an affordable, stable home to a vaccine and a basic building block of a better community. "It gives you resilience," she says. "Immunity against future threats."

That's what you help build when you build with us.

We are grateful for every hand that swings a hammer or holds a trowel, every voice that advocates for the cause of affordable housing and every share on social media that helps raise awareness. Our blessings abound.

We are delighted to recognize our newest Habitat Humanitarians Drew and Jonathan Scott. They believe in the benefits of decent, affordable housing and are tremendous ambassadors for our mission. They were among the volunteers who built alongside Ashlee and Amanda, and those two homes are just the latest effort in their history of helping Habitat.

With your support, imagine how much we can accomplish together! There are so many families out there who just need the hand up that we can provide. Your support makes everything we do possible; it makes a better, healthier future a reality for families like Ashlee's and Amanda's.

What action can you take today to help us reach that next family who so eagerly awaits those keys to their better future? How are you helping to create a Beloved Community with opportunity for all?

Jonathan T.M. Reckford
Chief Executive Officer
Habitat for Humanity International

HABITAT'S VISION

A world where everyone has a decent place to live

Driven by the vision that everyone needs a decent place to live, Habitat for Humanity began in 1976 as a grassroots effort on a community farm in southern Georgia. The Christian housing organization has since grown to become a leading global nonprofit working in local communities across all 50 states in the U.S. and in more than 70 countries.

Families and individuals in need of a hand up partner with Habitat to build or improve a place they can call home. Habitat homeowners help build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage.

Through financial support, volunteering or adding a voice to support affordable housing, everyone can help families achieve the strength, stability and self-reliance they need to build better lives for themselves.

Through shelter, we empower. To learn more, visit habitat.org.

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Building the Beloved Community

We believe that making homeownership accessible and affordable is a critical component to creating the kind of future that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. envisioned. [PAGE 28](#)

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News and Updates

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Coming Home

Carlos and Alina celebrate the volunteers who helped them build – and then repair – their Habitat home. [PAGE 31](#)



Habitat Hammers Back

Thanks to the generosity of donors and supporters, Habitat for Humanity performed more than 5,000 disaster recovery services in Texas and 4,000 in Florida in the first six months after hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria made history in 2017.

The level of infrastructure damage made our immediate response in Puerto Rico difficult. But within weeks of the storm, Habitat had assembled 2,000 shelter repair kits to help people make essential repairs as the first phase of our multiyear recovery effort with families across the island.

We've also been active on a number of other Caribbean islands, from discussions with government officials in Antigua and Barbuda and the British Virgin Islands to assistance with the recovery phase of the response in Trinidad and Tobago to directly assisting storm-affected families in the Dominican Republic.

Recovery from these hurricanes will be measured in months and years, not days and weeks. Families affected by the hurricanes are counting on all of us. Learn more about our ongoing efforts and long-term strategy at [habitat.org/hurricanes](https://www.habitat.org/hurricanes).







MYANMAR

Building with bamboo

Over 80 Habitat volunteers from Japan and Hong Kong traveled to Myanmar this past March to build houses with eight families.

This special Global Village volunteer trip was part of Habitat for Humanity's largest youth initiative in the Asia-Pacific region — Young Leaders Build — which this year expects to engage 4.5 million youth to volunteer, raise funds and speak out for the cause of affordable housing.

In Myanmar, the volunteers helped build houses made of bamboo, a



COLOMBIA

Incorporating new technologies

When Tanasi and Lewis received news about the possibility of a new home for their family, they were happy but hesitant. "I was afraid," says Tanasi, whose family lives in the city of Sincelejo, in northern Colombia. "I used to think that the house would be made of tin and that it was going to fly away or fall apart with the first earthquake."

That was before engineers and staff members with Habitat Colombia visited to explain the building process step by step. "Now I know the house is more earthquake-resistant than others around because of the materials used," Tanasi says.

An added benefit: Tanasi's family is part of a program that uses an innovative technology designed for tropical climates. The technology allows for a ventilation system that provides for a cooler house and access to safe water. "We can save money," she says.

"The community was very skeptical about this innovative technique," says civil engineer Adiana Zapata. "We had to work with the community to create a new culture to accept this type of construction and be more open to new technologies."



innovation

traditional material used for housing in the Asian country. The bamboo used was specially treated to allow the houses to stand strong for 10 years. Bamboo houses in Myanmar typically have to be rebuilt every two or so years.

Volunteers developed a special bond with the villagers after spending almost two weeks working together. Thet Woi Htun, one of new Habitat homeowners, bid farewell to the young volunteers, saying with tears in her eyes, “I will remember this time forever.”



“Seeing how much this meant to them — and the potential it had to change their life — taught me to be more aware and empathetic.”

Volunteer **Nour Sebar**, a student from the American School of Paris, which has deployed teams to help build Habitat homes in locations such as Indonesia, Poland, Hungary and Macedonia for more than a decade

BRAZIL

A ray of sunshine

Sunlight streams through the balcony and lights up Mayara’s face. The 24-year-old is happy that she can take in some fresh air and live in a home that can better accommodate her disabilities.

Mayara was born with hydrocephalus, a condition that can cause brain damage and physical

problems. She and her mom, Regina, live in a one-bedroom house in Heliopolis. Regina partnered with Habitat Brazil to remodel the home to make it more accessible.

“It made me revive my dream and hope of having a comfortable and pleasant house to live in,” Regina says. “My family was transformed. We are very happy, satisfied and relieved.”

Before, the house had only one bathroom, which is on the first floor. Since the living area is on the second floor and Mayara relies on a wheelchair to get around, Regina had to carry her daughter up and down the stairs to shower.

Now, the second floor also has a bathroom, making things easier for both mom and daughter.

inspiration



BOLIVIA

The art of improving lives

Murals in cool shapes and soothing colors. Renditions of favorite TV characters. These are among the creative expressions that children in El Alto, working with local artists, have contributed to their homes.

Habitat Bolivia has partnered with the local housing agency and the artists to improve the homes and lives of 18 families with children with a range of disabilities, including hearing impairments and Down syndrome.

“You have lifted my burden,” Maria says. Her 9-year-old son, Limberth, has

autism while another son, 6-year-old Deyvi, experiences some cognitive issues. The family lives with Maria’s mother and grandmother in a small house.

The home’s kitchen, bathroom and living area have been upgraded. Another room was added so the boys can have their own space, which they worked with the artists to make their own.

The experience allowed the brothers – and the children from the other participating families – to express themselves and have some fun doing it.



ROMANIA

A former Olympian volunteers

Like a marathon, changing lives through good works is a long-distance proposition. That’s why Constantina Dita, the Romanian marathoner who won the gold medal at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, volunteers whenever she can with Habitat Romania.

Dita understands the severe shortage of affordable and decent housing in her home country. “I believe that every person needs a decent house,” she says.

To put that belief into action, Dita helped organize last April’s Bucharest International 10K, with a percentage of registration fees going to Habitat Romania. In October, she also put in long hours at Habitat’s Big Build in Bacau, enthusiastically embracing tasks, no matter how large or how small.

Dita displayed the attitude of a true long-distance runner. “If we didn’t finish our tasks by the time the workday ended, we would spend an hour extra. Or maybe more,” she says.

“It really touched my heart and made me so happy, working side by side with the family to help them realize their dream.”

In the two years since Cyclone Winston devastated Fiji, Habitat has rallied to aid in the island nation’s recovery and been recognized with a United Nations disaster risk reduction certificate of merit and grant.

First, more than 7,000 families received emergency shelter kits. Habitat Fiji then focused on making communities more resilient through its “Build Back Safer” program, which emphasizes sound construction techniques and the choice of safe building sites.

More than 2,000 people in 180 communities have received hands-on training, and program participants have helped build 114 cyclone-resistant homes. Habitat Fiji has built an additional 100 houses with families whose homes were destroyed during the cyclone.



1,949

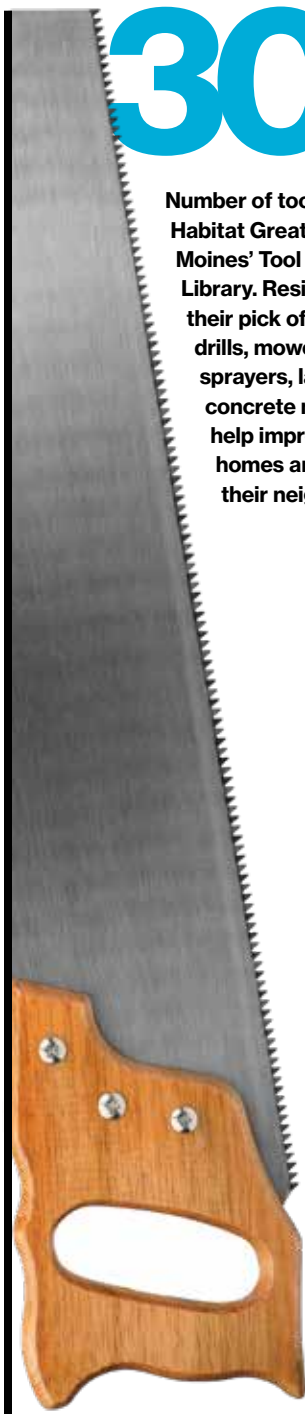
Eco-stoves constructed in Habitat homes in Mexico last year so that families have a safe and healthy place to cook. Eco-stoves use energy more efficiently, free up funds for other necessities, and reduce serious respiratory ailments that often arise as a result of burning wood and charcoal indoors.

11

Congregations that came together for New Orleans Area Habitat's Unity Build 2017. The congregants, united across diverse faiths and traditions, helped first-time homebuyer Nicole construct her new house in just 13 days. "Working together, as different churches and congregations, not only helps our beloved community," says the Rev. Dr. Donald R. Frampton of St. Charles Ave. Presbyterian Church. "It strengthens our bond as people of faith."

300

Number of tools in Habitat Greater Des Moines' Tool Lending Library. Residents have their pick of saws, drills, mowers, paint sprayers, ladders and concrete mixers to help improve their homes and beautify their neighborhood.



ZERO

Amount owed by Habitat homeowner Sandy after paying off her mortgage earlier this year. In 1997, she and her son commuted to their build site by bicycle to lay the foundation for their Habitat East Central Ohio home and build alongside volunteers. With tears in her eyes and pride in her voice, Sandy says, "I'm grateful for everything they did for me and they allowed me to do for myself."



87 & 18



Ages of the oldest and youngest volunteers on a recent Habitat Global Village trip to Cambodia. Eighty-seven-year-old Orin Scandrett, founding director of Twin Cities Habitat, and 18-year-old Hannah Anfinrud got down in the mud together to help a mother build a home for her three young children. "Every brick laid was an act of love," Scandrett says.



Housing's effects on child development



The connection between a decent place to live and a healthy kid was a “eureka” moment, says Dr. Megan Sandel, an associate professor of pediatrics at the Boston University Schools of Medicine and Public Health. She also is a nationally recognized expert on housing and child health and development.

The light for her went off after a 2-year-old patient who had fallen way behind on the growth chart suddenly started sprouting. “It soon became clear to me why,” Sandel says. The toddler’s family had moved from an overcrowded, unsuitable apartment to a better one. “The prescription that this child needed was a stable, decent, affordable home. They don’t stock those at the pharmacy.”

Q: [Can you talk more about how you made the link between children’s health and development and housing?](#)

A: I am the associate director of the Grow Clinic for Children at Boston Medical Center. The

clinic is for kids with “failure to thrive” — kids who are at least an inch off the growth curve. In another country, that would meet the World Health Organization’s definition of malnutrition.



Where you live may be your strongest predictor of your health.

I had one kid who looked like a very cute 2-year-old but had not yet outgrown his 12-month-old clothes. He was severely stunted and wasted and not growing. I was tearing my hair out trying to get this kid to grow. I was ordering a lot of expensive tests, nutritional shakes and medicines. Nothing was working.

All of a sudden, he started growing. His family had gotten off of an affordable housing waiting list. They went from sleeping in a living room in an overcrowded family member's apartment to an apartment of their own. This child now got to sleep in a bed by himself through the night. He got to sit at a table and not be distracted by different people coming and going. And he got to eat better. All of those things were things that he needed to grow.

Q: How exactly does housing affect children's health and development?

A: I tend to focus on four different dimensions of housing that impact health.

Quality of the home. Does it have things that could make kids sick or things that can promote health?

Stability. Is the family staying in the same place or are they at risk of homelessness or eviction?

Affordability. Is the family able to afford their home without having to make other sacrifices like food or heat or health care?

Location. What are the neighborhood and the community where the home is like? All of those dimensions are incredibly important to children's health.

Q: How so?

A: One example associated with quality of the home is asthma. Asthma is one of the most common chronic diseases in children. Somewhere between 10 to 12 percent of kids nationally have asthma.

It has been estimated that close to 40 percent of asthma is attributable to home environment. Things like



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tobacco smoke, molds, pests like mice or cockroaches, exposure to chemicals. These all have been shown to exacerbate asthmas, and some of them actually have even been shown to be related to the development of asthma.

Those quality features become super important in thinking about ways that we may be able to reduce asthma attacks and even prevent asthma in the first place.

Q: You call housing a medical as well as a social problem.

A: Where you live may be your strongest predictor of your health. More and more, we in the health care setting are recognizing that only 10 to 20 percent of our patients' health is predicted by the care they get in our institutions. Most of the factors that predict health have to do with where you live. We are thinking more and more about housing as health care and as something we need to be investing in and supporting to improve the health of our patients.

Q: You have compared quality housing to a vaccine.

A: We have a research policy network at Boston Medical Center called Children's HealthWatch. We have looked at the high-risk families we have interviewed.

What we saw was the kids from families who were food insecure and receiving a housing subsidy, something that protected them from having to pay too much rent, were twofold less likely to be underweight than similar kids who were food insecure and eligible for a food housing voucher but not receiving it.



Having that subsidy for housing protected kids from biologically being affected by their food insecurity. It gave them some immunity. That's why I think of a stable, decent affordable home as acting like a vaccine. It gives you resilience, or immunity, against future threats.

Q: The connection being that families who spend too much on housing can't afford groceries?

A: I think of hunger and unstable housing as being the twin demons for low-income kids. Too often families are having to choose between rent and eating.

Q: When you talk about kids' health, are you including mental health?

A: When we talk about health, we often have a pretty one-dimensional view of

it: physical health. Really, health is as much about mental health and other well-being. Our research at Children's HealthWatch has been focused a lot on this idea. It is not just about kids; it is about their parents. It is not just about physical health; it is about mental health.

We have published a paper in the journal *Pediatrics* on the health outcomes for kids and caregivers around three different forms of housing insecurity: homelessness, moving frequently and being behind on the rent. The most significant outcomes is maternal mental health. If you are a mom and have a form of housing instability, you are two to three times more likely to report depressive symptoms than a similar mom who is living in stable housing.

Q: How does a mother's mental health affect children?

A: There is really good evidence that when moms are showing depressive symptoms, they actually have less capacity to interact with their kids. Their kids show more signs of developmental delays. Their families are more likely to have other hardships like food insecurity because the moms are having difficulty working.

While it may seem like helping someone have a stable home only helps them, you are missing an entire ripple effect in how much that helps the community.

Too often families are having to choose between rent and eating.

Q: You started writing about the effects of housing on child health and development two decades ago. Has anything changed over time?

A: We are definitely talking more about the connection between housing and health.

I think, though, the need has grown. We have to acknowledge that we have an affordable housing crisis. One in four renters — so 11 million of the 44 million renters out there — are paying more than 50 percent of their take-home income on rent. That is projected to increase by another 2 million households over the next decade. You add to that an estimated 2.8 million at risk of eviction annually and over half a million people who are homeless on any given night. Too often, we talk about one type of housing problem or another type of housing problem without understanding it as a totality. We are just beginning to understand the depths of the need out there.

Q: Why should people care about the effects of housing?

A: We all know that you need a stable home to be the foundation of anything. While it may seem like helping someone have a stable home only helps them, you are missing an entire ripple effect in how much that helps the community.

If you have a kid who is stable and is showing up to school, that makes everyone in the classroom learn better. People with a stable job are paying taxes, and employers don't have to go through the expense of firing people and training new people to come on board. There is really good evidence around public safety that shows that stable communities are safer communities.

We have to get out of the mindset that stable housing is an individual-level intervention. A stable home is a community-level intervention. We all benefit.



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Why we build

Safe, affordable housing is out of reach for far too many people around the world.

Every day, more families find themselves in a struggle to keep a decent roof over their heads. Caught in punishing cycles of unpredictable rent increases, overcrowded conditions, or lack of access to land and affordable financing, these families live with a constant burden of stress and fear.

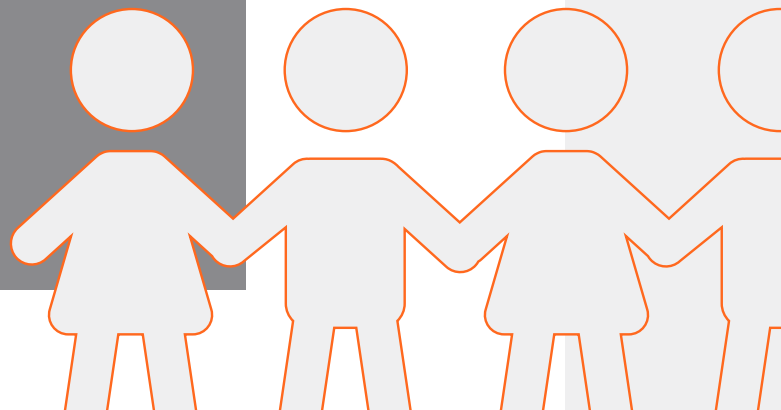
Helping families leave that cycle behind is why we build. When a family can create a decent place to live that's affordable, everything can change. And so much change is so desperately needed.

A housing affordability crisis in the U.S.



While renters' median housing costs rose, in real terms, by 11 percent between 2001 and 2016, their incomes fell by two percent, according to the Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard University. The increases primarily affected those least able to afford it.

One in five children in the U.S. resides in extremely poor conditions the National Center for Children





Additional

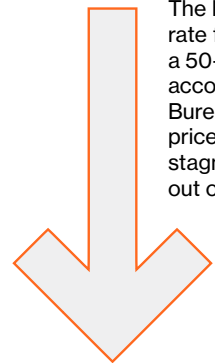
A worker earning the federal minimum hourly wage of \$7.25 needs to work 117 hours a week for 52 weeks – or nearly 3 full-time jobs – to afford a modest two-bedroom rental home and 94.5 hours per week – or 2.4 full-time jobs – to afford a modest one-bedroom apartment, according to The National Low Income Housing Coalition.



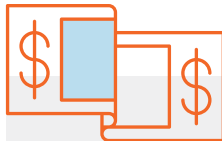
Nearly 13 percent of Americans live in poverty, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. A family of four with an annual income of less than \$24,858 is considered to be living below the poverty line.

Because many low-income households burn expensive heating fuels in older, inefficient homes, they carry a disproportionate energy burden – the share of annual household income used to pay annual energy bills. The average energy burden for low-income households is 8.2 percent – three times as high as other households, according to the Census Bureau.

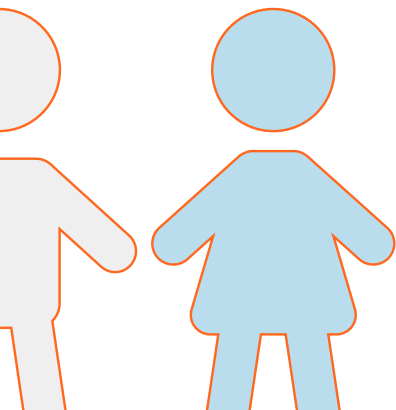
The homeownership rate for all ages reached a 50-year low in 2016, according to the Census Bureau, as rising property prices, high rents and stagnant pay put buying out of reach for many.



Additional lives in a family who live in Poverty.

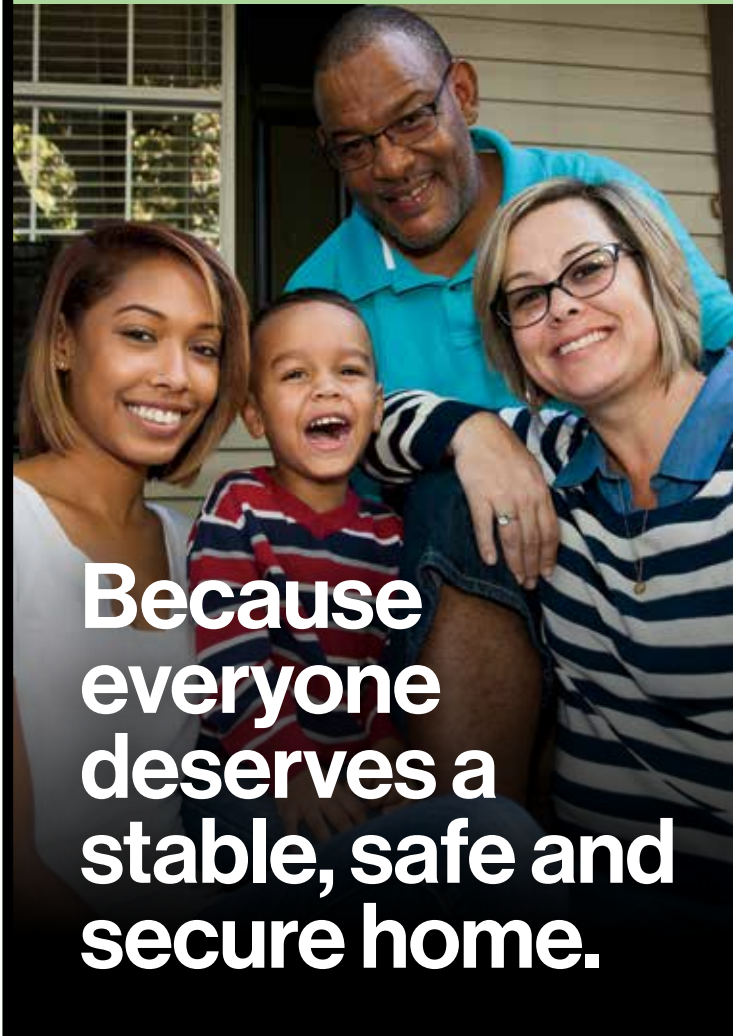


Seventy-one percent of families with extremely low incomes are spending more than half of their income on rent and utilities, The National Low Income Housing Coalition has found. Due to a shortage of affordable and available housing in every state, many lower-income households spend more on rent than they can afford and sacrifice health care, food and other basic necessities.



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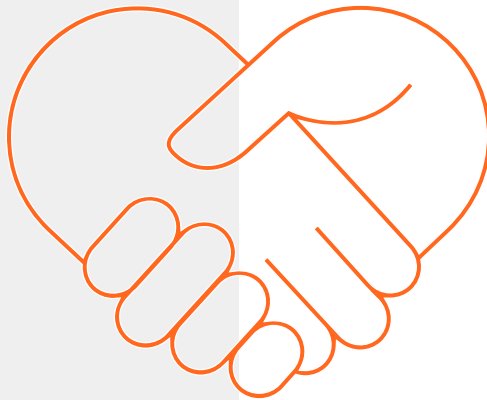
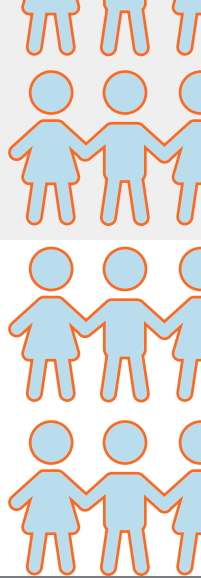
One in 10 people lives on less than US\$1.90 a day, according to the World Bank.

Tremendous housing need around the world

More than 80 percent of the world's population does not have legal documentation of their property rights.



The United Nations estimates that more than 10 million people worldwide die each year from conditions related to substandard housing.



Homeownership has been linked to a general willingness to work together with one's neighbors to achieve a common goal, has been associated with a reduction of violent crimes in neighborhoods and has been found to spark greater civic participation, according to *A Place to Call Home: The Social Dimensions of Homeownership*.

The difference a decent and affordable place to live can make



Center for Housing Policy research shows that a supportive and stable home environment can complement the efforts of educators, leading to better student achievement.

There is a strong correlation between improved housing and poverty reduction, according to the United Nations.



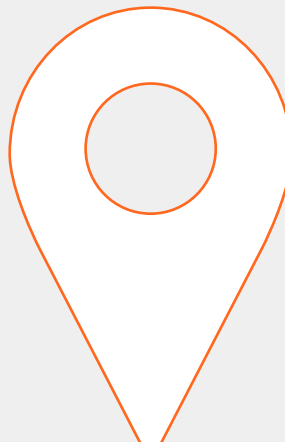
Affordable housing enables people to pay for other basic needs such as utilities, food and medical care.

Affordable housing also increases the amount families can put toward savings for the future.



Children of homeowners are 25 percent more likely to graduate from high school and 116 percent more likely to graduate from college compared with families who do not own their homes, according to the Joint Center for Housing Studies.

Better neighborhoods, says Economic Policy Review, are associated with better outcomes for homeowner children.

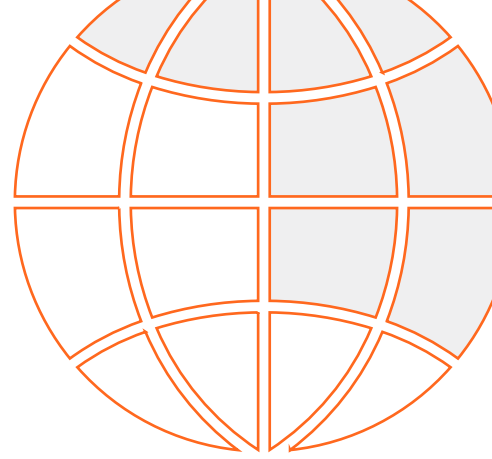


The house and neighborhood where one grows up has been shown to impact health and longevity.

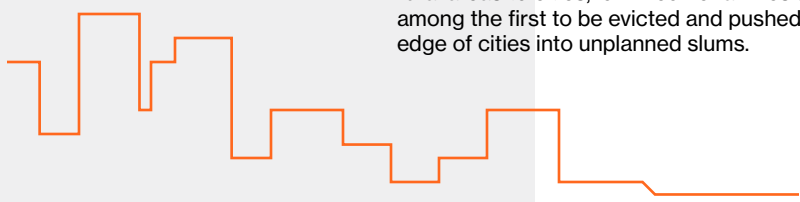




The World Bank predicts that 40 percent of the world's population will need new housing and basic infrastructure in the next 14 years.



As more of the world's population moves from rural areas to cities, low-income families are among the first to be evicted and pushed to the edge of cities into unplanned slums.

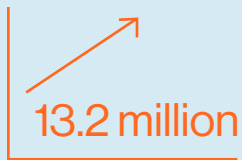
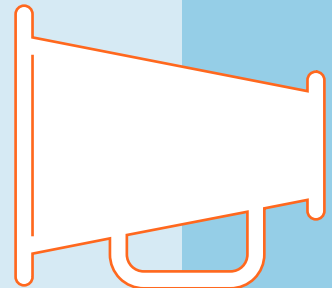


How Habitat is making an impact

Families partner with us to acquire the access, skills and financial education necessary for them to improve their living conditions and repay an affordable mortgage or loan. In doing so, they seize the opportunity and possibilities that decent, affordable housing represents.

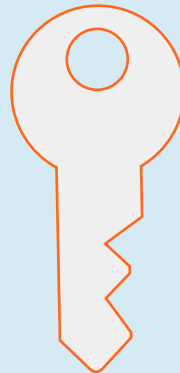


We work in many ways: new construction, repairs to existing homes, small loans for incremental building and home improvements, help establishing title and ownership to land, advocacy for better laws and systems, market development, and more.



With your support, we have helped more than 13.2 million people obtain a safer place to sleep at night since our founding in 1976.

Affordable homeownership fosters the skills and confidence they need to invest in themselves and their communities. The outcomes can be long-lasting and life-changing.



Habitat for Humanity knows that safe, decent and affordable shelter plays an absolutely critical role in helping struggling families find a new path forward.

Through shelter, we empower.



Habitat Humanitarians Drew and Jonathan Scott

Entrepreneurs, TV personalities, best-selling authors, and world-renowned construction and real estate experts Drew and Jonathan Scott have been selected as our newest Habitat Humanitarians.



“We are honored to have Drew and Jonathan take on this role and continue to use their voices to lift up the cause of affordable homeownership,” says Jonathan Reckford, CEO of Habitat for Humanity International. “Anyone who has seen them in action knows their dedication to helping people turn their houses into homes. We are inspired by their passion and privileged to have them in the Habitat family.”

Buying, selling, building and renovating homes for more than 15 years, the Scott Brothers have long participated in Habitat builds in the United States and Canada. As Habitat Humanitarians, they will volunteer on Habitat

build sites, speak out for affordable housing and encourage others to support Habitat so that more families can achieve their dreams of homeownership.

The brothers join former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, former first lady Rosalynn Carter, and country music stars Garth Brooks and Trisha Yearwood in this group of special volunteers who serve as tireless champions, advocates and spokespeople to raise awareness of the need for decent, affordable shelter in the United States and around the world.



WHEREAS, Drew Scott and Jonathan Scott have volunteered with Habitat for Humanity for more than a decade and,

WHEREAS, they have shared their voices in support of a world where everyone has a decent place to call home and,

WHEREAS, they have humbly and faithfully committed their time, talents and resources to furthering Habitat's mission and,

WHEREAS, they have pledged their continuing support to Habitat for Humanity and,

WHEREAS, we, the international board of directors of Habitat for Humanity, have established the Habitat Humanitarian designation as our highest honor to recognize volunteers who so freely give of themselves in support of Habitat's mission,

NOW, THEREFORE, we do unanimously proclaim and endorse Drew Scott and Jonathan Scott to be named Habitat Humanitarians.

PROCLAIMED THIS 17TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2017.



On being named Habitat Humanitarians

“Some of us take for granted the fact that a home is not necessarily as achievable for everybody. Really, it’s a struggle for some people to find the place they can call home.

“It’s hard to even put a value on what a Habitat home means for a family because — without Habitat — there was no path to homeownership for these folks. Owning your own home is ... it’s not even just the American dream, it’s a human dream, it’s a family’s dream.

“It’s something that everybody should have the right to and access to, and Habitat is who does it best.” — *Jonathan Scott*

“One of the reasons I think Habitat is so successful is because it’s an organization that people trust. They know the name. They know that you’re actually helping families if you’re working with Habitat.

“That’s why we’re involved, too. It’s such an honor for us to be named Habitat Humanitarians, an absolute honor.”

— *Drew Scott*

On everyone working together

“Habitat proves what you can accomplish when you work together. It’s a common goal, and it’s a good one. When you



see the people on the builds and the people behind the scenes, everybody working together, it’s inspiring.” — *Jonathan Scott*

“In my mind and my heart, every single volunteer that comes out to help with these houses, they’re all Habitat Humanitarians. Because they’re doing such amazing things for other families. I think that’s amazing to actually give someone your time and help them build a home.” — *Drew Scott*

On their favorite part of a build

“Can’t say just turning over the keys because that’s always fun. I mean, it’s the tears and the smiles and the laughter. I feel like the camaraderie between all the volunteers on the build site is great. I mean, there’s singing and there’s people doing roofing and siding ...” — *Jonathan Scott*

“You don’t realize how much work you get done if you’re singing and having a good time.” — *Drew Scott*

On the centrality of home

“Home is the center for every single family.

“It’s where you wake up every single morning and go to bed every single night. If somebody has a happy stable home, it affects their entire life in a positive way.

“If you have a stable home, it stabilizes everything else in your life.” — *Drew Scott*

“A happy family in a safe environment. For kids, that’s what fosters their growth. It’s really that epicenter for life.”

— *Jonathan Scott*

On what’s really behind the builds

“It’s a unique set of tools that builds a future, and I think **Habitat is that toolbox that just brings it all together.**”

JONATHAN SCOTT

“**Every single person can make a difference** in someone else’s life, and I think that’s the one thing I love about **Habitat.**” DREW SCOTT




Habitat
for Humanity

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at home
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Thank you We appreciate our generous partners.





Home is the Key

Drew and Jonathan Scott spent April helping Habitat Nashville homeowners Amanda and Ashlee realize their dream of affordable homeownership.

The brothers' efforts were part of Habitat's second annual nationwide Home is the Key campaign, which brings together community leaders, sponsors and celebrities to unlock futures and change lives so that even more families have access to decent housing.

People across the United States joined in and supported the campaign by purchasing products from participating partners, donating directly via habitat.org and using #HomeIsTheKey on social media.

Participating sponsors this year included At Home, Chico's FAS, Nissan, O-Cedar, Kum & Go, and Schneider Electric.

To meet Amanda and Ashlee, learn more about our sponsors, and tour our interactive house full of inspirational videos and stories, visit habitat.org/homeisthekey.



Loving what t

People like you contribute talents and time to Habitat for all kinds of reasons: to lift up other families, to lift up your own, to bond with others, even to get in shape.

Regardless of the “why,” every Habitat homeowner, volunteer and staff member has one thing in common. We all love the work — and the reward.



Michelle Milone

Villanova Habitat campus chapter volunteer

“My favorite part of working on Habitat projects is adding the finishing touches to the homes. The windows, the doors, the flooring, the trim. Each and every step of building a Habitat house holds equal importance, but when I work on the details, I begin to imagine the home that it will become. I can visualize a child’s bedroom, a kitchen filled with laughter and love, and ultimately, a home where a family will build lasting memories together.”



Latasha

Habitat Wake County homeowner and advocate

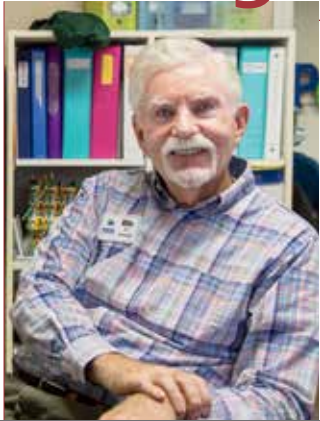
“My advocacy work started a year after becoming a homeowner by encouraging members of my church family and friends to volunteer on a construction site. I recently had the pleasure to attend Habitat on the Hill with my son Christopher and to talk to my representatives about the importance of affordable housing.

“I do this work voluntarily because someone did this for me. As a young mother, someone

was pushing for me to have the opportunity of homeownership. I get to write a new legacy for our family. Moreover, I do this work, specifically with Habitat, because of their belief and mine: putting God’s love into action.

“I can’t find anything else that gives me more joy than yelling, screaming and even building to give another family the thing that has been one of the greatest blessings in my life.”

they do



Mike Post

Disaster response volunteer working with Highlands County Habitat since Hurricane Irma

"I am an operations guy so I really like exactly what I've been doing: coordinating volunteers. I like meeting kindred spirits.

"We get drained sometimes with the things that we have to do. Volunteering fills you back up. I stay filled up."

Sandy Mathewson

Full-time Habitat RV Care-A-Vanner

"I went from a desk job as a land-use planner to being outside, which I prefer. I've worked on more than 100 homes. I like doing the layouts, marking off where everything goes in a house."

Darrell Gilmore

Habitat volunteer who has traveled to build in all 50 states

"Since one of my personal drivers is to lose weight, I prefer the heavier jobs like deck and wall framing and roofing because it is more physically demanding. Installing windows, doors and siding is also enjoyable because these steps really start to show the home is progressing."

Ivette Martinez

Volunteer, Habitat's Bennington College campus chapter

"Nothing beats driving a screw through two pieces of wood and watching as it becomes the skeleton frame for what will later be a beautifully painted structure."

Molly Bremer

Habitat volunteer

"Habitat has a special place in my heart. My dad and I have volunteered at five different build sites in five states. I am grateful for these trips for fostering a spirit of service in me and providing my dad and me with great father-daughter bonding and memories."

Ian Gallager

AmeriCorps member, Habitat Portland/Metro East

"I viewed service with Habitat as an opportunity to learn about how injustices are being addressed by reducing barriers to homeownership, while also improving my group leadership skills and trying something entirely new for me: construction."



Anthony Hawkins

Habitat Forsyth County construction supervisor

"Nine years ago, the universe opened up this position, and the rest is history. Over the years, I have built so many incredible relationships with the people I work with, homeowners, volunteers. I have been on three Global Village trips.

"No matter where I work, the mission is the same. I love teaching and building. I'm not just building a house with a family, I'm building myself and creating opportunities for growth, expansion and transformation in the lives of others. How cool is that?!"



Boris Henderson

Grew up in a Habitat Charlotte house, now a member of Habitat for Humanity International's board of directors

"I thoroughly enjoy meeting future Habitat homeowners on site as family members and friends work the required sweat equity hours. I have heard so many extraordinary stories of triumph, love, joy and God from our homeowners.

"I am especially touched by stories of how other family members and friends are inspired by our homeowners' new outlook on life and commitment to a better future. These experiences force me to deeply think about and appreciate the great work we do as an organization, which impacts many, many more lives than we are aware of."



Har Dee and Tint Tun

Habitat Omaha homeowners

"What we love was working on our own home. There is tons of space for the kids to play. They love having a backyard. They love playing in the neighborhood."



Linda Knox

Habitat Greater San Francisco ReStore volunteer

"The most gratifying factor to me is the incredibly loyal crew I have been able to assemble over the past four years. I have been honored to work with such a devoted team of volunteers who are dedicated to the Habitat mission."



Fatima Al Awadi

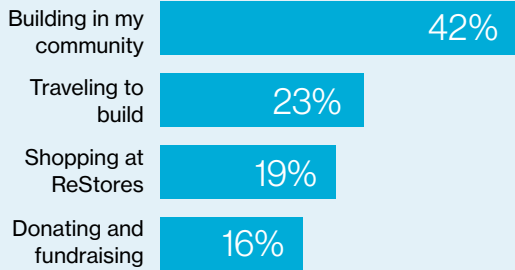
Habitat Global Village volunteer

"My favorite job on the build site in Kenya was using the hammer and nails. I used to challenge my friend Maha to see who hammers faster. Of course, I won every time.

"I also enjoyed working with the cement and filling the holes between the bricks and smoothing the edges. I enjoyed the yummy tea that was offered on the site. I enjoyed everything."



We asked our Twitter followers to weigh in on what they most like about supporting Habitat. Here's how they responded.



Michelle Henkel

Atlanta Habitat family services senior manager and legal counsel

“I counsel families one-on-one about how to get qualified for our homeownership program. I help them identify properties that best match their preferences. I teach the ‘Understanding Your Mortgage Class.’ When families are ready to close, I serve as the closing attorney.”

“As a volunteer, I get to help families build their homes – it is fun to see their surprise when I show up with my tool belt.”

Jeff Pennell

Atlanta Habitat construction volunteer and teacher of homeowner classes on home maintenance

“Permanence in a family’s home life makes a huge difference in the education and development of a child. Habitat homes provide that benefit. I enjoy the sense of accomplishment in creating something with lasting value. I love the camaraderie – skilled supervisors and house leaders share a common purpose, relish working together and bond like family.”



Colleen Fish

Habitat Greater Vancouver volunteer

“After being introduced to Habitat on a corporate build, I was hooked. I bought my first pair of steel toes and went on to learn dry walling and basic tool use, as well as the value of being the designated sweeper. Every role is an important one.”

“I have met families in my own community and that is powerful. I have done several Global Village builds in Indonesia and the Philippines, an important exercise in bridging understanding and fostering compassion.”

“Habitat also sparked my interest in construction and inspired me to pursue plumbing as a trade.”



Neale Kemp

Habitat Global Village volunteer

“I’ve been a team leader for builds in Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Cambodia, Indonesia and Argentina. I thoroughly enjoy encouraging volunteers to tackle building tasks which are out of their comfort zone and to see the joy and confidence they express when they succeed. I enjoy teaching teams the fundamentals of how our houses are constructed and why we build them the way we do.”

“But mostly, I am at peace and at my happiest when I am laying bricks, knowing with every brick I place, I am building a safe, sturdy and secure home – not only for now but for the next generation.”



Building the Beloved Community



In 2018, as we mark the 50th anniversaries of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s tragic death and the passage of the Fair Housing Act just days later, Habitat for Humanity renews our pledge to work harder than ever to help make the Beloved Community a reality.

Habitat for Humanity is propelled by a vision of a world where everyone has a decent place to live. We devote ourselves to creating that world because we believe everyone — every single one of us, regardless of who we are or where we come from — deserves a decent life and deserves the opportunity for a better future.

Believing is not enough. And so we build.

We build houses — and through those houses, the strength, stability and self-reliance that families need in order to achieve a better life. That better life is our primary goal. And so when we build houses, we also build bridges between people of diverse backgrounds, we build paths to more connected communities, we build ways for

all people to come together and share in the creation of a new world.

That new world allows access, equality and opportunity for all. That new world represents what Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. called “the Beloved Community.”

The Beloved Community is fair. The Beloved Community is just. And the Beloved Community is built on love. Not just any love, but as Dr. King said “the love of God operating in the human heart.” That’s a practical love that requires participation. When that love is truly and fully present, it compels us to act.

It’s part of Habitat’s birthright. We began at Koinonia Farm, an interracial community farm outside Americus, Georgia, founded in 1942 by farmer and biblical scholar Clarence



I pledge to help build the Beloved Community.

I believe that every single one of us — regardless of who we are or where we come from — deserves a decent life.

Like Dr. King, I believe in a Beloved Community of justice, equal opportunity and love of my fellow human beings.

I want to help build a world that leaves no room for poverty, prejudice or violence.

I pledge to work together with my neighbors, side by side, to create strength, stability and self-reliance for all.

I ask others to join me — it's up to us to make this a reality.

Jordan. Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, Clarence and his fellow Koinonia residents were fiercely committed to the equality of all people and utterly devoted to creating opportunity for all.

Born from that vision, we have grown into a global organization that has worked hard to live out that kind of love for more than 40 years. It fuels our belief that making homeownership accessible and affordable for low-income families is a critical component to creating the kind of future that Dr. King envisioned.

We have to care about the needs of those among us who need our help. We have to take on the struggles of others as our own and want for them the exact things that we want for ourselves. We have to live each day in the knowledge that we are bound together, that each of us must do our part, that we thrive together or we will wither alone.

During a brief correspondence in the 1950s, Dr. King wrote to Clarence, noting the struggles that Koinonia faced from hostile and unwelcoming neighbors.

[habitat.org/takethepledge](https://www.habitat.org/takethepledge)

“I hope that you will gain some consolation from the fact that in your struggle for freedom and a true Christian community you have cosmic companionship. God grant that this tragic midnight of man’s inhumanity to man will soon pass and the bright daybreak of freedom and brotherhood will come into being.”

We still await that daybreak. While much has been done, so much more work remains. This will never be a world of equality, of fairness, of human decency that leaves no room for poverty or prejudice or violence, unless we build it. Bold actions speak louder than words. Working together, side by side, is what will continue to move us from tragic midnight to glorious morning.

For as Dr. King so powerfully stated: “Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only

light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

With his emphasis on the Beloved Community, Dr. King gave us the blueprint. Folks of faith and perseverance like Clarence have stewarded it and advanced it. Now it’s up to all of us to make it a reality.

Jonathan T.M. Reckford

Habitat for Humanity International CEO

Tjada D’Oyen McKenna

Habitat for Humanity International COO

Visit [habitat.org](https://www.habitat.org) for more Beloved Community content.

In April, on the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Fair Housing Act, Habitat for Humanity revisited the context of the act, its legacy, and the continuing need to address issues of housing access and affordability.

Read our collection of conversations representing just some of the voices working today to help build a world of access, equality and opportunity for everyone.

- U.S. housing policy expert and *The Color of Law* author **Dr. Richard Rothstein** explains the consequences of barriers to equal and affordable housing.
- Habitat CEO **Jonathan Reckford** discusses the affordable housing crisis with Los Angeles mayor **Eric Garcetti**.
- Habitat’s **Christopher Ptomey** on the fight for fair housing policies in 2018 and how you can help create change.
- PolicyLink’s **Kalima Rose** reflects on the role of advocacy organizations in the fair housing debate.
- Student attorney **Brianne Reese** on how she helps families struggling with housing through her work with Howard University’s School of Law Fair Housing Clinic.
- And more.





Built on love

Alina and Carlos see their house as an act of kindness. Many acts, actually.

The first wave came from volunteers from Highlands County Habitat in central Florida who pitched in eight years ago to help frame walls and give the couple's children something Carlos and Alina never had — roots.

Then, when Hurricane Irma soaked the kids' pink and yellow bedrooms, those same volunteers returned to pitch in to repair the house. Alina was touched that Habitat hadn't forgotten that their kids, Adrianna and Adrian, now 12 and 10, struggle with severe asthma and that any water damage could aggravate it.

"I truly believe that our house was built out of love, by people who were here because they wanted to be here," Alina says. "It continues to be built on love and care and a great sense of being kind."



After an injury ended her career in the U.S. Air Force, LaShunna struggled, and her family was homeless for a short time. This family now looks forward to moving into their new affordable Habitat home. "I see a lot of change coming for me and my children," LaShunna says.

Give generously before June 30!

The Home Depot Foundation has stepped forward with a generous contribution, and Habitat challenges you to give what you can today at [habitat.org/everyone](https://www.habitat.org/everyone).

Your gift, along with The Home Depot Foundation's, helps Habitat double our impact and makes a life-changing difference for families like LaShunna's, as they build better lives in decent, affordable Habitat homes.

