

What is Habitat for Humanity?

Habitat for Humanity is a global, nonprofit organization that has a vision of a world where everyone has a decent place to live. Habitat works toward that vision by building strength, stability and self-reliance by partnering with people in need of a decent, affordable place to live.

How does the Habitat for Humanity program work?

Habitat for Humanity works to build or renovate affordable homes in partnership with people who present need, ability to pay, and willingness to partner with the affiliate. The homes are sold at no profit and no interest is charged on the mortgage. Following an objective application process that follows fair housing guidelines, approved applicants begin working on their “Sweat Equity” hours. These hours become, in essence, their down payment on their future home. When the house is completed, the Habitat for Humanity affiliate sells the home to the new Habitat homeowner/s and provides a zero-interest mortgage. All mortgage payments build equity for the homeowner and provide funding to Habitat for Humanity to support the building of additional Habitat for Humanity homes.

Do you need construction experience to work at the construction site?

NO! We do not require previous construction experience – just a willingness to work hard and to have a good attitude! If you do have construction experience (carpentry, electrical, dry-walling, etc.), we encourage you to notify the site supervisor. We welcome all skill levels and provide on-site training by a construction site supervisor. Safety is our highest concern. When you arrive, staff will provide a safety orientation and instructions on how to perform the tasks. If you feel uncomfortable with a task or tool, be sure to ask for help or ask to be reassigned to a different task. There are plenty of opportunities to learn new skills!

What do I wear on a construction site?

We recommend the clothing that you wear to the construction site be comfortable, appropriate for the weather, and something that you don’t mind getting dirty or covered with paint. Jeans are fine but shorts are also good for the hot weather. For safety reasons, sturdy closed-toe shoes at the site are required. Sandals or flip flops are **NOT** permitted. A hat may be helpful on sunny days. Hardhats, safety glasses, gloves and other safety equipment will be available for your use.

Can I work for only a portion of the day?

We encourage participation, even if you can’t stay until the work is completed. It is perfectly fine to let us know you need to leave before 2:00 p.m. However, we ask that you make every effort to be at the site at 8:00 a.m. so the safety orientation and work assignments are not missed.

Do I need to bring anything with me to the construction site?

No, we have all the necessary tools on the site, so you are not required to bring any tools with you. We will provide water to everyone at the construction site. You are welcome to bring your own water bottle and be sure to put your name on it. Light snacks will be provided. You may want to bring your own sunscreen or bug spray. We do have these items onsite, but if you have sensitive skin it is advisable that you bring your own brand.

What should I do when I arrive?

Find the Volunteer Sign-In Sheet, sign in and turn in your Volunteer Application if you do not already have one.

What if there is inclement weather?

Once you have scheduled a volunteer day, you will be given a cell phone number to call if you have any questions that morning. Our greatest concern is for your safety. For less than optimal weather conditions, we will do our best to find work indoors. If you feel uncomfortable driving to the build site, please stay home and reschedule your volunteer day to a later date.

What if I do not want to volunteer at the construction site?

Volunteers are also greatly appreciated at our ReStores, in the administrative office, special events, or on one of our committees. Please speak to the Volunteer Coordinator for more information on any one of these opportunities.

For more information, please contact Volunteer Manager Albert Cabrera at 386-257-9950.