WELCOME TO KALAMAZOO VALLEY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY!

Introduction

- Thank you for your interest in volunteering with Kalamazoo Valley Habitat for Humanity!
- We are happy that you have joined our team to help provide families with long-term solutions to their housing problems.

Introduction

- Join us in the spirit of partnership, and your work here at Habitat will be successful and fulfilling.
- Habitat for Humanity is primarily a volunteer organization and we rely on volunteers like you!

Introduction

- Before you pick up a hammer, we want to share our mission and some information about our organization with you.
- If you have any questions about the information in this orientation, please contact our Director of Volunteer Services, **269-344-2443, ext. 204.**

Mission Statement

Our Vision

A world where everyone has
a decent place to live.

Our Mission

Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.

Who Are We?

- Kalamazoo Valley Habitat for Humanity serves Kalamazoo County, Plainwell and Otsego.
- We are one of the oldest Habitat for Humanity International affiliates in the U.S., founded in 1983.
- We have partnered with more than 200 families here and another 100 families in Nicaragua and around the world as part of Habitat for Humanity International's global ministry.

Why is Habitat Needed?

- Working, low-income families who want to buy their own homes can't qualify for traditional mortgages from banks
- Low-income homeowners need access to affordable home repairs to maintain their health and safety, and preserve the integrity of their homes.

Why is Habitat Needed?

- Habitat makes homeownership possible for motivated, low-income families.
- Habitat also helps low-income homeowners solve their housing issues by providing affordable home repairs to preserve the integrity of their homes.

Homeownership Makes a Difference

Homeownership empowers families and helps create:

- Stability
- Strength
- Financial security
- Educational success for children

Homeownership Makes a Difference

- Better health
- Stronger family relationships
- Helps break the cycle of inadequate housing and poverty
  - The children of homeowners are 59% more likely to become homeowners themselves.

Habitat Homes Are Not Free

- Habitat works with families that earn 30 – 60% of the area median income (AMI).
  - **For a family of four that is roughly $18,950 - $37,860**
- Families must complete between 300-500 hours of sweat equity.
- Families enter into a 20 – 30 year partnership with us as they pay back their mortgage.

How are homeowners selected?

Future homeowners are selected based on three main criteria:

1. Need for better housing
2. Ability to repay a no-interest loan
3. Willingness to partner

How are homeowners selected?

- Habitat homes are sold to homeowner families with no profit, and financed by Habitat with affordable mortgage loans.
- Habitat home repairs are completed without profit and financed by Habitat with affordable loans.
- The homeowner's monthly mortgage and repair loan payments are recycled back into the program to build and repair more Habitat homes.

Habitat Homes

- The cost of a Habitat home to the homeowner is approximately $60,000 - $100,000. Homes are sold without profit and financed by Habitat with affordable mortgage loans.
- A typical Habitat home is approximately 1,000 square feet with three bedrooms and one bathroom. We follow HFHI criteria for house construction based on the composition of the home buyer family.
- Our homes are built to Energy Star® standards.

Kalamazoo Valley Habitat for Humanity®

A Habitat Rehab Home

Kalamazoo Valley Habitat for Humanity®

A New Habitat Home

The Volunteer Relationship

- A volunteer is anyone who provides time and talent to Habitat through construction, office, committee, and Habitat ReStore work, or any other Habitat project.
- Thank you for the personal investment you make in our organization and its mission.
- We invite people of all backgrounds, races and religions to build houses together in partnership with families in need.

Community Service

- Habitat welcomes community service volunteers from civic groups, schools, community assistance programs, and the judicial system.
- If you are required to complete hours through the judicial system, you must contact the director of volunteer services for a personal orientation.
- It is the community service volunteer's responsibility to maintain an accurate time sheet and to ensure that it is signed off at the end of each day by a Habitat supervisor.

Volunteer Conduct

- Habitat is an at-will agency and has the right to terminate a volunteer without cause.

- It is not possible to list all the forms of behavior and conduct that is considered unacceptable on Habitat volunteer sites.

Volunteer Conduct

- However, Habitat is firmly committed to providing a positive work environment free of discrimination, harassment, and bias.
- Each volunteer is personally responsible for maintaining such a work environment.
- Any conduct or action, whether overt or subtle, which creates an offensive or hostile work environment is prohibited and will be grounds for immediate disciplinary action.

Volunteer Conduct

- Habitat prohibits ANY harassment between volunteers, employees, future homeowners, or any other non-employee on the basis of sex, race, ethnicity, age, religion, sexual preference, or any other physical condition.
- Remember, you help to create the healthful, pleasant, and safe volunteering conditions that Habitat intends for you.
- No smoking, drugs, alcohol or firearms are permitted on any Habitat property.

Construction Activities

- Typical construction activities for volunteers with general skill levels include:
  - Painting
  - Clean up
  - Staining
  - Landscaping
  - Demolition
  - Insulating
- Other volunteers, typically those who volunteer on a regular basis, may tackle more skilled tasks like framing, siding, trim work, etc.

Kalamazoo Valley Habitat for Humanity®

Construction in Progress

Kalamazoo Valley Habitat for Humanity®

Construction in Progress

Construction Times

Regular Construction Volunteer Hours

- Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
  8:30 am - 3:30 pm
- Saturday 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

The Habitat ReStore

The Habitat ReStore is Habitat's resale outlet store. It benefits the community in a variety of ways:

- Generates funds to help build Habitat homes
- Promotes recycling and keeps materials out of landfills
- Sells used and new home improvement materials at a discount
- Provides affordable home repair options.

Habitat ReStore Volunteer Activities

- Typical Habitat ReStore activities for volunteers include:
  - Organizing
  - General Merchandising
  - Customer Service
  - Cleaning
  - Sweeping
  - Repairing
- Working in the Habitat ReStore is another great way to get involved with Habitat and support our cause!

Habitat ReStore Volunteer Times

Regular Habitat ReStore Hours

- Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Saturday, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Volunteers can work during any of the times the store is open, allowing for a flexible schedule.

How to Get Started as a Habitat Volunteer

1. Complete this orientation presentation.
2. Complete the short quiz.
3. Print off the Release & Waiver. You will need to complete the waiver and bring it with you on your first volunteer day.

How to Get Started as a Habitat Volunteer

After you have completed all the steps on the previous slide, you will be contacted by phone or email to schedule your volunteer day.

Or, you may contact the Director of Volunteer Services directly at:

269-344-2443, ext. 204

What Can You Expect?

- Habitat ReStore volunteers meet at the Habitat ReStore, located at 7612 S. Westnedge, Portage.

- Habitat ReStore staff will welcome you, orient you to the store, and review your tasks with you.

What Can You Expect?

- Construction volunteers meet at the Habitat warehouse, located at 1718 Fulford (corner of Fulford and Reed), Kalamazoo.
- Meet at warehouse 15 minutes before shift.
- Construction staff will welcome you and tell you which site you will be going to, how to get there, and what you will be doing.

What Should You Bring?

- Bring your completed waiver, water, lunch, your patience, and your problem-solving skills.
- Wear clothes that you won't mind getting dirty.
- Dress for the weather and in layers.
- All volunteers must wear closed toe shoes.

Safety First

- You and Habitat share the responsibility for establishing a safe work environment. Habitat works to comply with federal, state, and local safety regulations.
- You are expected to obey safety rules and to exercise caution in all of your work activities.
- You are asked to report any unsafe conditions to your supervisor immediately.

Safety Rules

1. Be aware of others as they work around you.
2. Don’t stand under other workers.
3. Don’t user power tools without training or supervision.
4. Always wear safety glasses and wear a hardhat as needed.
5. Wear weather-appropriate clothing. Layers are usually best.

Safety Rules

6. No shorts or sandals please. All shoes must be closed-toed.
7. No smoking.
8. If you are not comfortable doing something, please say so.
9. Do not be afraid to ask if you are unsure of a task!
10. Report all injuries to site supervisor immediately.

Waiver and Release Form

- Construction work can be dangerous.
- By signing the waiver, you are accepting responsibility for this risk.
- Habitat provides “secondary” or “supplemental” accidental insurance coverage.
- Signing the waiver also covers you with this accidental insurance coverage.

To complete the orientation process, please take and submit the volunteer test.

If you are interested in volunteering at the Habitat ReStore, please continue with the separate Habitat ReStore orientation presentation.

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Habitat
for Humanity®