



**Kalamazoo Valley Habitat for Humanity**  
**General Orientation Information**  
**March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Vision:** A world where everyone has a decent place to live.

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

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.

**Homeownership Program**

Homeownership empowers families and helps create:

- Stability
- Strength
- Financial security
- Educational success for children
- Better health
- Stronger family relationships
- Helps break the cycle of inadequate housing and poverty

Habitat homes are **not free!** Families must earn 30-60% of the area median income (AMI). For a family of four, that is about \$18,950 - \$37,860. Through the homeownership program, the homeowner partners must complete between 300-500 hours of sweat equity. At the end, the partner enters a 15-30 year partnership with us as they pay back their affordable mortgage.

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.



## **Home Repair Program**

Habitat for Humanity offers home repairs with affordable financing to qualified homeowners. The homeowner must be a full time resident of the home. Mortgage, property taxes, and homeowners insurance accounts must be current. This program is not available to landlords, tenants, land contract holders or trailer home residents.

**The Critical Home Repair program** helps qualified homeowners with needed repairs that threaten their well-being, health and safety, and may include solutions to citations and/or housing code violations. **Habitat does not make emergency repairs.** Critical repairs may include, but are not limited to:

- Electrical
- Furnace/Water heater
- Kitchen/Bath repairs

**Weatherization** makes homes more energy efficient, which can reduce utility bills. The weatherization process may include:

- Replacing and/or enhancing insulation
- Caulking around windows and doors
- Sealing cracks and openings
- Upgrading/replacing furnace and/or water heater
- Installing energy efficient technology and safety equipment

**A Brush with Kindness** is an exterior home repair program for eligible homeowners. It offers services to preserve homes and make them safer, more secure, accessible, and attractive. For example:

- Porch repair/replacement
- Building wheelchair ramps
- Other minor repairs

## **Being a Habitat for Humanity Volunteer**

A volunteer is anyone who provides time and talent to Habitat through construction, the office, a committee, and the Habitat ReStore 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.

Habitat welcomes community service volunteers from civic groups, schools, community assistance programs, and the judicial system. 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. 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. 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. Smoking, drugs, alcohol or firearms **are NOT** permitted on any Habitat property.