



Children of a Loudoun Habitat family sitting on the steps of their new home

One in three American households spend more than *34 percent* of income on housing.

One in seven spends more than *50 percent*.

(U. S. Labor Department, 2009)

“A key is like precious metal opening doors to a new life and bright promises.”

ANONYMOUS

Making Hands, Hearts and Hammers Work!

LHFH is committed to providing affordable housing for those in need. We’ve successfully grown from building one house every other year to being on track to build three or more homes each year and we are “just getting started!”

If you’d like to make a charitable donation to our affiliate you can either donate online at www.loudounhabitat.org and click on “Donate Today,” or send in your donation to:

Loudoun Habitat for Humanity
109 Harrison Street NE, Leesburg, VA 20176
703.737.6772 (p) 703.737.6788 (f)

(PLEASE designate the donation to: Loudoun Habitat for Humanity).

If you’d like to learn more about volunteering, our ReStore or Loudoun Habitat in general, go to www.loudounhabitat.org.

The list of volunteer committees includes:

- Construction
- Development (Fundraising)
- Public Relations
- Family Support
- Youth Group
- Finance
- Site Selection
- Special Events
- Family Selection
- Church Relations
- Volunteer Coordinators



Hands, Hearts & Hammers



Welcome to Habitat for Humanity & the Loudoun Affiliate



Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI) is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry. The organization's mission is to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness from the world and to provide decent shelter to all those in need.

To date, HFHI has successfully built more than a quarter of a million homes around the world, providing over one million people with decent, affordable and safe housing. Habitat is not a giveaway program but requires the partner families (who apply and qualify) to invest hundreds of hours of their own labor — sweat equity—into building their Habitat houses and the houses of others. Additionally, they must provide a down payment and pay a monthly mortgage as any other homeowner would. Habitat houses are affordable for low-income families because there is no profit included in the sales price and their mortgage is interest-free.

All of Habitat's work is the result of affiliates— independent nonprofit organizations that operate within a specific geographic area and within the overall framework established. Loudoun Habitat for Humanity (LHFH) is one of those affiliates. We are a locally based, grass roots organization that was established in 1993, when a group of concerned citizens banded together to begin addressing the growing problem of poverty housing within the county. We are directly responsible for all aspects of home building within our jurisdiction: fundraising, site selection, family selection and support, construction, and mortgage servicing. We build the houses and help partner families fulfill their dream of home ownership while HFHI provides a wide array of support services and resources.

We know that the world is experiencing a global housing crisis with over 1.6 billion people living in substandard housing or classified as homeless, according to the United Nations. In the United States alone, 85 million people—*one-third of our nation's population*—experience some type of housing problem, ranging from overcrowding, poor quality shelter, and homelessness to the inability to pay mortgages that take too big a percentage of one's monthly income. Although the median income has increased slightly, and the gap between market value housing and affordable housing decreased, the economy and unemployment have dealt significant blows to acquiring affordable housing to many families. **The need for affordable housing in Loudoun County is substantial!**

What about the Loudoun affiliate? Loudoun Habitat for Humanity, a Christian-based non-profit, works in partnership with God, the businesses, churches and people in our county from all walks of life to develop and build communities for people in need by building and renovating houses so there are decent homes in decent communities in which every person can experience God's love in action.

How does it work? Through volunteer labor and donations of money and materials, Loudoun Habitat builds and rehabilitates simple, decent houses with the help of the homeowner (partner) families. Habitat houses are sold to partner families at no profit and financed with affordable no-interest loans. The homeowners' monthly mortgage payments are used to build still more Habitat houses.

The results? Through the work of Habitat, thousands of low-income families have found new hope in the form of affordable housing. Churches, community groups and others have joined together to successfully tackle a significant social problem—decent housing for all.

How can I get involved? There are many ways that you can help LHFH; whether it is for an hour, a day or a year. We must successfully run special events, plan house dedications and identify volunteers to chair or participate in our many standing committees we have. There are opportunities to help fundraise or lobby your company to sponsor a house build.

Here are but a few of the ways you and your organization can help:

- Sponsor a house
- Create a company-sponsored volunteer Team Build day
- Join the Women's Build program
- Donate land or make it part of your estate planning
- Sponsor an event or organize a fundraiser at your church
- Volunteer...a few hours, a day or whenever you can
- Donate in-kind services or materials
- Donate to the Restore
- Provide a monetary donation (one time or annually... always welcome!)
- Become a Board member
- Attend a volunteer orientation and spread the word
- Join a working committee