



Volunteer Information



Lawrence Habitat for Humanity
720 Connecticut St. Lawrence, KS 66044
785-832-0777 lawrencehabitat.org
buildinghope@lawrencehabitat.org

*Thank you for considering Lawrence Habitat for Humanity as
your volunteering destination!*



In this information packet, you will find material ranging from what Habitat is, “why we build,” and a variety of ways to join us in meeting our goal of eliminating substandard housing in Douglas and Jefferson counties and providing families with a true place to call [home](#).

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What We Do

Lawrence Habitat for Humanity is an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian ministry dedicated to eliminating poverty housing worldwide.

The goal of Lawrence Habitat for Humanity is to provide safe, decent, and affordable housing for low to moderate income families in Douglas and Jefferson counties. We believe in a homeownership process that empowers families to create ongoing change in their lives.

Upon completion of building a home, which is constructed with volunteer labor and donations of money and materials, family partners make monthly payments on a zero-interest mortgage.

Through our meaningful partnerships with the community, we strive to not only build homes for local families, but also to improve our neighborhoods.

Lawrence Habitat for Humanity is proud to have built 81 homes since they were founded in 1989.



How We Do It

Lawrence Habitat for Humanity is able to build our homes because of:

- Generous monetary and in-kind donations from amazing community members and businesses
- Wonderful volunteers who:
 - Work at the build site
 - Sit on our board
 - Work at the ReStore
 - Come to our events
 - Educate others about Habitat
 - Participate in our high school and college chapters
- The treasure-filled *Habitat ReStore*



- Our inspirational partner families



The Mendoza family. Home completed in 2009.



- Our hardworking staff

How can you be part of it?

There are numerous ways you can be “hands on” with Habitat. Lawrence Habitat for Humanity is dedicated to providing volunteer opportunities for everyone – including youth, seniors, individuals, groups, builders and non-builders alike!

The following list is by no means complete. Since our organization is constantly evolving and new projects and initiatives are always being introduced, please contact our office or visit our website for more updated news and opportunities.

We will do whatever we can to create a volunteer opportunity that works for you!

Administrative Support: Especially during certain times of the year, such as the holiday season, it is extremely helpful to have an extra set of hands in the office – whether it is filing, addressing envelopes, or organizing. The office is a great way to lend a hand.

Youth Programs: It is important to provide volunteer opportunities for volunteers of all ages. Below are just some of the many options for our younger volunteers and any adult looking to find a new way to introduce a youth group to the Habitat mission.

- Birdhouse/Dog House/Playhouse “Blitz”
 - Youth, with the help of adult volunteers, can construct a birdhouse, dog house or playhouse which can then either be donated to a partner family or sold at the ReStore.
- Act! Speak! Build! Week
 - An annual event dedicated to advocating the cause of fair housing in your community.
- Calendar of Reflection
 - Spend a month reflecting on a different aspect of your home, what it means to you, and how it affects your day-to-day life. Each day is a new topic.
- Nickels for Nails
 - Host a competition at your school, church, or home to see who can accumulate the most change for Habitat.

- Card Creation Kit
 - Design/create thank you cards for the affiliate to send out to their donors and volunteers.
- Habitat BINGO
 - Host a bingo night with Habitat themed score cards.
- For even more ideas, please contact the affiliate office!

Committees: We have a variety of committees that are looking for specific skills and experience. For more information regarding each committee, please contact our office or visit our website.

- Faith Engagement
- Women Build
- Family Selection
- Construction
- Family Support
- ReStore
- Finance
- Resource Development

Construction Support: Working on the construction site of a Habitat home is very rewarding for anyone who participates. While all volunteers must be 16 years or older to work on site, we offer other options for support our construction efforts.

Build-site volunteers are extremely important since a very significant portion of our homes are built by volunteers (of all experience levels)!

Options for construction support volunteers:

- On-site building
- Group builds – team building, community service projects, etc.
- Providing Lunch
- Host Site Coordinators



Stories of Partnership

Story of Partnership: Xueying Wang, homeowner

Stories about our Habitat homeowners always provide an inspiring, uplifting account of what it means to be part of the Habitat mission. Every single one of our family partners are carefully chosen by the family selection committee; one of the most important things considered being the willingness to partner.

Xueying Wang and her family are the ideal example of our homeowners dedicating themselves to the notion of partnership. As our newest homeowner, Xueying, has been on site every build day, working alongside dedicated volunteers. She has been there every step of the way during the home-building process. Always enthusiastic, cheerful and open to learning new things, Ying is not just a new homeowner to our regular volunteers. She is a dear friend. Not only has Ying demonstrated her willingness to partner with her hard work on her home, she has been working on other home build site for 5 years. That is how long Ying has been patiently waiting for her dream of homeownership to come true.

Ying's dedication to helping build her own home, along with other Habitat family's homes, is what makes her a great example of what it means to partner with Lawrence Habitat for Humanity.

Story of Partnership: David Charles, Build Site Volunteer

Lawrence Habitat is extremely fortunate to have an amazing group of "regular" volunteers who are on the build site every week doing whatever task is asked of them. Their experience and dependability is invaluable to the home-building process.

David Charles is one of those regular volunteers. He was kind enough to write about his experience with Habitat and volunteering:

My name is David Charles and I am a Master's of Art in Architecture student at the University of Kansas.

Habitat has influenced my perspective on architecture in a very service-oriented way. Getting to know the future homeowner and working with the very diligent volunteers has been extremely enjoyable. Now, I would love to eventually be involved with a non-profit organization and continue this type of work.

I would be on the build site for the 81st home usually two times a week. The wonderful aspect of volunteering with Habitat is the flexible schedule. I adored having the opportunity to work during the week and seeing the home rise up from the foundation, to the walls, to the roof, etc.

During the lunch breaks, I got to hear stories from the other volunteers; about their time during Vietnam War, their professions (one was a very accomplished custom home designer), and their families. The common thread is their passion for helping people and continuing to provide for society; I was very touched by that.

Jonathan Groene, the construction manager, is great. His great sense of humor and friendly disposition are very kind and welcoming when doing work on the job site.

I would strongly advise ANYONE to volunteer! Whether it is with a house build or for the Restore, volunteering allows you to give back. When you freely donate your time, efforts, and joy to assisting others, the return is exponentially greater. The reward is to feel wonderful about your own life; that joy is contagious! It's not the physical gift, but the meaning behind it that counts!

-David Charles



David and Ying working on the build site, Dec. 2012

If any of these volunteer opportunities interest you, please contact the office for more information about what the next step is to getting started as a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity!

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