



## Fact Sheet

### **What is Habitat for Humanity?**

Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry. Habitat seeks to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness from the world, and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action.

Habitat invites people of all backgrounds, races, and religions to build houses together in partnership with families in need.

HFHI was founded in 1976 by Millard Fuller along with his wife Linda. Since then, Habitat has built more than 500,000 homes around the world, providing more than 2.5 million people in over 3,000 communities with safe, decent, affordable shelter.

### **How does it work?**

Through volunteer labor and donations of money and materials, 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, financed with affordable, no-interest loans. The homeowners' monthly mortgage payments are used to build still more Habitat houses.

Habitat is not a giveaway program. In addition to a saving for closing costs and making monthly mortgage payments, homeowners invest hundreds of hours of their own labor -- sweat equity -- into building their Habitat house and the houses of others. Habitat homeowners invest in their own future, building equity through their homes and break the cycle of poverty through the stability of home ownership.

### **What are Habitat affiliates?**

Habitat for Humanity's work is accomplished at the community level by affiliates -- independent, locally run, nonprofit organizations. Each affiliate coordinates all aspects of Habitat home building in its local area -- fund raising, building site selection, homeowner qualification and support, and house construction.

### **Where does Habitat for Humanity operate?**

Habitat is a worldwide, grass-roots movement. There are more than 2,100 active affiliates in over 70 countries, including all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam and Puerto Rico.

### **What is Habitat for Humanity doing in Fort Collins?**

Fort Collins Habitat for Humanity partners with hard-working local households earning 45-80% of the Fort Collins Median Income.

Fort Collins Habitat has completed construction of over 120 homes in Fort Collins. Because Fort Collins Habitat tithes ten percent (10%) of its cash contributions received, we have also funded approximately 150 homes overseas. Fort Collins Habitat currently supports building in Japan and Paraguay.

### **What does a Habitat house cost in Fort Collins?**

The cost of land in Fort Collins has become so expensive that there is a veritable housing crisis for low-income households. Many are forced to decide whether to move outside city limits and commute or pay an excessively high portion of their income for housing.

Habitat houses are simple and affordable homes ranging in size from 950-1300 square feet.

Habitat houses are affordable for income-qualified households because there is no profit included in the sale price and no interest charged on the mortgage. Mortgage length is up to 30 years depending on the homeowner's income and the completed price of the house.

To build a simple and affordable home ranging in size from 950-1300 square feet in Fort Collins the cost is roughly \$360,000. Even with a zero-percent interest rate mortgage, Habitat homeowners cannot afford to pay the resulting payment, so Fort Collins Habitat bases the mortgage loan on the HUD recommended 28% of income for housing.

### **How are homeowners qualified?**

Households in need of decent shelter apply to local Habitat affiliates. The affiliate's homeowner qualification committee considers the level of need, willingness to be successful partners in the program, and ability to repay the mortgage-loan. Qualified homebuyers volunteer a minimum of 250-500 hours of "sweat-equity" building their homes and those of other Habitat homeowners. They also must save \$1,500 toward closing costs. Every affiliate follows a nondiscriminatory policy of homeowner qualification. Neither race nor religion is a factor in qualifying applicants for Habitat houses.

### **How can I become a volunteer?**

Contact our Volunteer Manager, at (970) 488-2610.

### **How can I buy "bricks and sticks" and support Fort Collins Habitat for Humanity?**

Donations of money and new construction materials can be made by calling (970) 488-2604.

### **How do I donate items to the Fort Collins Habitat ReStore?**

Donations of used building materials, furniture, appliances, and other home supplies can be made by calling our Donations Coordinator at (970) 488-2703. The Fort Collins Habitat ReStore is a fundraising enterprise of Fort Collins Habitat for Humanity.

### **How do I become a Habitat homeowner?**

For more information on becoming a Habitat homeowner and to inquire about applications, contact our Homeowner Services Coordinator at (970) 488-2610 or go to our website at [www.fortcollinshabitat.org](http://www.fortcollinshabitat.org).

