



Habitat for Humanity Facts

HFH International has built nearly 200,000 houses for low-income families around the world since it was founded in 1976.

HFH Huron Valley, the local affiliate which was founded in 1990, has built over 60 homes in Washtenaw County, in the cities of Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, and the townships of Ypsilanti and Superior.

HFH Huron Valley is governed by a 21 person Board of Directors, has eight operating committees, hundreds of construction volunteers, and a small staff for administration and construction management.

How Habitat for Humanity Works

Habitat selects partner families based on income (30%-50% of median income), willingness to partner, and housing need. Habitat families typically work 40 hours per week or more in jobs that pay \$10-15 per hour.

Each year, more than 100 families apply for the housing partnership, but typically around six are selected.

A sponsor (like EMU Habitat for Humanity) raises around \$65,000 to pay for the building materials for the house, while HFH Huron Valley raises an additional \$25,000 for the land, site improvements, and permits.

The house is built by the sponsor over a four-to-six month period using volunteer labor. Many local contractors and suppliers help HFH by donating time and material.

The partner family is required to put in 300 hours of "sweat equity" to the construction of their house, as well as make a \$500 down payment.

Once the house is completed, HFH sells it to the partner family for the cost of land and construction on a 25-year no interest mortgage.

HFH uses the monthly mortgage payments by partner families to purchase and improve land to build more homes.

Benefits of Habitat for Humanity

To Families: Hardworking partner families are given an opportunity to become homeowners and build financial equity. Studies have shown that Habitat partner families enjoy better health, children do better in school, and parents often improve their own education after moving into their own home.

To Government: Increased tax revenue, since all Habitat partner families pay property taxes on their homes. In 2003, the Washtenaw County tax revenue from Habitat partner families was \$93,981.

To Community: Local chapters and communities work together to sponsor and build the housing that will become part of their community, as well as put faith into a program that will educate area families and ensure the basis of a well-kept community through its new members, partner families of Habitat.