

## About Habitat for Humanity International

Habitat for Humanity International is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry. HFHI 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. Habitat has built more than 250,000 houses around the world, providing more than 1 million people in more than 3,000 communities with safe, decent, affordable shelter. HFHI was founded in 1976 by Millard Fuller along with his wife, Linda.

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 and financed with affordable loans. The homeowners' monthly mortgage payments are used to build still more Habitat houses.

Habitat is not a giveaway program. In addition to a down payment and the monthly mortgage payments, homeowners invest hundreds of hours of their own labor — sweat equity — into building their Habitat house and the houses of others.

Families in need of decent shelter apply to local Habitat affiliates. The affiliate's family selection committee chooses homeowners based on their level of need,

their willingness to become partners in the program and their ability to repay the loan. Every affiliate follows a non-discriminatory policy of family selection. Neither race nor religion is a factor in choosing the families who receive Habitat houses. If your family, or a family you know, is in need of decent, affordable housing, contact the Habitat affiliate nearest you. If you're not sure where a local Habitat affiliate might be, use our search engine to find the names and phone numbers of affiliates in your area, or contact the Habitat Help Line at (800) 422-4828, Ext. 2551 or 2552. Your local affiliate can give you information on the availability, size, costs and sweat-equity requirements for Habitat houses in your area, as well as information on the application process.



# Washington College 2008 pre-orientation trips

*Habitat for Humanity*



## Habitat Houses in North America

Habitat houses in the United States and Canada generally are built using wood frame construction, with Gypsum board interior walls, vinyl siding and asphalt shingle roofs. Some affiliates also use proven alternative building materials such as adobe or straw bale construction. U.S. and Canadian Habitat houses are modestly sized by North American standards -- for example, a 3-bedroom Habitat house may have no more than 1,050 square feet of living space according to HFHI guidelines. Habitat for Humanity International's commitment to build with people in need readily extends to those with disabilities. HFHI's board of directors has endorsed the concept that all Habitat houses should incorporate basic accessible design features, such as a zerostep entrance and wide passage doors and hallways. Houses built in partnership with families with disabilities include additional accessibility features.

## Habitat Houses Around the World

From the tropical islands of the Philippines to the mountains of Chile, Habitat builds houses designed for the local setting. Habitat affiliates build with locally available materials, reducing costs and making

it easier for homeowners to maintain the houses. For example, houses in many African countries are constructed with fired clay bricks, with tile roofs made of cement or fired clay. Houses in Latin America often are built with concrete block or adobe walls and metal roofs, while houses in the Pacific are often built with wood frames and are constructed on stilts. People of different countries use their houses in different ways. Habitat's house designs reflect these cultural considerations. Meals are cooked outdoors in many African countries; there Habitat plans call for a kitchen area outside the house rather than inside. In the Philippines, laundry and other chores traditionally are done on a small outdoor utility porch. Filipino Habitat house designs reflect this custom. Habitat houses in developing countries are often considerably smaller than their North American counterparts. No matter where they are built, Habitat house sizes always are designed to meet the homeowner families' needs while keeping costs as low as possible, thereby making the houses affordable to low-income families.



## Your Habitat Experience

Your volunteer time with Habitat for Humanity of Talbot & Dorchester Counties will be spent working on the duplex homes which will become the community called Milestone on Clay (Street). It is a milestone for our affiliate because it is the first duplex construction we have attempted and Elm Street Development, a for-profit developer in the community, has partnered with us by giving us the land in return for building all ten homes. Five homes will be for Habitat partner families (Homes #47, #48, #49, #50 and #51 since 1992) and five homes will be for Easton Affordable Housing board applicants. This creates a mixed income community and improves this neighborhood which already is home to an elementary school, community pool and park and one of the largest African-American churches in Easton.

A typical day looks like this ...

- 8:30 a.m. Arrive at job site, safety/skill training
- 9:00 a.m. Begin construction activity
- 10:30 a.m. Snack/water break (volunteers can take a break independently at any time)
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. Begin construction activity
- 3:00 p.m. Clean Up
- 3:30 p.m. Depart construction site

The project runs from Monday, August 18 through Wednesday, August 20. We'll depart for Chestertown after lunch on Wednesday.