



## What is Habitat for Humanity?

Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit, ecumenical Christian organization. That means we are guided by Christian principles and we begin our work days on the job site with a devotion and prayer, but we do not have requirements for faith of any kind from volunteers, staff, or prospective homeowners.

Habitat uses volunteer labor and financial contributions to build simple, decent houses in partnership with people who qualify for our program. We purchase building materials and pay for skilled tradesmen (electricians, plumbers, HVAC, etc.). About 75% of our houses are built with volunteer labor. Our homeownership program is designed for people who would not qualify for a mortgage on the traditional lending market for a variety of reasons.



## How are people qualified for the Habitat program?

Habitat homeowners are qualified for the program based on verification of the following:

- Their demonstrated need for decent housing
- Their ability to pay a mortgage
- Their willingness to partner with Habitat and work 100 hours of “sweat equity” assisting on the job site of others’ homes and then working at least 100 hours on their own house.



## Does Habitat give qualified applicants a house?

No. Habitat is a homeownership program. Our families make a down payment of \$350 upon being accepted into the program and pay closing costs of \$2500-\$3000. Because Habitat uses donated funds, we are able to offer interest free mortgages. Once the loan closes, families make a mortgage payment of between \$400-500/month. This means our families not only build wealth as homeowners, but they now have margin in their lives to save for emergencies like flat tires and broken washers.

## Why Habitat?

**Need:** The need for affordable housing has never been greater. Our families are factory workers, aides in local nursing homes, daycare workers, retail clerks and servers in restaurants. They are people you count on every day, but they can’t afford

the average rent of over \$800/month for a 2-bedroom apartment (according to the United Way Alamance 2017 Report to the Community).

**Impact:** The impact of a Habitat house is that a family leaves poverty behind and begins to build wealth as a property owner. Studies have shown that homeownership brings reduced public assistance, better educational achievement for the children, health benefits, and improved health for a family.

**Better Communities:** The whole community benefits from having a new taxpayer who is invested in maintenance of their property. Since 1988, Habitat Alamance has enabled over 160 families to move into a new house.

