

Q: What is Habitat for Humanity?

A: Habitat for Humanity is an international, nonprofit agency that strives to eliminate poverty housing. Founded in 1976, by Millard and Linda Fuller, Habitat for Humanity International is responsible for building more than 225,000 houses in 100 countries. More than 1,000,000 people worldwide live in a house built by Habitat. Habitat is a Christian-based organization yet people from all walks of life are invited to work together to build new homes for families in need.

Q: How active is Habitat for Humanity in Arizona?

A: There are 14 Habitat for Humanity affiliates throughout Arizona. In the Phoenix Metro area, there are three affiliates: Valley of the Sun, West Valley and Desert Foothills. In fact, we tithe 10 percent of all unrestricted operating revenue for the year. Last year we sent close to \$120,000 which will build 26 homes overseas.

Habitat for Humanity, Valley of the Sun, started in 1987, is best known for its innovative “South Ranch” project. Begun in 1995, South Ranch is a planned development of 195 homes with a community center, a children’s playground and a homeowners association. This model community, located in south Phoenix, was completed in June 2002. We continued the community model in 2002 with Villas Esperanza, our 93 home south Phoenix development, and completed the project in the spring of 2007. This 20-acre community includes a children’s park and an independent homeowner’s association. An estimated 2,000 volunteers participated in the building of Villas Esperanza. In 2003, the Valley of the Sun affiliate merged with the East Valley affiliate. Combined, we have built over 430 homes throughout Maricopa County. Our service area has grown to include Phoenix, Glendale, Tempe, Chandler, Gilbert, Mesa, Guadalupe, and Apache Junction.

Q: What is the current subdivision for Habitat for Humanity Valley of the Sun?

A: In the fall of 2006, construction began on *Ironwood Trails*. This 18-home development, located in Apache Junction, is one of the first developments in the state using solar energy. Salt River Project in partnership with Habitat for Humanity Valley of the Sun is providing a solar energy system for every home built in this community. Lower utility bills and a 0% interest mortgage make this development desirable and affordable.

Habitat for Humanity Valley of the Sun received a generous donation of land in the town of Guadalupe from the Biehn Family Trust that will accommodate the building of 25 Habitat homes. In the spring of 2007, Habitat launched the building of homes with a blitz build project – nine homes were built in one week.

We continue to partner with City Municipalities in the revitalization of existing neighborhoods with traditional Habitat infill building in Glendale, Mesa, Tempe and Chandler.

Q: What is the Habitat for Humanity model?

A: Habitat homes are built based on a partnership between a family and the community. A qualifying family pays for their home through “sweat equity hours” and a zero-interest mortgage loan. Community involvement includes financial sponsorship, in-kind donations and a huge volunteer workforce. Volunteers work along side the family to provide labor during most phases of the home’s construction.

Q: Why is there a need for affordable housing in Phoenix?

A: Phoenix is the 5th largest city in the nation, and there is a critical need for affordable housing for hard-working, low-income families. Currently 1.2 million Arizona residents live in substandard housing. Over the past five years, home prices in the Valley increased by 141% for a new home and 182% for an existing home. As the nation’s hottest housing market, the erosion of affordability has been dramatic. Lack of affordable housing results in overcrowding, poor living conditions and excessive household expenses.



Q: How is Jimmy Carter involved with Habitat for Humanity?

A: Former President Carter and his wife Roslyn have been active advocates of Habitat for Humanity. The couple continues to work on Habitat for Humanity's Global Village projects throughout the world

Q: Who are Habitat families?

A: Habitat homeowners are working families who wish to purchase their first home, but who cannot qualify for traditional home loans. Habitat for Humanity is an equal opportunity housing provider and complies with federal regulations regarding discrimination. It considers applicants without regard to race, religion, gender, handicap, familial status, or national origin.

Q: How does a family qualify for a Habitat home?

A: Specifically, families must:

- Have an income between 30 and 60% of the median income in the metro Phoenix area (according to the Arizona Department of Housing and Urban Development).
- Have a two-year history of stable income.
- Have a good credit record.
- Demonstrate the need for adequate housing.
- Complete 400 hours of sweat equity. The family works first 100 hours building a fellow homeowner's house, and the remaining 300 hours is spent working on their own home.
- Attend classes in home maintenance, finance (budgeting, debt management and credit), and home ownership.

Q: What do the homes look like?

A: The homes complement the existing architecture of the surrounding community. Our affiliate offers several different floor plans (three, four and five bedroom single-story and two-story models), ranging from 1,250 to 1,600 square feet. Each model, designed to meet city infill standards, has several elevations and various exterior paint combinations.

Q: What is included in a house?

A: Whirlpool donates a refrigerator and range for each home. The homeowner may purchase a garbage disposal, dishwasher, washing machine and dryer at a substantial discount through our partnership with Whirlpool. Homeowners select elevation, color scheme and flooring. All homes include desert landscaping in the front yard, a front and back patio, a garage, or a carport and a roomy outside storage shed.

Q: How much does it cost to sponsor a Habitat home?

A: There are several sponsorship options, beginning with a complete home sponsorship of \$85,000. Homes are also financed from partial sponsorships, lot sponsorships and CampHabitat team building programs.

Q: How can an individual become involved with Habitat?

A: Volunteer opportunities are available in construction, fundraising, family services and in the office. Board and committee members are also volunteer positions. Construction volunteers must be at least 16.

Q: May I contribute financially?

A: Money is critical for helping Habitat continue its mission of eliminating poverty housing. Financial support may be in the form of annual contributions, one-time donations, stock gifts, matching gifts and planned giving. Many employers have matching dollars for volunteer hours or will earmark United Way payroll deductions to Habitat for Humanity. Our affiliate is currently seeking land donations.