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LaGrange County Habitat for Humanity History

What is Habitat for Humanity International?

Habitat for Humanity International is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing organization dedicated to eliminating substandard housing and to making decent housing a matter of conscience and action. Habitat works in partnership with people in need throughout the world as it helps to build simple, decent shelter that is then sold to partner families at no profit through no-interest loans. Funds, building materials, and labor are donated by individuals, churches, corporations, and other organizations who share our goal of eliminating substandard housing in the world. HFHI was founded in 1976 in Americus, Georgia, by Millard Fuller along with his wife Linda.

What has Habitat for Humanity International accomplished?

Habitat has built more than 900,000 houses around the world, providing more than 9.8 million people in approximately 70 countries and 1,400 U. S. communities with safe, decent, affordable shelter. Throughout the world, the cost of houses varies from as little as \$800 in some developing countries to an average of \$75,000 in the United States. U.S. houses may have no more than 1,092 square feet of living space, according to HFHI guidelines.

What is LaGrange County Habitat for Humanity?

LaGrange County Habitat for Humanity held its first meeting in November, 1995. In the months that followed, the local chapter formed a board, elected officers, and appointed committees. Major fund-raisers, auctions, have been held annually since 1996. The first home for LaGrange County Habitat for Humanity was built during the fall of 1997. Since that time, we sold homes to 31 partner families. Also, we have completed 16 home repair projects with our "A Brush With Kindness" program.

LCHFH "tithes" 10 percent of their contributions to fund house-building work in other nations.

What is the vision statement of LaGrange County Habitat for Humanity?

LaGrange County Habitat for Humanity works in partnership with God and people everywhere to develop communities with God's people in need by building and renovating houses so there are decent houses in decent communities in which people can live and grow into all God intended.

Sweat Equity Policy

All Partner Families are expected to contribute their own labor to LaGrange County Habitat for Humanity. This is needed so that the family can be included in all aspects of construction and be able to fully realize and appreciate the new experience of home ownership.

Each adult member of the Partner Family is committed to giving 125 hours of sweat equity. If the Partner Family finds it difficult to meet the commitment, the board may agree to have certain other family members or friends work on behalf of the family.

Requirements

1. 25 hours of sweat equity per adult partner prior to construction beginning on the partner's home
2. 100 additional hours of sweat equity per adult partner prior to moving into the home
3. 100 hours of sweat equity from friends or relatives of partner family

Definitions:

Partner Family: Any family that currently owns or has been chosen to receive a house in partnership with LaGrange County Habitat for Humanity.

Sweat Equity: The actual hands-on involvement of Habitat Partner Families in the work necessary to achieve Habitat's goal of eliminating substandard housing. *Sweat Equity is the Partner Family's physical investment in Habitat's work.*

Suggestions for ways to invest these hours:

1. Worksite tasks (construction, clean-up, coordination of work groups)
2. Maintenance of vacant Habitat lots (lawn mowing, trash pick-up)
3. Meal preparation
4. Attendance at meetings/classes as requested by committees
5. Assistance in planning special events (groundbreaking, dedications, recognition dinners, etc.)
6. Assistance with office work (newsletter mailings, thank-you notes, etc.)
7. Assistance with Habitat presentations
8. Assistance with Habitat publicity
9. Assistance with child care, as requested
10. Other tasks as approved ahead of time

(LCHFH, History/Sweat Equity 8/15/2018)

