



Team Building

"Teamwork was the most important part of the day."

"I have done Habitat before. It is a good way to make a difference and to get the team out. We work much better in the office after these experiences."

"It's for a good cause. But the most rewarding is, seeing my boss swinging a hammer."

-Employees after team building experiences with DCHFH

Traditional team-building conferences and retreats are fine, but they don't offer you and your staff the innovative and gratifying experience you get from a Team Build day with DC Habitat for Humanity.

Move your team out of its comfort zone for a day of unique interaction that will provide the framework for individual accomplishment and support team development objectives.

A day with DC Habitat for Humanity will challenge each team member to make a personal commitment to be the best they can be.

Working together on completely unfamiliar tasks and in uncommon groupings, they gain skills like:

- Increase mutual trust and support
- Function as a cohesive team
- Keep people motivated under stress
- Increase team spirit and camaraderie
- Open the lines of communication
- Recognize and reward little successes in order to achieve the desired end-results
- Maintain a positive attitude toward progress, change, and teamwork
- Remain flexible and be advocates of change

The \$5,000 (\$1,000 for non-profit) donation for a Team Building day with DC Habitat for Humanity is substantially less than the cost of hiring consultants and renting a hotel conference room for a day.

And it is tax-deductible!

Your company's interest in partnering with DC Habitat shows that you understand the important impact we are having on Washington, DC and the value of corporate participation in changing our community for the better.

Whether you choose a weekday, to give your staff an in-service day, or a Saturday, your staff will come away from their day with DC Habitat for Humanity knowing they have accomplished something important for themselves, your company and the community.

Work days normally begin at 8:15 AM and end at 4:00 PM, with a break for lunch. The sponsoring company typically provides boxed lunches, cold drinks and bottled water for their volunteer teams. Over lunch, you have an opportunity to speak to your staff about your company's goals and the goals of your day with Habitat. You may design a team building day that fits the needs of your people.

Volunteers may raise the house frame, build roof trusses, put up siding, hang dry wall, paint, or do any number of construction jobs, depending on the phase of construction the house is in on your build day and each volunteer's level of ability. Volunteers receive training before beginning their tasks and supervision throughout the day. Our staff construction supervisors are experienced at training and working with people with no prior construction experience and make it a rewarding and enjoyable experience for all participants.

On build days, you may provide unlimited banners, posters and other graphics to take best advantage of photo opportunities. Sponsors are listed on our web site, www.dchabitat.org and in our print and electronic newsletters.

As a team building exercise, working together to build a DC Habitat home can't be beat!



DC Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity is a grass-roots organization founded on the simple belief that everyone deserves a decent place to live. Working with Habitat and volunteers from the community, hard-working families in need of simple, modest, safe shelter literally help build the home they will buy for an affordable price. Habitat offers families a hand up – not a hand out – and for 19 years the Habitat affiliate in Washington, DC has been giving families the hand they need to transform their lives.

Established in 1988, DC Habitat for Humanity (DCHFH) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that fights poverty housing and homelessness in our nation's capital by building affordable, energy and resource efficient homes in partnership with the community and the working families who will benefit from the new homes.

There is an acute housing crisis in our area. Rents and home sale prices are rising faster than wages, and the number of low-cost units is dropping sharply. DC Habitat for Humanity homes are answering the need for decent, safe, affordable housing.

In order to achieve our mission we fill a combination of roles:

- We are a construction company, using volunteers like your employees, and AmeriCorps labor, and requiring each homebuyer to contribute 300 “sweat equity” hours working to build their own home and the homes of their Habitat neighbors. This enables us to build professional quality homes at affordable prices.
- We are also a mortgage company. Homebuyers enter into 25-year, no-interest, no profit mortgages with DCHFH, which keeps their mortgage payments under \$500 per month, a fraction of comparable housing costs in DC. DCHFH reinvests revenue from mortgage payments into construction of future houses.
- We are a social service agency, reaching out to working families who need affordable housing the most. We provide financial counseling and family support during the building and buying process and throughout their time as a Habitat homeowner. Since 1988 we have completed 100 homes and rehabilitated 75 cooperative units, helping more than 325 DC residents achieve the dream of homeownership.

DCHFH homebuyers must be DC residents, have US citizenship or be permanent resident aliens, and meet our income requirements – from the Federal Poverty Guidelines’ poverty line up to 50% of area mean income. The average income of our current home owners is \$26,000. We will sell at least half of the houses in our current 53-house project to current public housing residents.

Because DCHFH sells our homes below market rate on no-interest, no-profit mortgages, our homeowners have substantially lower housing costs than the rental or standard homeownership market would afford them. Their mortgage payments are less than \$500, just 30% of the fair market rate of a comparable rental unit. Furthermore, mortgage payments are guaranteed not to increase from year to year. In Washington, DC's dynamic housing market, this level of stability is a valuable asset to a low-income family.

In our latest initiative, DCHFH is building 53 homes on a 4.3-acre parcel of land, located in the Northeast Boundary neighborhood. Before DC Habitat for Humanity began building on it, the site was abandoned – an eyesore, haven for drug traffic and hazard to the community.

Each DC Habitat house is approximately 1,200 square feet and has three bedrooms and a bathroom.

For 19 years, DCHFH has used the Standards of Excellence established by Habitat for Humanity International to guide our work developing affordable homeownership opportunities. We have grown from a small volunteer operation to a highly professional organization with experienced executive management and a portfolio of 94 homeowners.

Executive Director Carol Casperson was a founding member of DCHFH, and brings the organization a rare depth of knowledge about community development and political management. Deputy Director Daphne Makinson holds a masters degree in education and mathematics and forty year of experience teaching at universities and in upper management at various non profit organizations. Dave Gano, Director of Construction, has more than 20 years of experience in construction management and has been with DCHFH since 1996. The combination of organizational and managerial experience ensures DCHFH projects are the good investment our supporters expect.

While our staff is central to Habitat's success, it is the volunteers who are the heart of Habitat. We will use some 4,000 volunteers on our construction site this year. These volunteers include corporate teams, congregations, schools and community groups, sponsorship programs such as "Capital Women Build" or "Buildable Hours" (law firms), as well as groups from five local universities and other individuals. Other programs include "Sasha Bruce Youth Build" which provides academic, vocational, and job training in carpentry to at-risk young people, and a new, similar partnership with the Spanish Catholic Center targeted to Spanish speakers. In addition to building homes, hundreds of volunteers provide vital services such as screening potential homeowners or serving on committees.

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