



Working with Habitat for Humanity

Fact sheet for Rotarians and Rotaractors

Habitat for Humanity is a global nonprofit Christian housing organization that began in 1976 as a community effort in Georgia, USA. Families and individuals in need, regardless of religion or background, partner with Habitat to build or improve a place they can call home. Habitat homeowners help build their homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage.

About 1.6 billion people around the world lack safe, affordable housing due to factors such as:

- Overcrowding
- Little or no access to safe water sources and proper sanitation
- Leaking roofs and crumbling walls
- High rent and increased risk of eviction
- Lack of access to public services, school, work, and medical facilities

Through financial and housing support, Habitat families can achieve the strength, stability, and independence they need to build better lives. Habitat welcomes volunteers of all races, religions, and nationalities to construct, repair, and improve homes. Since 1976, Habitat and its volunteers have served more than 9.8 million people in 70 countries around the world.

Rotary's six areas of focus align closely with the vision of Habitat for Humanity to ensure everyone has a decent place to live. [Learn more](#)

Habitat for Humanity's areas of emphasis

- **Housing and neighborhood revitalization:** Habitat for Humanity improves the housing conditions of people who lack adequate shelter, contributing to the rejuvenation of their neighborhoods.
- **Water and sanitation:** Since access to clean water and proper sanitation is essential to adequate housing, Habitat for Humanity programs in many developing countries work to improve the quality and availability of water and sanitation facilities for low-income households and their communities.
- **Economic and community development:** Habitat for Humanity takes a comprehensive approach to community development, emphasizing people's engaged participation to improve their own communities' housing and economic conditions and overall quality of life.

Why work with Habitat?

Habitat for Humanity partners with people in communities around the world to help them build or improve their homes. Habitat works in partnership with supporters, organizations, and community leaders to serve families, boost housing markets, and advocate for improved shelter worldwide. By partnering with Habitat, clubs and districts gain access to technical expertise and can offer support and resources to improve the lives of families and conditions in their communities.

Ways to partner with Habitat

For community impact

- Volunteer to build homes around the globe or revitalize communities through repairs and other improvement projects.
- Donate goods and services to offset the costs of home building and repairs, allowing Habitat to serve more families.
- Use district and global grants for qualifying projects to help fund low-cost shelters for people in need, including low-income families and disaster survivors.
- Participate in team building and leadership development through Habitat's Global Village trips.

For social impact

- Advocate for policy change and the need for affordable housing.
- Sponsor or support events such as the Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project to help people build strength, stability, and self-reliance through shelter.
- Empower women by supporting projects and programs that address the challenges they face around the world.
- Engage young people by raising the next wave of volunteers and leaders through service opportunities.

Connect with an area Habitat for Humanity office [in your region of the world](#) to discuss partnership opportunities. You can also write to rotary-partnership@habitat.org for details on [a local Habitat office or affiliate](#).

Partnering with Habitat on service projects

Funding a joint project with Habitat should be the responsibility of all partners. Clubs can consider fundraising in their community, [district and global grants](#) if the initiative meets the guidelines of [Constructing Low Cost Shelters Using Global Grants](#), and [crowdsourcing](#) to solicit support from the Rotary family and community.

Working with Habitat as a cooperating partner can determine whether a new Rotary Community Corps should be formed. A Rotary Community Corps (RCC) is a group of people who are not Rotary members but work in partnership with Rotary clubs to improve their communities. Each RCC is sponsored by a Rotary club and acts as its partner in service.

Some RCCs are formed for a specific project, while others tackle larger, entrenched problems on an ongoing basis. Each RCC sets its own goals based on its community's specific needs. As representatives of the community being served, RCC members bring enthusiasm, creativity, and sustainability to the projects they help design and implement. They offer community solutions for community challenges.

Learn more about [Rotary Community Corps](#).