



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Greater Boston

The Habitat History, Mission, and Model





Habitat for Humanity International



Habitat for Humanity International is a nonprofit, housing ministry that seeks to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness from the world, and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action.

Through volunteer labor and donations of money and materials, Habitat builds and rehabilitates safe affordable homes with the help of partner families.

Founded in 1976 by Millard and Linda Fuller, Habitat has built more than 300,000 houses around the world, providing more than 1.5 million people with safe, decent, and affordable shelter.

**1.5 million families have been reached by
Habitat for Humanity**



Habitat for Humanity Greater Boston

Habitat Greater Boston was established in 1987 to serve the City of Boston and the surrounding 25 cities and towns as an independent affiliate of Habitat International.

We build low-cost homes by forming partnerships with low-income families in need of decent and affordable housing, and believe that everyone deserves the opportunity to live in a safe, decent environment.



Our mission is to **help families** help themselves by providing opportunities to break generational **cycles of poverty** through **homeownership**.

Habitat for Humanity Greater Boston Service Area



- | | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|
| Arlington | Belmont | Boston | Brookline | Cambridge |
| Chelsea | Dedham | Dover | Everett | Lexington |
| Lincoln | Malden | Medford | Melrose | Needham |
| Newton | Revere | Somerville | Stoneham | Waltham |
| Watertown | Wellesley | Weston | Winchester | Winthrop |
| Woburn | | | | |

Giving Families a **Hand-up** not a **Hand-out**

Habitat families purchase their homes from Habitat Greater Boston. We make the purchase affordable for low-income families by providing no-interest 20-25 year mortgage loans.



The Habitat Model

Family Selection

Habitat selects families on the basis of income, need for housing, ability to repay the mortgage and willingness to partner.

Sweat Equity

As the down payment, every partner family invests 300 hours working on their future home or in other capacities.

Homeownership Classes

Each family must attend 10 classes taught by volunteers in the fields of financial management, investing, banking and credit.

Where we're building in 2011

Roslindale

Blue Hill Place

Dorchester Terrace



BUILDING HOPE by BUILDING HOMES

We are pleased to report that Habitat Greater Boston has recently purchased a foreclosed home in Roslindale.



This 1895 two-family farmhouse is currently undergoing a complete renovation. The house is structurally sound and the exterior is in excellent condition. The interior will be totally renovated including new heating, plumbing and electrical systems which conform to our green standards.

When the project is complete, there will be two 4-bedroom units which will be purchased by two deserving families who have been carefully selected.

UPDATE 2011

Exterior

The structural framing of the home is intact and in good condition. Habitat will be renovating the porches and doing touch-ups to the roof, siding, windows, and chimney systems.



Interior

Habitat has been working with volunteer groups throughout the fall to complete the interior demolition work of this three-floor home.





Habitat Greater Boston is beginning construction of, Phase 5, the last building of our Blue Hill Place neighborhood revitalization project. Phase 5 will have three townhouse-style units with two 4-bedrooms and one 3-bedroom.

This site of the Blue Hill Place project has been a vacant lot since the 1960's, after the buildings here were burned down in riots following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King. Fortunately, Habitat was able to acquire the land and has completed 4 of the 5 planned buildings, with hopes of stabilizing the neighborhood and strengthening the Dorchester community!



UPDATE 2011



THE ROOF IS ON! With the help of volunteers and our Habitat Construction Crew, the Blue Hill Place project was secured and covered just in time for the first snow. The building is fully framed, roofed, shingled, and interior wall partitions have been erected.

Installation of the windows is underway and interior framing is the focus throughout these colder months.



Here is where we started in September 2010!



Delta Airlines volunteers built with us for 3 weeks to get the entire Blue Hill Place project fully framed



Habitat Greater Boston is renovating four condominium units off of Blue Hill Avenue in Dorchester. These units are being stripped down to their framing and then rebuilt with new drywall, windows, doors, fixtures, plumbing, electrical, and paint - all with volunteer help!

Increasing the efficiency of these units is especially important to us at Habitat, and we will be working to build these homes to be more green than required by today's energy efficiency codes!

We are in the process of selecting partner families for these units who will work on them throughout the summer.



UPDATE 2011



Renovations of the four condominium units at our Dorchester Terrace project are continuing forward.

One unit has been completed, and the remaining three have been demolished, with sub floors ripped up, interior partitions deconstructed and framing pulled down.

The rebuilding has begun and insulation in many of the units is complete along with framing and stairs.



Volunteer With Us

Thousands of volunteers come together each year to help Habitat Greater Boston build homes nail by nail, board by board!



COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT CONSTRUCTION VOLUNTEERING

Can I bring my group of 50 people out to volunteer?

In order to build our homes efficiently and safely we must limit the number of volunteers on the worksite. We ask that groups be no larger than 10 volunteers based on the number of people that we can productively use at each phase of the construction process.

What skills are required?

We love experienced volunteers, but the vast majority of our volunteers have never had more construction experience than painting a bedroom or hanging a picture on the wall. Our site supervisors will teach you everything you need to know on your build day.

When can I volunteer?

Habitat Boston posts all dates we build with volunteers on our [Online Volunteer Calendar](#). If you are a group, look for dates marked “Group Needed” to find available opportunities.

Is there a minimum age requirement?

You must be at least 16 years old to work on our construction site. All 16 + 17 year olds must be accompanied by an adult chaperone on your build day. If you're younger than 16 and want to get involved, check out Habitat for Humanity International's Youth Programs page at <http://www.habitat.org/youthprograms/default.aspx>. or contact Lee Hofrichter at leehofrichter@habitatboston.org

Do you ask for a donation when we volunteer?

Corporate groups are asked to make a \$2,000 contribution for a weekday build and \$3,000 for a weekend. School groups, churches, and other non-profit groups are requested to make a \$750 donation. This helps us to buy the materials and supplies that you will be using on your build day, and pay our Construction Supervisors who will be working with you to make your team service day a success! Ultimately, contributions help us build more homes for families who need our help!

COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT CONSTRUCTION VOLUNTEERING

Where do I build?

Once you have scheduled and confirmed your build day, the Volunteer Coordinator will send you the site location, required paperwork, proper dress, and directions. All of our sites are in the Boston area, are accessible by public transit, and generally have free street parking available.

What will happen when I arrive at the site?

At the beginning of each workday, a Habitat site supervisor will start the morning with an introduction, a safety talk and instructions. The group will then break into crews to work on the various building tasks. The activities range from hanging drywall, painting, stacking lumber, framing, sanding, demolition, cleaning, and anything else that needs doing!

Is my work day cancelled if rain or snow is predicted?

You will be contacted by us if a work day is cancelled for any reason. Our site supervisors can be reached for emergencies at:

Weekday Builds: Gerry Patton (c) 774.218.4323

Weekend Builds: Lyh-Hsin Lam (c) 617.717.4292

What should I bring?

- **Proper Dress**: Wear comfortable clothing and expect to get dirty with spilled paint, dirt etc. Closed toe shoes are a must and layers in the wintertime are key as our homes are often not insulated or heated.
- **Food and Drink**: Bring any food or drink you will need for the day including water. Convenience stores are within driving distance but can be a far walk from some sites.
- **Waiver of Liability**: All participants must sign the Waiver of Liability Form before participating in the build. The Group Captain should bring this to the work site on the day of your build (Please do not send these into the office).
- **No Tools or Supplies Required**: Habitat Greater Boston will provide all tools and building materials for your build day.

ORGANIZING A GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS

Recruit Group Members

People often agree to volunteer but as the day gets closer things come up and you may be scrambling for volunteers. Send out periodic emails and make sure that your sign up sheet stays full! Groups should be a maximum of 10 people.

Designate a Day-Of Group Contact

The Group Captain is different from the person who is setting up the build. The Group Captain is a member of your group who will be attending the build day and can serve as a liason between your group and Habitat Greater Boston day-of issues only.

Waiver of Liability Form

All participants must sign a [Waiver of Liability Form](#) before participating in the build. The Group Captain should bring this to the work site on the day of your build (Please do not send these into the office). Volunteers who are 16 or 17 must be sure to include a parent or guardians signature along with adequate supervision.

Contact

Please contact the Volunteer Coordinator, volunteers@habitatboston.org if your group needs to cancel or reschedule. If you have a day-of emergency and need to contact someone on the site please contact:

Weekday Builds: Gerry Patton (c) 617.590.0643

Weekend Builds: Lyh-Hsin Lam (c) 617.717.4292

GROUP BUILD DAY SCHEDULE

9 am

- Arrive at site and locate Habitat Construction Staff

9:15 am

- Introduction and Safety Briefing
- Begin volunteer construction

12:30pm

- Lunch Break

3:00pm

- Clean up of tools and construction materials

3:30pm

- Depart the worksite. Thank You!





RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY. THIS IS A LEGAL DOCUMENT THAT AFFECTS YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS!

This Release and Waiver of Liability (the "Release") executed on this _____ day of _____, 20____, by _____ (the "Volunteer") in favor of Habitat for Humanity International, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, and Habitat for Humanity Greater Boston, Inc., a Massachusetts nonprofit corporation, their directors, officers, employees, and agents (collectively, "Habitat").

The Volunteer desires to work as a volunteer for Habitat and engage in the activities related to being a volunteer (the "Activities"). The Volunteer understands that the Activities may include constructing and rehabilitating residential buildings (including, but not limited to, lifting and carrying construction materials, operating construction equipment, demolishing walls and removing trim and floors and may involve exposure to dust, mold, lead paint and other similar substances and allergens) and working in Habitat offices, at the Habitat Restore or at special events.

The Volunteer hereby freely, voluntarily, and without duress executes this Release under the following terms:

1. **RELEASE AND WAIVER.** Volunteer does hereby release and forever discharge and hold harmless Habitat and its successors and assigns from any and all liability, claims, and demands of whatever kind or nature, either in law or in equity, which arise or may hereafter arise from Volunteer's Activities with Habitat.

Volunteer understands that this Release discharges Habitat from any liability or claim that the Volunteer may have against Habitat with respect to any bodily injury, personal injury, illness, death, or property damage that may result from Volunteer's Activities with Habitat, whether caused by the negligence of Habitat or its officers, directors, employees, or agents or otherwise. Volunteer also understands that Habitat does not assume any responsibility for or obligation to provide financial assistance or any other assistance, including, but not limited to, medical, health, or disability insurance in the event of injury or illness.

2. **MEDICAL TREATMENT.** Volunteer does hereby release and forever discharge Habitat from any claim whatsoever which arises or may hereafter arise on account of any first aid, treatment, or service rendered in connection with the Volunteer's Activities with Habitat.

3. **ASSUMPTION OF THE RISK.** Volunteer understands that the Activities involve work that may be hazardous to the Volunteer, including, but not limited to, construction, demolition, loading and unloading materials, transportation to and from work sites, and exposure to substances such as mold, dirt, dust and lead paint.

Volunteer hereby expressly and specifically assumes the risk of injury or harm inherent in the Activities and releases Habitat from all liability for injury, illness, death, or property damage resulting from the Activities.

4. **INSURANCE.** Volunteer understands that Habitat does not carry or maintain health, medical, or disability insurance coverage for any Volunteer.

Each Volunteer is expected to have his or her own medical or health insurance coverage.

5. **PHOTOGRAPHIC RELEASE.** Volunteer does hereby grant and convey unto Habitat all right, title, and interest in any and all photographic images and video or audio recordings made by Habitat during the Volunteer's Activities with Habitat, including, but not limited to, any royalties, proceeds, or other benefits derived from such photographs or recordings.

6. **OTHER.** Volunteer expressly agrees that this Release is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and that this Release shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Volunteer agrees that in the event that any clause or provision of this Release shall be held to be invalid or void by any court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity of such clause or provision shall not otherwise affect the remaining provisions of the Release which provisions shall continue to be enforceable in all respects.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Volunteer has executed this Release as of the day and year first above written.

Signature: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Emergency Contact Phone: _____