

every  
family  
needs a foundation  
to build the future



Habitat's Women Build volunteers come together from all walks of life to build stronger, safer communities. Women and children make up the majority of people populating Habitat neighborhoods, as they are the most likely to be affected by poor living conditions. Women Build events provide the opportunity for women to take a proactive step in serving their communities.

## Are you ready to build with us?

Search for current Habitat for Humanity build opportunities for volunteers at [habitat.org/volunteer/near-you](http://habitat.org/volunteer/near-you).



Habitat's Women Build crews have included women from their teens well into their retirement years. The atmosphere is collaborative and friendly. Join us!

To learn more about Women Build, visit our website at [habitat.org/wb](http://habitat.org/wb). Contact us by email at [womenbuild@habitat.org](mailto:womenbuild@habitat.org) or by phone at (800) HABILITAT.

## What is Habitat for Humanity?

Driven by the vision that everyone needs a decent place to live, Habitat for Humanity began in 1976 as a grassroots effort on a community farm in southern Georgia. The Christian housing organization has since grown to become a leading global nonprofit working in nearly 1,300 communities throughout the U.S. and in more than 70 countries.



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## Women Build

together, we're  
stronger

Habitat for Humanity's Women Build volunteers have been picking up a hammer and helping change lives for more than 25 years.

# Let's build together. No experience is required to join!

## North America

### Participating in Women Build projects

Women Build opportunities are available across the U.S., and any woman who wants to learn how to build a home is invited to join us; no experience is necessary. Volunteers work under the guidance of construction professionals and alongside other volunteers and future Habitat homeowners.

Whether you are learning new skills or simply adding a few to your tool belt, this is a rewarding experience

for all involved, and one that improves the community you share.

### National Women Build Week

This annual event, which was created in partnership with Lowe's and is held during the week

leading up to Mother's Day, is meant to spotlight the homeownership challenges faced by women. More



than 117,000 women from all 50 states have volunteered at past National Women Build Week events.

### Voice of Women

Based on research conducted by the Center for Applied Research at the University of Southern Indiana, Voice of Women was developed as a leadership training initiative. Designed to provide women homeowners with leadership skills and structure to create positive change in their neighborhoods and communities, women learn how to work effectively with neighbors and community leaders by exercising their voice in civic, political, educational and social workings within their communities.



## International

### Water and sanitation

In many regions of the world, water plays a key part in the health and security of women and families. Women in dry regions walk an average of 3½ miles every day to fetch water for their homes. The longer they have to walk, the more vulnerable they are to being assaulted. Every day, almost 2,000 children around the world die of preventable intestinal diseases because they lack access to clean water and proper sanitation facilities.

Through partnerships with national and area Habitat offices, we have aided in installing safe water and sanitation units at the home of families in Nicaragua. We are also embarking on a project that will install water tanks, latrines and handwashing stations for children in Malawi.



### Small loans make a huge difference

Women Build works with women who run small, home-based businesses, teaching them about financial principles, market strategies, business plans, diversification of product offerings, disaster risk prevention and incremental building. Habitat partners with financial institutions to give these women access to credit with small, low-interest, short-term loans that allow them to enhance their businesses and gradually improve their homes.

**On the inside flap:** In Great Rift Valley, Kenya, Jane received financial literacy training through a Habitat for Humanity program and is building her family a new home using small microloans.