

## "Giving a hand up, not a handout"

Houston County Habitat for Humanity and your church share many of the same goals and principles - both seek to answer God's call to serve. Through Habitat for Humanity, churches have the opportunity to participate in a hands-on, grassroots ministry that gives people an opportunity to put love into action. With your help, we can build at least four homes this year for deserving families who need a hand up, not a handout.

There are several ways your church can exhibit a caring ministry through Habitat:

- *Team Building Construction Day*: Nearly every Saturday an intrepid group of construction leads work with groups of volunteers in building a new Habitat home. No construction skills are necessary, Habitat supplies all the safety equipment and tools as well as training. The only restriction is participants must be at least 16 to be on the construction site and 18 to work with power tools.
- A Brush with Kindness: This is a complement program to our homebuyer program allowing us to have a bigger impact in helping people live in a safe, stable home. We serve homeowner families living below 80% of the area median income with help such as interior and exterior critical repairs and painting with a priority on health and safety issues. This work is done during the week with smaller volunteer crews.
- *Lunches for Volunteers*: We provide lunch for all our volunteers, again, with the help of other individual or group volunteers. If you are proud of the great home chefs in your church, let them show off their skills by providing lunch for a construction Saturday.
- Special Collection/Contribution to Annual Campaign: Habitat for Humanity proclaims that every house we build is a sermon of God's love. It is our Christian faith that motivates us and enables our mission. Of course, it takes a sizable amount of outside funding to support this mission and we welcome any donation, large or small.

We welcome the invitation to speak to your church about the mission of Houston County Habitat for Humanity and to work with your congregation in determining the best way to support God's call to serve. Please contact Jackie Trotter, Program Services Coordinator, for more information on all of our programs. (programservices@hocohabitat.org 478-328-3388)

"We have chosen, as our means of manifesting God's love, to build adequate and durable homes with those in need of shelter, carrying out the belief that safe and affordable housing is a basic human right and a fundamental component of dignity and long term well-being for every person on earth." —From Habitat for Humanity's Mission Focus