

# Volunteer ORIENTATION

Together, we build a better future.

Thank you for helping us achieve our mission!

Thank you for registering to volunteer with Habitat St. Johns! Putting God's love into action, we bring people together to build homes, communities, and hope.

Here are some things to know about us:

- We build homes in partnership *with* low- to moderate-income individuals and families. Future Habitat homeowners must qualify for our program based on income, credit score, debt-to-income ratio, need for housing, and other factors. Each participant in our homeownership program completes "sweat equity" hours, working on their own or their future neighbors' homes. Every Habitat homeowner is part of their own solution, and they are grateful for your support.
- We sell homes for their appraised values. Right now the 2-bed 1-bath homes are selling for \$245,000 and 3-bed 2-bath homes are \$275,000. Habitat homeowners purchase their homes and must be able to manage an affordable mortgage.



- Sources of income include the sales of homes, government and private grants, donations, and in-kind support. Habitat St. Johns tithes to Habitat International to help build homes in other parts of the world.
- We do not discriminate. We are a Christian organization helping everyone in need. All are welcome to apply and all are welcome to help with the work.



## Other Volunteer Roles:

- Installing gardens
- Advocacy
- Mentoring future homeowners
- Special events
- Marketing support

904-826-3252 ext 2002

[www.habitatstjohns.org](http://www.habitatstjohns.org)



# Whom We Build With



Habitat homeowners are essential workers and retirees, single moms and veterans, young families, senior citizens, and persons with disabilities. Some of our homeowner partners work 2-3 jobs; some came out of retirement to earn enough to be able to afford a home. As they build each other's homes, they get to know and care about each other before they even move in. This increases community pride, and safety as they watch out for one another.

You probably know someone who qualifies for a Habitat home. Our homeowner partners work at places like:

- Flagler College, Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, SJC School District
- Bozard Lincoln, Ameris Bank
- Metro Diner, McDonalds
- St. Augustine Distillery, Ernie's Tools, Synergy America, ConservH2O
- St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, St. Johns County Health & Human Services
- Moultrie Creek Rehab, Allegro Senior Living, St. Augustine Health & Rehab
- Baptist Medical, Infectious Diseases of N FL
- ARC, Betty Griffin Center, St. Vincent dePaul



## Other Ways to Support



**Donate!** Help us build more affordable workforce housing in St. Johns County! Join our Hope Builders club by giving at least \$25 each month. Include us in your estate planning--your gift through your will, trust or other account will be your personal legacy of building a world where everyone has an affordable, safe place to live.



**Donate your car!** Call 1-877-277-4344 to donate any vehicle that can be towed away at your convenience. We receive valuable funds and you get the tax deduction!



**Subscribe** to our newsletter! Go to [www.habitatstjohns.org](http://www.habitatstjohns.org) to learn more.

# Why We Build

Together, we build strength, stability, and self-reliance through shelter. Our vision is to live in a world where everyone has a healthy, affordable place to call home.

The impacts of our work include:

- **Affordable Housing.** Habitat homeowners build with us so they can own an attractive, quality single-family home of their own, sometimes for the first time.
- **Financial Stability and Growth.** Homeowners appreciate predictable mortgage payments rather than worrying about an increase in rent every time they receive a raise or their building is sold to a new owner. Homeowners experience improvements in work and education opportunities, leading to promotions and better pay. And they earn equity in their homes which benefits their family for generations.
- **Strengthening Families.** Once settled into home ownership, the reduction in stress allows homeowners to be more present with their families. Children in stable housing perform better in school. Whether homeowners want a peaceful space for themselves or a safe place to gather with family and friends, a home is a source of pride and joy.
- **Inclusivity.** Habitat neighborhoods are truly a melting pot of neighbors from all walks of life, and our volunteer roster is also made up of people with diverse backgrounds.
- **Community Building.** Habitat homeowners develop friendships as they build their neighborhood side by side. They learn new skills through the building, and also as they work with their volunteer mentors and take required homeownership education courses. Set up for success, our new neighbors help vitalize an underserved area.
- **Benefitting the Larger Municipality.** As Habitat St. Johns completes the necessary infrastructure for a new neighborhood, adjacent homes can tap into the water and sewer systems, abandoning costly, decrepit septic tanks and undesirable well water. In addition, we all benefit as we keep our workforce local and reduce commuter traffic.



Brian C. has worked in the restaurant industry and as a carpenter, while raising his grandson, Michael. He lost his home during the Great Recession and found that “renting an apartment here is impossible. We kept being displaced for one reason or another.” He and Michael started living in a camper, and they still had to move a lot because “being a van dweller is like being homeless. There’s no great place to park for very long.”

Now that he’s closed on his Habitat home, Brian says he’s “really looking forward to not having to move so much. I’m looking forward to having a real kitchen again, and a backyard and a garden.” It will be easier to care for Michael, with a bed that’s not a bunk and a modified bathroom with a walk-in shower. “I feel blessed it’s worked out.”