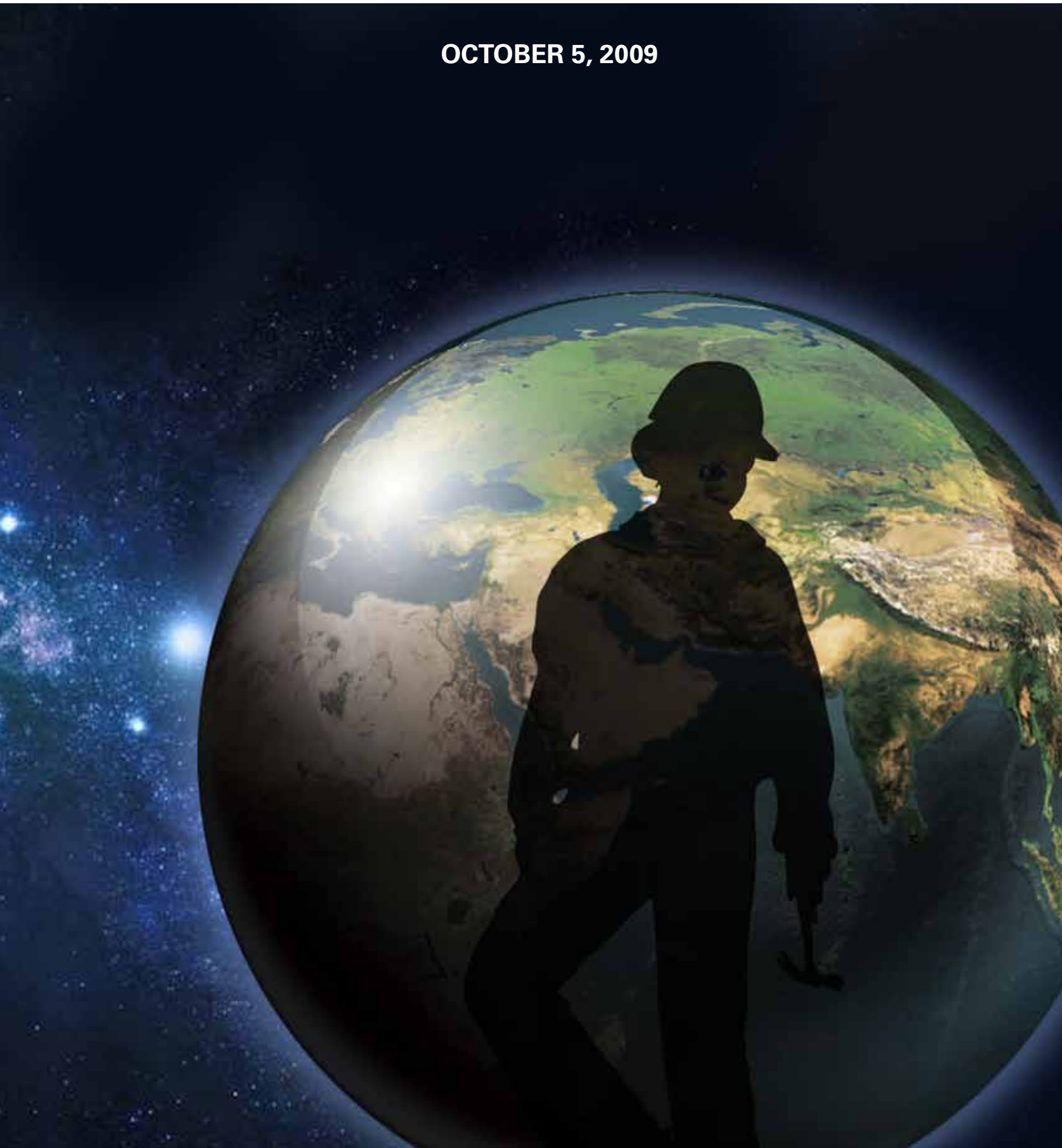
Habitat for Humanity®

World Habitat Day

OCTOBER 5, 2009



World Habitat Day 2008: In review

On Oct. 6, 2008, people throughout the United States and around the world joined Habitat for Humanity International to celebrate World Habitat Day with events large and small. More than 160 Habitat affiliates, campus chapters, national offices and volunteers took part in fundraising, advocacy, builds and other events.

Newspapers, Web sites and TV stations captured the success of World Habitat Day celebrations. In the United States, Habitat's involvement with World Habitat Day was cited in at least 36 publications and articles and during seven TV broadcasts. Internationally, Habitat's involvement was highlighted by media outlets in the Americas, Europe and Asia.

Some examples of events worldwide:

In North America:

- Habitat for Humanity International created and distributed 135 resource kits, each containing World Habitat Day T-shirts, carpenter pencils, buttons, a banner and handbook.
- Online advocates of Habitat for Humanity sent nearly 6,000 letters to U.S. presidential candidates John McCain and Barack Obama urging them to make housing a priority in their prospective administrations. Habitat Canada sent a similar letter to Canadian candidates for prime minister.
- Habitat's 2008 Shelter Report, which focused on secure tenure, was released in coordination with a policy forum held in Washington, D.C.
- Affiliates across the United States sponsored special wall-raisings; appeared on radio, TV and public education programs; hosted volunteer appreciation and recruitment events; issued World Habitat Day proclamations; and served potluck dinners and pancake breakfasts, among many other activities.

In Latin America and the Caribbean:

- Habitat for Humanity's Latin America/Caribbean area office produced a public service announcement that can be found on YouTube.
- Habitat for Humanity Guatemala engaged government officials in conversations about poverty housing and also facilitated several advocacy training workshops.

In Europe and Central Asia:

- Habitat organized, planned and hosted an intensive social housing conference focused on the global state of human habitat. Sixty academics, leaders of nongovernmental organizations and government officials took part.

In Asia/Pacific:

- Habitat for Humanity South Korea hosted a two-day event that included a disaster simulation for 450 participants and a Euro-Asian Philharmonic Orchestra Concert attended by 3,000 people.
- Habitat for Humanity New Zealand held a nationwide online photography competition.

In Africa and the Middle East:

- Habitat for Humanity Kenya exhibited Habitat's work at the World Habitat Day celebration hosted by Kenya's Ministry of Housing/UN Habitat.

Cities and counties across the United States recognized World Habitat Day 2008. Among them:

Brimingham, Ala.
Lake County, Calif.
Pacoima, Calif.
Hartford, Conn.
Washington, D.C.
North Fort Myers, Fla.
Delray Beach, Fla.
Lakeland, Fla.
Hartwell, Ga.
Marietta, Ga.
Bedford, Ind.
Iowa City, Iowa
Emmitsburg, Md.
Clinton Township, Mich.
Joplin, Mo.
Elko County, Nev.
Manchester, N.H.
Ithaca, N.Y.
Creedmore, N.C.
Akron, Ohio.
Claremore, Okla.
Klamath Falls, Ore.
Natrona Heights, Pa.
Pittsburg, Pa.
Williamsport, Pa.
Rock Hill, S.C.
Brentwood, Tenn.
Crossville, Tenn.
San Angelo, Texas
Bremerton, Wash.
Longview, Wash.
Tacoma, Wash.
Janesville, Wis.
Stevens Point, Wis.
Cody, Wyo.

International events took place in:

Bolivia
Bulgaria
Chile
Colombia
Costa Rica
Guatemala
Honduras
Hungary
India
Ireland
Korea
Macedonia
Mexico
New Zealand
Poland
Romania
Tajikistan
Vietnam

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EZRA MILLSTEIN

Jonathan Reckford, Habitat CEO, at the U.N.

The United Nations has designated more than 50 international days in recognition of the many challenges that the global community faces. The mobilization around World AIDS Day is an example of the potential momentum that HFH with World Habitat Day can create in order to raise awareness about poverty housing. Launched on Dec. 1, 1988, World AIDS Day is now well known, with its red ribbons -- created as an international symbol in 1991 -- concerts, conferences, and other events and fundraisers throughout the world. Habitat for Humanity has a long-term goal of making World Habitat Day as visible as World AIDS Day.

Dear Habitat Leader,

In the past year, the world has seen great change and major economic hurdles. The United States is experiencing an unprecedented financial crisis and, in the opinion of many, the housing market is to blame. The world continues to urbanize rapidly with the number of people living in slums growing daily. At Habitat for Humanity we find ourselves at a critical moment when now, more than ever, we need to emphasize the importance of improved housing for the world's poor.

It is for these reasons that I urge you to participate in World Habitat Day, Oct. 5, 2009. As you may know, the United Nations has designated the first Monday in October each year as World Habitat Day to urge people across the globe to reflect on the world's housing crisis and to consider our collective responsibility for the future of the human habitat.

While all of us connected to Habitat view every day as an opportunity for this kind of reflection and action, World Habitat Day is a special chance for us to join the rest of the world to draw attention to the need and importance of housing and to exchange effective ideas and solutions that address the world's housing needs.

Recognizing that we must all be a part of the solution and integrating our broader advocacy campaign themed Build Louder, for World Habitat Day 2009 we are emphasizing our neighborhood revitalization efforts here in the United States. Habitat for Humanity International has created the Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative to mobilize and leverage increased resources for affiliates and state support organizations. This initiative aims to help affiliated Habitat organizations serve more families in need and deliver an increased level of support to communities.

Globally, we remain focused on secure tenure. Insecure tenure often lies at the heart of poverty housing, depriving the poor of even the most basic physical, economic and psychological security of adequate shelter. Until the issue of secure tenure is successfully addressed, millions around the world will continue to be displaced, unable to secure adequate shelter or claim land and housing that is rightfully theirs. Breaking the cycle of poverty can be done. Strengthening tenure security is an enormous step in the right direction.

By partnering with families and advocates to promote responsible policies, we seek to strengthen communities and reduce poverty throughout the world—building hope for the secure future God intends for us all.

The enclosed handbook can equip you to do just that. It provides practical ideas to implement on World Habitat Day. I challenge you to explore it carefully, to embrace the ideas and to make them your own. Adapt them, be creative and use them to reach diverse audiences as you further spread the word about the urgency of moving more families into simple, decent, affordable homes.

Stand up on World Habitat Day to let it be known that affordable, adequate housing should be a priority everywhere—in our communities, in our towns, in our country, in our world.

Thank you for all that you do every day to help Habitat fulfill its mission, and thank you in advance for participating in World Habitat Day 2009.

Blessings,

Jonathan Reckford
CEO, Habitat for Humanity International

STEFFAN HACKER

The maze on the mall

For World Habitat Day 2007, Habitat for Humanity International exhibited a photo display in the form of a maze on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. The display gave visitors an opportunity to view the realities of substandard housing through the journey of two young children who live in poverty--one in a rural setting and one in an urban setting. Through photos and first-person written narrative, visitors learned about the children's daily existence and the causes and effects of living in substandard housing. The exhibit ended with an invitation to sign a global proclamation to end poverty housing.

World Habitat Day: Overview

In December 1985, the United Nations General Assembly declared the first Monday of October to be "World Habitat Day" in recognition of the state of human settlements and the basic need for adequate shelter for all. World Habitat Day also serves as a reminder to the world of its collective responsibility for the future of the human habitat.

The international community has long recognized housing as a basic human right. The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1976) include housing as part of an adequate standard of living. The Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements (1976) elaborates on the need for decent housing: "Noting that the condition of human settlements largely determines the quality of life, the improvement of which is a prerequisite for the full satisfaction of basic needs, such as employment, housing, health services, education and recreation. . ."[1] The United Nations Declaration on Social Progress and Development (1969) more specifically calls for the provision of adequate housing and community services for large families and individuals with low incomes, and urges governments to adopt low-cost housing programs in rural and urban areas.[2] Despite extensive international recognition of housing rights, much work remains to ensure decent, simple housing for all.

According to the United Nations, more than 100 million people in the world today are homeless. Millions more face a severe housing problem—living without adequate sanitation, security and with irregular or no electricity supply. Habitat for Humanity would need to build 2 million homes per year for the next 50 years to solve the present worldwide housing crisis. Due to growth trends, there would still be a need for 1 billion more houses at the end of those 50 years.

World Habitat Day's purpose is to call attention to the current global state of the human habitat and push toward adequate housing for all. It is the hope that by raising awareness and advocating for universal decent housing that systems will be transformed and the plague of poverty housing, as evident worldwide, will subside. World Habitat Day is a day for grassroots action, a day for people to be united in their efforts toward eradicating poverty housing.

[1] "The Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements," http://habitat.igc.org/vancouver/van-decl.htm, (accessed 16 April 2008).
[2] "Declaration on Social Progress and Development," Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, 11 Dec. 1969, http:// www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/m_progre.htm, (accessed 16 April 2008).

EZRA MILLSTEIN

Group photo of the the 2008 Youth Leadership Conference participants.

How to get started

As you consider how to engage your community, consider the following questions:

- What is my target audience?
- How will it participate?
- How can I make this activity most relevant to my community?
- How can I highlight the global housing crisis and the issue of secure tenure?
- Who will help coordinate the activity?
- What is my timeframe?
- How can I mobilize more individuals and groups in my community?

Take action: World Habitat Day October 5, 2009

On Oct. 5, 2009, Habitat for Humanity International will use the day to raise awareness of the need for improved shelter for billions of people around the world and highlight Habitat's top priorities — secure tenure globally and, in the United States, neighborhood revitalization.

Building on the momentum of World Habitat Day 2008 and because millions are still in need of secure tenure, Habitat's World Habitat Day 2009's efforts will again focus on the lack of secure tenure around the world —whether due to poverty, corruption, excessive bureaucracy, lack of political will, gender discrimination or financial illiteracy. Imagine living in a home that you built and paid for, and because of your gender or ethnicity it can be taken from you at any time. Secure tenure signifies that an individual has legal protection against forced eviction, harassment and other threats. Secure tenure is a basic foundation for the future. It is essential for economic development, the long-term security of families and the reduction of conflicts within communities. For women, access to property rights means greater opportunity for economic empowerment and reassurance that their children will be able to inherit their mothers' properties. With secure tenure, families choose to invest in their homes and further strive to demand services and hold their government accountable.

In the United States, Habitat for Humanity will also focus on neighborhood revitalization. There are many pieces at work in revitalizing neighborhoods. However, during World Habitat Day 2009, two aspects will be highlighted: housing trust funds and National Service. Housing trust funds are federal, state, county or city government accounts separate and apart from general funds that support affordable housing initiatives, including new construction and rehabilitations. Whether funded by using local developer fees, real estate taxes or through other sources, housing trust funds can help correct the imbalance of higher-income development on affordable housing stock. Housing trust funds create affordable housing opportunities for low-income households.

Throughout the United States, Habitat engages thousands of National Service members. It is the work of volunteers, partners and National Service members that enables Habitat to build, rehabilitate and transform lives and communities. By utilizing the gifts and leadership potential of National Service members, Habitat is able to respond strongly to the need of decent, simple and affordable housing in the United States. Earlier this year President Obama signed the Serve America Act that dramatically expanded the reach of National Service members. Habitat is positioned to benefit greatly from this expansion, thus serving more families and revitalizing neighborhoods and communities, especially those blighted by the high number of properties foreclosed upon as a result of the current economic environment.

Purpose of this handbook

Given the grassroots nature of World Habitat Day, the power to create and inspire action is in your hands. The following handbook has been created to aid the development of your efforts to celebrate World Habitat Day with your local community. This handbook is not comprehensive by any means but instead serves as a resource to spark the imagination of individuals who are passionate about promoting the need for decent and affordable housing for all. It is intended as a global handbook based on ideas to advocate, educate and fundraise. Although not all of the specific ideas outlined here are appropriate everywhere, they provide a basis for spurring actions best suited for engaging your community on World Habitat Day.

The following pages describe concrete ideas for you to bring to life on World Habitat Day and showcase examples of activities that Habitat has undertaken in past years. Additional resources include information on secure tenure, global poverty facts, and a sample press release and petition, among others. For national offices and U.S. affiliates working on faith relations, please also refer to the information on messaging and actions for specific audiences in the section on audience-specific strategies (*pages 27-31*). The creators of this handbook hope it will be a useful document that encourages and supports your efforts for World Habitat Day. Together we can raise awareness and transform the systems that perpetuate poverty housing. Let's be united in our message for decent and affordable housing for all.

Advocate

In addition to building homes in partnership with people in need, Habitat advocates to address the causes of poverty housing. Habitat for Humanity International defines advocacy as changing systems, policies and attitudes to achieve decent housing for all. Advocacy activities always include a specific request, such as asking supporters to sign a petition, send a message to an elected official or take part in a rally. (*See page 21 for advocacy ideas*.)

Educate

Organize a public awareness event for World Habitat Day 2009 that not only highlights the need for affordable housing in your own community, but also discusses the need for improved shelter for billions of people around the world. (*See page 22 for public awareness ideas*.)

Fundraise

World Habitat Day is a great way to raise awareness and funds for Habitat in your area. A fundraiser can help educate the public and generate publicity for Habitat. Fundraisers should also seek to enlarge Habitat's donor base and increase its visibility. (*See page 23 for fundraising ideas.*)

One of the best approaches in engaging people in the issues of poverty is to provide them the opportunity to educate, advocate and fundraise on behalf of Habitat for Humanity. Empowering volunteers you work with on a regular basis to educate themselves, advocate on behalf of Habitat's mission and then give in support of ending poverty makes sure you engaged them in a complete World Habitat Day experience. Think about how you would feel if you were educated about a grave injustice in our world and then felt powerless to do anything to change it. Make sure anytime you educate someone about the issue of housing you give them information they can act on. Examples include lists of their congressional representatives, information on supported initiatives or a donation vehicle that encourages them to recruit others.

Whether you choose to educate, advocate or fundraise, combine these actions or pursue others, we hope you will reflect the global intention of World Habitat Day. It can be a day to recognize the loss and the rebuilding following a natural disaster in the United States and around the world. It can call attention to the slums of capital cities and the plight of the urban poor around the world. It can act as a way to highlight the amazing local work of your Habitat while educating your audiences about the lack of inheritance rights in Mozambique, for example, or legal illiteracy in Argentina. By uniting the local issues that your Habitat program confronts in creating affordable housing with the challenge of creating secure tenure for millions around the world, you can celebrate the true meaning of World Habitat Day as a means to stand in solidarity with all people denied this basic human right.

Remember successful education, advocacy and fundraising activities all depend on one thing: relationships. Make sure whatever you choose to do for World Habitat Day is coupled with the collection of participants' contact information. Their participation in your event proves their interest and commitment to addressing housing needs both locally and globally.

Tell us your plan and share your results:
Tell us how you plan to take action for World Habitat Day! Send us pictures of your activity!
If you have any questions or comments regarding this handbook or World Habitat Day, send them to WorldHabitatDay@Habitat.org.

MIKEL FLAMM

A worker helps build shelter in Bangladesh, where Cyclone Sidr wiped out entire villages in the poorest areas of the country in November, 2007. Thousands of people died in the storm, and more than 7 million people were affected.

World Habitat Day issue focus: Secure tenure

Focusing on secure tenure

Secure tenure was selected as the key issue for a Habitat for Humanity International advocacy campaign after surveying Habitat for Humanity national offices and global staff, as well as other related research and analysis. The lack of secure tenure is a key barrier to improved housing around the world, and Habitat for Humanity is committed to giving its voice to the issue in an effort to ensure more people have access to safe, decent and affordable shelter. We encourage all Habitat for Humanity stakeholders to understand the issue of secure tenure, educate others and take action to support efforts that will increase the poor's access to secure tenure, and in turn, enable improved housing conditions the world over.

Background on secure tenure

Security of tenure, or the ability to live in a place without fear of eviction, can increase economic growth, address inequalities and reduce poverty in developing countries. Security of tenure can provide opportunities for investment and the accumulation of wealth when provided through clear legal title to the land. As a result, clear legal title can encourage business development and stimulate economic growth by providing collateral for loans. But security of tenure is about more than just economic assets. Secure tenure can provide a source of identity, status and political power and serve as a basis for the pursuit of other rights.

Security of tenure is out of reach of many in developing countries. Eighty percent of the world's population does not have legal documentation of property rights. For those seeking clear legal title to their land, without proper documentation, the potential benefits of land ownership, including wealth accumulation, remain out of reach. Without clear documentation of land title, it is very hard to access credit if credit is available.

Poor men and women can find it extremely difficult, if not impossible, to obtain titles to their land in some countries. For example, in the Philippines, to legally purchase state- or privately owned urban land could take 168 steps involving 53 public and private entities; a process that could take as long as 25 years! In particular, women find it difficult to own land in many countries. Studies have shown that women own less than 15 percent of land around the world, even though they make up more than 50 percent of the labor force. This is particularly unfortunate because investment in women has been shown to have a multiplier effect. When women have access to credit and the ability to increase their income, studies show that they are likely to put their earnings back into the health and education of their families.

There are many barriers to security of tenure, including informal legal systems, excessive land regulation, gender discrimination, lack of or incomplete land registration, corruption and inefficient land-registration systems. Success in improving security of tenure lies in improving governance and creating effective systems. (For example, this could include land-registration programs or formalized legal structures.) Secure tenure is about more than just clear title to land or legal land ownership. It is about the ability to live without fear of eviction. As a result, security of tenure is important to both renters and owners.

Secure tenure FAQs

Q. What is secure tenure?
A. In essence, secure tenure is the ability to live in a place without fear of eviction. Secure tenure can take various forms, such as individual or collective ownership and renting. All forms of tenure require a supportive policy and legal environment to guarantee tenure security.

Q. Why is secure tenure important?
A. Secure tenure is important for ensuring the basic physical, economic and psychological security that accompanies adequate shelter. Without secure tenure, individuals and families are vulnerable to forced eviction which can result in displacement, loss of livelihood and property, and injury (both physical and psychological). Conversely, with secure tenure, individuals and families are more empowered to invest in shelter improvements, develop home-based businesses, and make investments using their land titles as collateral for loans. They are more likely to have access to basic services because governments are more willing to provide infrastructure to areas with secure tenure. Security of tenure therefore can serve as a means for economic growth, addressing inequalities and reducing poverty in developing countries. Furthermore, its importance extends beyond just economic assets: Tenure can be a source of identity, status and political power and serves as a basis for the pursuit of other rights.

Q. How do secure tenure issues affect the work of Habitat for Humanity?
A. Habitat for Humanity has witnessed firsthand the consequences of insecure tenure. Habitat requires that family partners own secure rights to the land upon which their houses will be built. Without the assurance of secure tenure, often competing claims arise to the land during or after construction. Furthermore, Habitat has taken action by initiating financial literacy programs, as in Argentina, and training programs on inheritance law and will-writing. Recognizing the importance of security of tenure for eliminating poverty housing, Habitat for Humanity International chose to advocate for secure tenure on World Habitat Day 2008 and has chosen to do so again in 2009. Also, secure tenure was the focus of the 2008 Shelter Report released on World Habitat Day 2008.

Q. How does the issue of secure tenure play out in the United States? Is it related to eminent domain?
A. In the United States, land owners and renters enjoy many legal and regulatory protections at the federal, state and local level that help ensure tenure security.

But even with these protections in place, renters and land owners can still face insecurity of tenure when legal protections are not enforced. However, though a government can exercise eminent domain, that does not necessarily lead to tenure insecurity. Under the U.S. Constitution, land owners are guaranteed fair compensation if their property is taken by the U.S. government. Many states have additional levels of protections for land owners. In other countries, though, if eminent domain is exercised by a government with no protections in place for land owners, a government's practice of eminent domain may lead to tenure insecurity.

Q. What resources are available to support efforts on secure tenure?
A. Build Louder, a multi-year advocacy campaign focused on secure tenure and neighborhood revitalization, has many resources that educate, activate and mobilize Habitat advocates and supporters. Resources range from downloadable materials such as PowerPoint presentations, specific activity how-to advice as well as the opportunity to support Habitat's efforts by signing up to be an advocate. All this and more can be found at www.AdvocateWithHabitat.org.

Secure tenure: Stories from the field

Cambodia: Small loan returns right to land

Sophea, with the help of HFH Cambodia, finally has a home. During the Khmer Rouge regime, Sophea fled to a refugee camp in Thailand, where her husband was killed during fighting in the camps. When she and her daughters returned to Phnom Penh after the war in 1993, they slept on the streets outside a pagoda. Eventually, she saved enough money to rent a room for US$4 a month, and two months later was able to buy a piece of land in the slums of Phnom Penh. However, the slums were unsanitary and unsafe with drugs, prostitution and thieves. In 1994, after meeting her second husband, Sophea and her family were forced by a slum fire to move to a new village, an hour outside of Phnom Penh. They borrowed $200 from a loan shark with a monthly interest of $30 to enable her husband to become a taxi driver. However, in April 2005 Sophea's husband left her, and she had to find a way to pay off the loan shark herself. HFH Cambodia paid off Sophea's loan so she could get her collateral back—her land tenure. She was then able to get a nonprofit loan in order to build a home.

Argentina: Legal literacy program empowers

In Argentina, nearly 95 percent of the individuals who apply for Habitat homes are not the legal owners of their land. Without a deed, they are unable to participate in HFH Argentina's work. Realizing how the bureaucratic system for obtaining land titles and predatory lenders who take advantage of uninformed borrowers put many families at risk of losing their land or homes, HFH Argentina took preventive action. HFH Argentina began a legal literacy program as an education and awareness-building campaign to provide low-income communities with basic knowledge of procedures, rights, dangers and opportunities when applying for loans and purchasing homes. There are efforts underway to create a manual and a course on legal literacy as well as training for affiliate volunteers and local NGOs. The success of the program has led local municipalities to request that the course be open to the entire community.

United States: Informal inheritance slows rebuilding

In an April 2008 story by National Public Radio (NPR), the importance of secure tenure is evident even within the United States. Due to the custom of heirship property—land inherited informally and by numerous heirs—nearly 20,000 New Orleans residents are ineligible for post-Katrina aid without a formal title to their land.3 Alice, 80, applied for government assistance to fix her house, yet was turned down at first by a state-run program. She was told that she had to first prove ownership against other potential heirs of her parents' property.

[3] John Ydistie, "No Title? No Easy Access to Post-Katrina Aid," NPR, April 28, 2008, http://www.npr.org/ templates/story/story.php?storyId=90005954, (accessed 30 May 2008).

MIKEL FLAMM

Workers in Bangladesh help build shelter after Cyclone Sidr devastated the south coast of the country in November 2007. In February 2009, Habitat dedicated the last of 480 transitional shelters built for families affected by the cyclone.

World Habitat Day issue focus: Neighborhood revitalization

Focus on neighborhood revitalization

Homes are not the full story of community transformation; housing should be part of a larger effort. Similar to its response to hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Habitat will apply its unique ability to leverage public and private funds, mobilize National Service members and volunteers and create significant partnerships to revitalize and build sustainable communities. We encourage all Habitat for Humanity stakeholders to understand the need to build sustainable communities and the important role housing trust funds and National Service can play in making affordable and simple housing available to all in the United States.

Background on neighborhood revitalization

Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI) has created the Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative (NRI) to mobilize and leverage increased resources for affiliates and state-support organizations. This initiative aims to help affiliated Habitat organizations serve more families in need and deliver an increased level of support to communities.

In recent years, HFHI has encouraged U.S. affiliates to broaden their work by engaging in innovative programs such as A Brush With Kindness (a program which offers homeowners repairs), rehabilitating vacant and foreclosed homes with new federal funds, and improving the energy efficiency of the homes we build. Through the Thrivent Builds Neighborhoods program, affiliates have undertaken community development initiatives in Milwaukee, Wis. and Des Moines, Iowa. These projects aim to implement systematic and sustainable improvements in a specific neighborhood so that its inhabitants experience a higher quality of life.

In support of the Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative, the Build Louder campaign seeks to leverage United States government programs and resources to revitalize neighborhoods and to create resilient communities. Build Louder is Habitat for Humanity's multi-year advocacy campaign focusing on influencing U.S. policies on the issues of neighborhood revitalization and secure tenure. Its aim is to improve access to adequate and affordable housing around the world. Build Louder seeks to unlock government resources for Habitat affiliates to serve more families through new construction, rehabilitation and repair.

Neighborhood revitalization FAQ

Q. What does neighborhood revitalization mean?

Neighborhood revitalization includes the various ways affiliates are rehabilitating, renovating and building sustainable communities. Leveraging AmeriCorps and VISTA National Service members; getting weatherization grants from federal, state and local agencies; leveraging government funds with private cash and in-kind donations; and green building are some of the methods and means Habitat affiliates use to revitalize neighborhoods. World Habitat Day is focused specifically on the need for effective and productive housing trust funds and the role National Service plays in revitalizing and stabilizing neighborhoods and communities throughout the United States.

Q. I thought HFH wasn't allowed to take government funding. When did we change our position?
A. Although most of our support comes from nongovernmental sources such as members of the community, companies and other organizations, Habitat welcomes government partnerships that include accepting funds and other resources, and has a history of working with the government to make affordable homes possible.

For example, since the U.S. Housing and Urban Development's Self-help Homeownership Opportunities Program began in 1996, this program has resulted in more than $78 million in Habitat infrastructure improvements. To date, SHOP funding has lead to 12,228 completed Habitat homes for almost 46,000 people.

Q. Where can I find the tools I need to advocate for neighborhood revitalization?
A. Build Louder, a U.S.-based, multi-year advocacy campaign focused on neighborhood revitalization and secure tenure, has many resources that educate, activate and mobilize Habitat advocates and supporters. Resources range from downloadable materials such as PowerPoint presentations, specific how-to advice for activities, toolkits as well as the opportunity to support Habitat's efforts by signing up to be an advocate. All this and more can be found at www.AdvocateWithHabitat.org.

Neighborhood revitalization: Stories from the field

Neighborhood Stabilization Program I and II
Neighborhoods with high rates of foreclosure and vacant properties are seeing a steady increase in crime and a decrease in home values. To help stem these negative effects, HFHI has provided training and technical support to local Habitat affiliates, efforts which have already helped to secure nearly $80 million in funding from the first round of the federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP I and NSP II).

Weatherization program
Reducing the cost of energy for a struggling family is critical to sustainability. HFHI will work with affiliates and our partner families to access increased federal funding for residential weatherization to help reduce the energy expenditures of existing low-income homeowners across the nation. Families also will be taught how to maintain their homes and receive conservation tips.

National service expansion
To support all this new funding, HFHI's strategy is to significantly expand the National Service program. Habitat intends to direct vital human capital to communities in need through an expanded corps of committed citizens to deliver affordable housing solutions across the U.S. The national service corps would grow from 600 to 2,000 members in the coming years. AmeriCorps National and AmeriCorps VISTA members will:

- Serve as community organizers and strategists, working with community leaders to develop resident-generated revitalization plans, including mapping community assets and helping implement these community-based plans.
- Mobilize and train teams of community volunteers to perform housing-related and family support activities.
- Build the capacity of Habitat affiliates to deliver effective affordable-housing and green-building solutions to their communities by streamlining operating systems and processes; increasing their funding base; raising their profile in the community; and developing and maintaining strong strategic partnerships.
- Train partner families on energy-efficient practices, weatherization techniques, homeownership and how to maintain their homes.

Get involved: Educate, advocate, fundraise

One of the best approaches in engaging people on issues is providing them the opportunity to get involved in various ways, such as advocating, educating and fundraising. Including aspects of education, advocacy and fundraising strengthens all types of events and engages people further in Habitat's mission. But remember, whether you chose to educate, advocate, fundraise, combine these actions or think of new ideas, we hope you will reflect the global intention of World Habitat Day.

Be creative. Be united. Be active on World Habitat Day.

Advocate

Habitat advocacy works to change systems, policies and attitudes to achieve decent housing for all. In this way, HFHI takes a holistic approach to advocacy, recognizing that organizing, consciousness-raising and citizen-building can be as important as policy change in solving the problems of poverty housing.

In advocacy, information-sharing is used as a deliberate strategy to influence specific decisions of policy makers. Building good relationships with policy makers is an important way to lay the foundation for advocacy. The media can also be used to deliver policy messages, encourage people to take a certain view on an issue and, it is hoped, to communicate views with policy makers. While raising awareness about poverty housing is an important step in the process, any advocacy effort should incorporate action to help change the systems that lead to and perpetuate poverty housing.

You can find more information about Habitat's legislative priorities on HFHI Government Relations & Advocacy web page: www.habitat.org/gov.

Below you will find a list of activities that support HFHI's advocacy agenda. Some are relevant in any setting, and some are specific to U.S. audiences. Although many of these activities are based on experiences with advocacy in the U.S., they may be helpful in identifying ways to enhance advocacy efforts or inspire action in your community.

- BUILD LOUDER on World Habitat Day. Visit www.AdvocateWithHabitat.org for information on secure tenure and neighborhood revitalization, including housing trust funds and National Service. You'll also find downloadable materials such as PowerPoint presentations and handouts and other specific activity ideas that are easy to implement.
- Sign up to be an advocate at www.AdvocateWithHabitat.org and forward e-mail action alerts to your friends, family and Habitat supporters and volunteers. U.S. citizens can easily send an e-mail to Members of Congress on issues important to Habitat by using this Habitat affiliate-specific online advocacy tool. Plus by taking action through this web page, www.AdvocateWithHabitat.org, Habitat affiliates can rest assured that no fundraising materials from HFHI will be directed to anyone who takes action through www.AdvocateWithHabitat.org.

[4] The documentary "Building on Faith: Making Poverty Housing History" is available from Mennonite Media at http://store.mennomedia.org/p-224-building-on-faith-making-poverty-housing-history.aspx.

- Use social media outlets (Facebook, Twitter, Flikr, YouTube) to spread the word about World Habitat Day and your work. Send tweets, upload videos, start a photo petition and update your Facebook account.
- Host a World Habitat Day-themed lunch n' learn for your coworkers, volunteers, corporate partners or board members, whether directly focused on local issues or the broader human habitat.
- Invite a public official to participate in your event for World Habitat Day. The official could be a city council member, a mayor, a state legislator, a governor, or a senator or representative. Contact the official's office to ask if he/she is available or first send a letter of invitation.
- Engage your local decision makers in drafting a proclamation for World Habitat Day. (Example proclamation can be found in the appendix section.)
- Gather signatures for a petition and later take the signatures to a meeting with an elected official or his or her staff member, or send completed petitions to HFHI's Government Relations and Advocacy Office to ensure they are delivered in person to key decision makers. (A sample petition is provided in the appendix of this handbook that can be modified to reflect the focus of your local advocacy efforts.)
- Visit an elected official or staff member to advocate on behalf of specific legislation.
- Start a letter-writing or phone-calling campaign.
- During World Habitat Day, make a personal commitment to stay informed and to inform your supporters throughout the year. Maybe in each of your newsletters in the months to come, you can highlight a local issue and the monthly advocacy action alert sent from HFHI.

Educate

On World Habitat Day, teach others about not only the need for affordable housing in your own community, but also about the need for improved shelter for billions of people around the world.

- Add information to your newsletter and Web site about World Habitat Day.
- E-mail peers and co-workers and let them know that it is World Habitat Day. You may also direct them to www.AdvocateWithHabitat.org, where they can take action by signing up to be online advocates.
- Libraries, churches, social clubs and even offices have book clubs; why not suggest they read a book focused on poverty housing. It could be a book directly connected to housing like the many written by Habitat for Humanity founder Millard Fuller, or it could be a book that takes place in the context of poverty housing. Make sure to provide talking points about the book and steps for how they can help solve poverty housing.
- BUILD LOUDER on World Habitat Day by educating your board members, staff and volunteers on secure tenure and Habitat's efforts in revitalizing neighborhoods and communities. Resources, information and downloadable materials can be found on www.AdvocateWithHabitat.org.
- Host a candlelight vigil to reflect on poverty and the impact it has on our lives, the community and the world.
- Set up an information table about World Habitat Day on your campus or at work.
- Volunteer at a school in your area and educate youth about Habitat for Humanity and affordable housing.
- Join or support a Global Village Team. To join or donate to one of these teams, please go to www.habitat.org/gv.
- Invite local city officials or politicians to visit several build sites. Hold a press conference to highlight the successes and ongoing needs for affordable housing in your community.

- Create an awards ceremony to recognize the individuals in your community making significant contributions to end poverty housing. This could include public officials, community leaders, nonprofit organizations and volunteers.
- Celebrate World Habitat Day with a one-day framing or a dedication ceremony. Invite local public officials, celebrities and media.
- Screen a documentary (Building on Faith: Making Poverty History) or another film concerning poverty housing (Slumdog Millionaire) around the world. Invite a guest speaker or facilitate a discussion afterwards and highlight the work of Habitat for Humanity International, particularly Habitat's tithe program and international programs.
- Inform volunteers about World Habitat Day and celebrate their contribution with a volunteer appreciation night. Present information on the Global Village Program and international tithing. Invite someone who has volunteered with HFH abroad to discuss his or her experience.
- Organize a speaker panel regarding secure tenure. Consider working with a Habitat for Humanity campus chapter to co-sponsor the event at a local university or college.
- Design an essay competition for high school students or an arts competition for children to paint their "dream city." See if a local newspaper will print the winning essay or if a local art gallery or museum will display the children's paintings. Include statistics about local, national and international poverty housing. Consider other ways to work with schools or youth organizations through HFHI's Youth Programs Department (http://www.habitat.org/youthprograms/int/default.aspx).
- Sponsor a film, play or photo contest. Encourage people in your community to create a film, write a play or compile photos addressing poverty housing. Show the art on World Habitat Day and announce the winner with a great prize.

Fundraise

World Habitat Day is a great way to raise awareness and funds for Habitat for Humanity. A fundraiser focused on World Habitat Day will not only raise money but also help educate volunteers, supporters and the general public about the importance of housing and affordable shelter. Fundraisers should also seek to enlarge Habitat's donor base and increase its visibility. Incorporate fundraising activities into any of the events and ideas previously mentioned in the Educate, Advocate and Engage sections or market any fundraising activities you already are planning for early October in relationship with World Habitat Day.

- Partner with local restaurants to hold a benefit night on World Habitat Day. Your Habitat program would provide free advertising for the restaurants and would also be raising awareness about World Habitat Day. Customers you attract would need to mention that they are specifically there for Habitat for Humanity and the restaurants would donate a percentage of their sales.
- Use sports as a fun way to engage your community. Organize a golf tournament or a soccer match, for instance. Or plan a 5k run (a HabitDash) or a bike race.
- Organize a concert, open-mic night, karaoke night, or battle of the bands. In between songs, share statistics with the audience about poverty housing.
- Host an auction, live or on eBay.
- Organize a bake sale, yard sale, car wash, or arts and crafts fair.
- Design and sell T-shirts leading up to and on World Habitat Day.
- Construct children's playhouses, garden birdhouses, or dog houses and use them in auctions, raffles or special events.
- Create Christmas cards and begin selling them on World Habitat Day.
- Encourage your volunteers to host fundraising dinners at their homes.
- Create a goal just for World Habitat Day to build or sponsor a certain number of houses

internationally.

- Engage schools or Sunday schools in your area to fundraise for Habitat, use the house banks offered on the My.Habitat store. Sell Habitat Christmas cards, key chains or other items as a fundraiser for World Habitat Day.
- Create a tour of the homes that you have built or with a local realtor to raise money.
- Organize churches to have a collection on the Sunday before World Habitat Day to support our advocacy efforts.
- Encourage corporations to hold events and raise dollars through a jeans day or a "wear your tool belt to work" day. Order nail aprons from the BuildBrand Store to support the "wear your tool belt to work" day. Start fundraising months in advance to support your World Habitat Day building projects.
- Encourage your board members and volunteers to host events in their homes to raise money for Habitat for Humanity, i.e. global potluck, jewelry sale and tea party.

Involve the media

Whether you choose to educate, advocate or fundraise, inviting the media to your World Habitat Day activity can help publicize the event and heighten awareness about poverty housing. Below are tips for getting the media involved. A sample press release is available in the appendix.
Detailed media relations information is available on My.Habitat.org in the Affiliate Guide to Working with the Media. If you need assistance with your media relations plan, please contact Habitat for Humanity International Media Relations at (800) HABITAT, Ext. 7659 in the United States. Outside the U.S., contact your HFHI area office communications director.

Tips for working with the media

- Send a media advisory two to three weeks ahead of your event. Media advisories are used to alert the media about an upcoming event. They are a "save-the-date" invitation to reporters and editors to put your event on their calendars. Create categories that answer the questions of who, what, when and where. It is OK to use other headings like overview, date, time and place. Include directions in the "place" or "where" line.
- Make a follow-up call to ensure that the editor/reporter saw your media advisory and to encourage the media source to cover your event. Keep them updated on any changes to your event.
- The media is an excellent way to engage and inform the public of World Habitat Day both in preparation for and on the day of World Habitat Day. Write a media release to provide detailed information about your participation in World Habitat Day. Distribute the release to radio, TV and newspapers one to two weeks before your event if it is open to the public and on the day of the event if it is closed to the public. Media releases should be written like short news stories that could be printed in a publication. Consistency, accuracy, style and content are key with media releases. The most important and interesting materials are contained within the first two paragraphs of the release. Include at least one quote from the project spokeswoman or spokesman. Include your contact information and the local Habitat boilerplate ("about us") information.

Global talking points for use on World Habitat Day

To have a truly global impact with World Habitat Day, we want to send the same overall message to all of our audiences. Regardless of how you bring attention to the day in your area or what housing issue you choose to focus on locally, we can work together to ensure a consistent lens through which to view the day. We have developed global talking points that we strongly encourage every part of Habitat for Humanity to use on World Habitat Day. We have also provided suggested talking points to help you communicate Habitat for Humanity's priority issues and your local World Habitat Day activities. Together, these messages will help you in your efforts to advocate, educate and fundraise on World Habitat Day.

Global talking points for promotion and education:

- On World Habitat Day, Oct. 5, Habitat for Humanity joins the United Nations and organizations around the world in raising awareness of, educating about and mobilizing individuals and communities to action on the current global housing crisis while also working together to ensure adequate housing for all.
- Today, 1.6 billion people live in inadequate shelter around the world; 1 billion of those live in slums. By the year 2030 it is expected that 2 billion people will live in slum communities.
- Insecure tenure often lies at the heart of poverty housing, depriving the poor of even the most basic physical, economic and psychological security of adequate shelter.
- Adequate housing in sustainable and secure neighborhoods and communities leads to better health for families, stronger education for children, and safer and more secure communities. Ensuring adequate housing is a key component in the fight to end global poverty.
- The world's housing situation is a crisis in need of attention and action.

Talking points for advocacy:

- Habitat for Humanity advocates to address the causes and systemic issues that perpetuate poverty housing. This World Habitat Day, Habitat for Humanity is highlighting two critical issues: secure tenure and neighborhood revitalization. Security of tenure, or the ability to live in a place without fear of eviction, can increase economic growth, address inequalities and reduce poverty in developing countries. Neighborhood Revitalization aims to help affiliated Habitat organizations serve more families in need and deliver an increased level of support to communities. The initiative encourages affiliates to broaden their work by engaging in innovative programs such as A Brush With Kindness (a program which offers homeowners repairs), rehabbing vacant and foreclosed homes with new federal funds, and improving the energy efficiency of Habitat homes.
- Habitat for Humanity's Build Louder campaign is a multi-year advocacy campaign focused on secure tenure and neighborhood revitalization. For more tools and resources to help you join Habitat's Build Louder campaign, visit www.AdvocateWithHabitat.org.

Talking points for fundraising:

- Now more than ever, support is needed to help Habitat for Humanity address critical housing needs in our community and around the world.
- To support the work of Habitat for Humanity, visit [Web address here].
- This Oct. 5, [Affiliate/NO name here] joins Habitat for Humanity volunteers, homeowners, partners and supporters around the world in recognizing World Habitat Day.

*For more detailed information and details about secure tenure and neighborhood revitalization, please see *pages 15-17* in this handbook.

World Habitat Day FAQ

Also, the following are some straightforward answers to questions you may receive as you begin to spread the word about World Habitat Day in your community. This information can be used in your own documents, on your Web sites and in your presentations. We encourage you to find ways to localize each answer to make it appropriate to your audience while connecting back to the significance of this coordinated global effort.

Q. What is World Habitat Day?

A. The United Nations designated the first Monday of October as World Habitat Day to reflect on the state of human settlements and to remind the world of its collective responsibility to address substandard housing. Like World AIDS Day, it is an opportunity to call attention to a global crisis that affects people in every city and country around the world. Here in our own community, [insert information about housing situation in your geographic or program area].

Q. What is Habitat for Humanity's role in World Habitat Day?

A. Habitat for Humanity recognizes the opportunity that World Habitat Day provides to raise awareness of substandard housing and to call for local and global action to address it. [Insert local call to action or information on your event.]

Audience-specific strategies

The purpose of this section is to provide various entities of Habitat for Humanity with messaging and action ideas for World Habitat Day related to their specific audience. You will find information to help tailor World Habitat Day to faith relations, national offices and U.S. affiliates.

Faith relations

Faith communities are perfect audiences to help support World Habitat Day. Faith communities are often on the leading edge in supporting not only poverty-focused work locally but also in leading massive, coordinated efforts involving global poverty issues. In addition, given that faith communities have been the key foundation of support for Habitat for Humanity work, engaging them in World Habitat Day should be a part of any local efforts to implement events on World Habitat Day.

Strengthen faith relations on World Habitat Day

Celebrate World Habitat Day by strengthening your faith partnerships or creating new ones. Do outreach to local communities of faith to come together on World Habitat Day and to recognize the shared duty to provide shelter and strengthen communities. Whether by holding an event to raise awareness about Habitat for Humanity's work and the opportunities for long-term partnership or having a special discussion on local, national and/or global housing needs the Sunday before World Habitat Day, your affiliate can use World Habitat Day to inform, unite and encourage action in faith communities around Habitat for Humanity's mission to end poverty housing.

Examples of faith relations activities for World Habitat Day

- Hold a special prayer service the Sunday before World Habitat Day.
- Plan a worship service focused on World Habitat Day.
- Develop a litany, reflection or prayer in honor or reflection of World Habitat Day. A sample litany can be found in the appendix section.
- Work with youth groups to raise awareness about poverty housing.
- Insert information about poverty housing in the church bulletin, newsletter or website.
- Plan a recognition event, such as a banquet or worship celebration. Present certificates, plaques or other items to recognize the partnership efforts of each congregation.
- Begin a tithing program. Explain how Habitat builds locally and in developing countries and explain that affiliates are encouraged to set aside 10 percent of the money they raise locally to build homes in another location. Churches can choose where they wish their tithe money to go, and they can send work teams to help build the houses they are funding.
- Launch a Global Church Partnership project. Create long-lasting relationships among church partners by committing to build a number of houses over a period of time, generally three to five years.

[5] The documentary "Building on Faith: Making Poverty Housing History" is available from Mennonite Media at http://store.mennomedia.org/p-224-building-on-faith-making-poverty-housing-history.aspx.

- Plan a candlelight walk through a community in which you are building houses and invite the faith community to participate.
- Blitz frame a house or houses.
- Finish a build project and dedicate a house or houses.
- Invite churches to construct the walls of a house in their own parking lots and then bring them together for a house-raising celebration and blessing.
- Host a fundraiser with your partners to raise money for a church-sponsored house.
- Recruit advocates from faith communities for your affiliate or for HFHI by having them sign up at www.AdvocateWithHabitat.org.

Include Scripture on World Habitat Day, such as Acts 20:3 (more blessed to give than to receive); Luke 3:11 (whoever has two coats); 1 John 3:17 (if anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need); James 2:17(faith without works is dead).

National offices

World Habitat Day offers a tremendous opportunity for national offices to raise awareness of local housing needs and educate communities and civic groups on how they can get involved in the solutions.

You can also use the day to elevate the work of Habitat for Humanity in your country in addressing the needs. Issue a press release about World Habitat Day and Habitat for Humanity's activities.

Hold a public discussion that invites other organizations and housing experts to share their ideas about resolving some of your country's toughest and most challenging housing-related issues.

Ideas for specific activities for World Habitat Day

- Prior to World Habitat Day, invite local universities to research the housing situation in your country (or possibly invite them to research the impact that a Habitat house has on families). Hold a press conference to release the findings.
- Organize a forum and invite other organizations and local housing experts to address some of the problems that we face every day. Enlist their help in resolving those issues.
- Invite your country's housing minister to a community where you work. Facilitate a community meeting where the minister and the community can exchange information and points of view.
- A week before World Habitat Day, call the assignment editors of the leading media outlets in your country. Tell them about World Habitat Day, the housing crisis in your city or country, and about Habitat for Humanity's work. Invite them to a house dedication or to meet a Habitat for Humanity homeowner.
- Is there a Global Village trip planned to your country for that week? Plan activities that highlight your country's housing environment to celebrate World Habitat Day. Invite the media to meet with this international group during one of their build days. Remember to coordinate your efforts with HFHI's Volunteer Mobilization's Global Village. They have resources to assist your plans.

U. S. affiliates

World Habitat Day provides an excellent platform for affiliates to showcase their work within their communities and Habitat's work globally. It is also an opportunity to join with others in your community whose focus and work complement or parallel Habitat's work. Forming alliances with like-minded people and organizations is a necessary strategy to alleviate poverty, encourage improved housing policies and build holistic communities.

Examples of collaborative activities to consider for World Habitat Day

- Transform the first week of October to kick off or strengthen a collaborative effort to improve your community's housing environment. Bring together agencies, organizations, school-based programs and government officials to strengthen or create new partnerships as well as address current community housing problems. These could include other housing and community organizations, child development centers, credit and financial counseling programs, literacy and adult-education providers, homeowners and community residents.
- Organize a BUILD LOUDER event focused on secure tenure or housing trust funds. Ideas and resources can be found at www.AdvocateWithHabitat.org.
- Present to others the work of Habitat for Humanity and invite them to share what they are doing to improve the community and reach out to families in need.
- Explore opportunities to work in a more organized way with other community groups.
- Raise awareness of local, national and/or global housing needs.
- Direct action campaigns to focus attention on local community concerns (such as writing circles to generate letters to elected officials, call-in campaigns to representatives' offices, or protests in front of vacant, trash-filled lots).
- Advocate for improved housing policies at the local and national level (see Habitat for Humanity International's priority advocacy issues and advocacy tools at www.AdvocateWithHabitat.org).

Mobilize to advocate for our priority issues in 2009

We all know there is strength in numbers. Rather than go it alone and risk having little impact, why not:

- Join Build Louder, a multi-year advocacy effort focused on Habitat's top advocacy priorities. Sign up to be an advocate at www.AdvocateWithHabitat.org and/or an advocacy liaison by sending an email to liaison@habitat.org.
- Encourage others to support our priority policy issues at www.AdvocateWithHabitat.org by inviting them to become an advocate.
- Build a state or local coalition to identify the three most pressing changes needed to improve housing conditions.
- Organize your educational and advocacy efforts around these issues.

Engage corporate partners

Throughout the year you have companies that volunteer, sponsor homes and participate with your affiliate in multiple ways. Make sure you include them in your celebration of World Habitat Day. Take this opportunity to thank them for their support and give them another opportunity to learn more about Habitat for Humanity. The week surrounding World Habitat Day can be very busy for affiliates; with this in mind try not to over-think your engagement with the companies in your community. Find ways to incorporate programs you are already doing into the workplace. Provide materials and information so that the companies can run their own internal events without you having to be there. Let them raise the money and hold discussions about housing issues, and once the week is over you can thank them for participating. With a little bit of planning and identifying companies that have a strong commitment to Habitat for Humanity, you can create a more robust relationship.

- Lunch and Learn sessions around housing issues.
- Potluck lunch with foods from around the world; each dish would have a place card saying how much it costs to build a Habitat home in that country.
- "Wear blue jeans or tool belt to work" day.
- Hike for Habitat: Corporate-sponsored teams hike in support of Habitat for Humanity. Suggested route: Hike from one homeowner house to another.
- Sponsored Luncheon: Expert panel discusses housing issues in the community.
- Any event you currently use that is focused on a different group can be changed to fit a corporate environment.
- Small, unique special events that help raise awareness and dollars for Habitat for Humanity. Creativity is the key.

Youth engagement

Young people have always been at the forefront of Habitat's advocacy efforts. Students bring a new level of energy and enthusiasm to the discussion. They possess the ability to attract attention to issues and have the persuasive power to educate and motivate friends and family to get involved. Whether it is through organizing an Act! Speak! Build! Week event to coincide with World Habitat Day or assisting their local affiliate with promoting their World Habitat Day celebration, the voice of young people is powerful and worth tapping into!

Examples of youth activities for World Habitat Day:

- **Participate in Act! Speak! Build! Week:** Act! Speak! Build! Week empowers young people to educate their communities and move people toward social action. Students plan events and initiatives to educate themselves and others about poverty housing issues and to advocate for affordable housing. Many participating groups have incorporated some of the ideas below to raise awareness of the need to change the systems that perpetuate poverty housing.
- **Hold a housing simulation:** HFHI has a downloadable simulation that allows students to take on the role of individual characters facing obstacles in finding simple, decent, affordable housing. Participants seek housing from other students, who are acting as representatives from apartment complexes, public housing, rescue missions and private homebuilders, and then discuss their experiences.
- **Have a "Rock for Change" marathon:** During this letter-writing and petition-signing marathon, students set up rocking chairs in a popular area and rock for hours while trying to garner support and signatures. This draws attention from onlookers who often stop to see what all the 'rocking' is about.

- **Do a paper-house campaign:** The paper-house campaign is a downloadable resource that HFHI has designed for youth ages 5 to 13. Students cut out paper houses and decorate them as they like. The class can send these to local officials with a letter from the affiliate about advocating for affordable housing.
- **Learn at lunchtime:** With permission from the school, include a fact about poverty housing on a small card with each lunch sold on World Habitat Day.
- **Host a photo exhibit:** Habitat for Humanity International has several photo exhibits that are free of charge to borrow. (Groups must pay return shipment costs.) "Doors," for example, is a beautiful compilation of images of Habitat homeowners from around the world in front of their homes. Contact youthprograms@habitat.org to learn more.
- **Plan a community scavenger hunt:** Find the local food banks, shelters and social services offices by asking questions: Which grocery stores accept food stamps? Where is subsidized housing in the community? Do this without assistance from personal vehicles or the Internet to understand the difficulties a person faces if he or she doesn't have access to either.

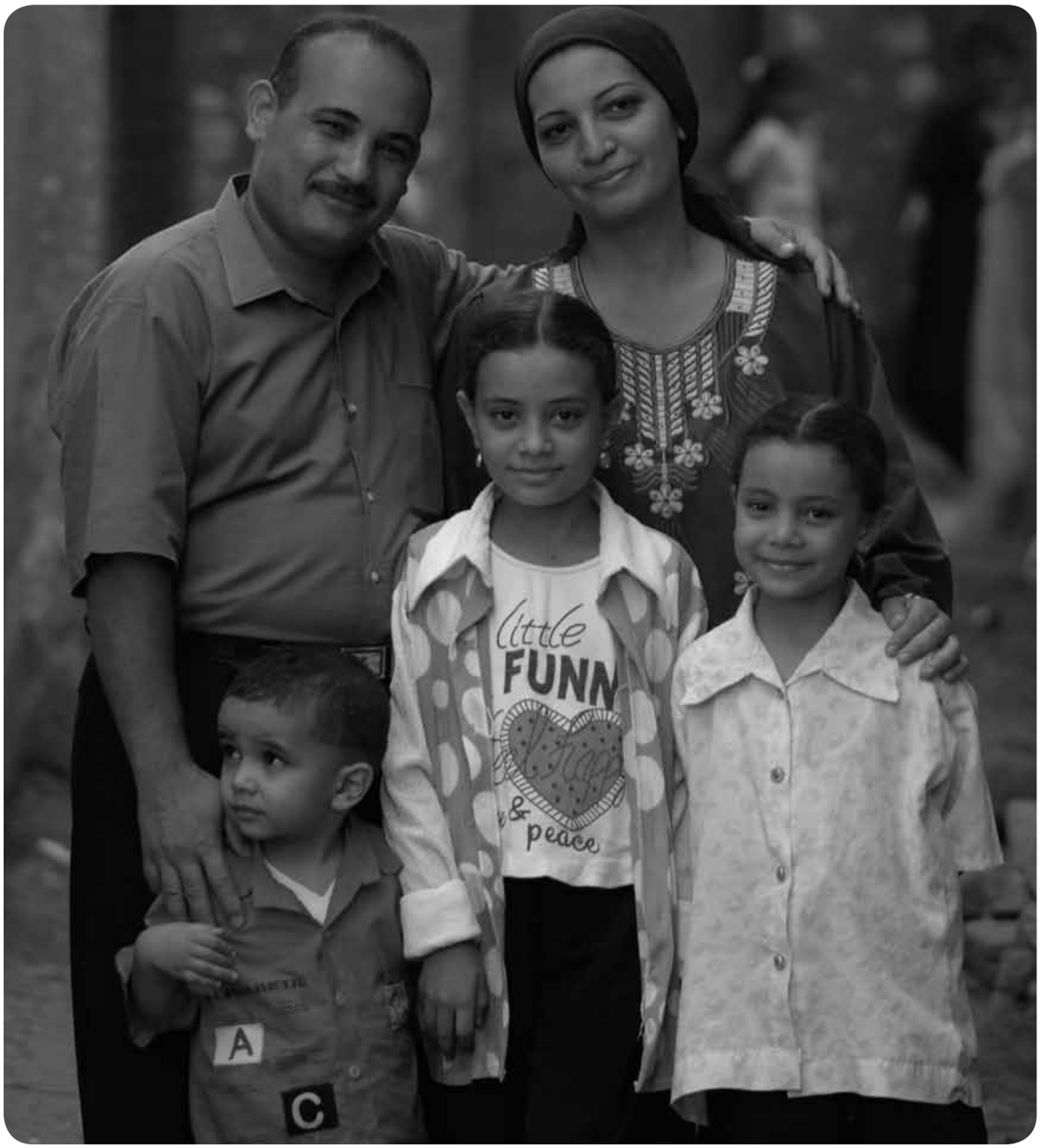
These are a few of the ideas that have been used by youth groups in the past. For a comprehensive list and additional teacher and student leader resources, including the Youth Programs Educational Activities Guide and Advocacy toolkit, please visit www.habitatyouthprograms.org.

Global Village

Global Village trips offer volunteers a unique service-learning experience. Participants get to know the many faces of poverty and play a role in affecting change for at least one family. World Habitat Day provides Global Village teams with the opportunity to expand their scope and connect to something broader than just the physical work they are doing on the trip. World Habitat Day can be a catalyst to dig deeper into the effects of poverty, the need of adequate shelter, and our collective responsibility for finding a solution.

Examples of Global Village activities for World Habitat Day:

- **Use the WHD Handbook to educate team members:** Team leaders can use the WHD Handbook and other information provided to educate their team on what World Habitat Day is and on the focus issues (secure land tenure and national housing trusts).
- **Support the host's WHD efforts:** Team leaders can contact the host country to ask if it will be planning an event for World Habitat Day and if the team can help in any way.
- **Hear from an expert:** Host coordinators may organize an afternoon where someone from the affiliate comes to speak to the team about secure land tenure issues in the community where the team is building.
- **See the issue:** If possible (and appropriate), organize a 'walk through' of an informal settlement.
- **Tell others:** Before team members depart, they can contact their local media outlets to tell them about the trip they will be participating in during World Habitat Day.



KIM MACDONALD

A homeowner family in Minya, Egypt.

Housing needs on television

An international Christian satellite channel broadcasting throughout the Middle East, North Africa and Europe (in Arabic) hosted a program on October 18, 2007, to celebrate World Habitat Day. The discussion was about housing (in Lebanon in particular), and the featured speakers were Dani El Tayar, the HFH Lebanon national director, and the leaders of a partner organization called Dialogue and Development, Emile Eskander and Bishop Salim Ghazal. The speakers discussed Habitat for Humanity's work, including the Disaster Response program.

Additional resources

Useful links

UN-Habitat Global Campaign for Secure Tenure:
http://www.unhabitat.org/categories.asp?catid=24

Women and secure tenure:
http://www.unhabitat.org/content.asp?typeid=19&catid=24&cid=2041

UN-Habitat Secure Tenure at a Glance:
http://www.unhabitat.org/downloads/docs/5196_96938_sec%202.pdf

UN-Habitat Secure Tenure Facts & Figures:
http://www.unhabitat.org/downloads/docs/5195_13745_sec%201.pdf

What are slums?
http://www.unhabitat.org/documents/media_centre/sowcr2006/SOWCR%205.PDF

Fact sheet on slums, sanitation and secure tenure:
http://www.unhabitat.org/documents/media_centre/sowcr2006/SOWCR%207.PDF

Fact sheet on slums, overcrowding and safe drinking water:
http://www.unhabitat.org/documents/media_centre/sowcr2006/SOWCR%206.PDF

Fact sheet on future slum growth:
http://www.unhabitat.org/documents/media_centre/sowcr2006/SOWCR%204.PDF

UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Fact Sheet on the Human Right to Adequate Housing:
http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu6/2/fs21.htm#intro

U.S. poverty facts

- About 95 million people, one third of the nation, have housing problems including a high-cost burden, overcrowding, poor quality shelter and homelessness. (NLIHC: 2004)
- There are almost 16 million Americans paying 50 percent or more of their income for housing.
- One in three American households spend more than 30 percent of income on housing, and one in seven spends more than 50 percent. (JCHS: 2006)
- There is not a single county in the country where a full-time minimum wage worker can afford even a one-bedroom apartment at what HUD determines to be the Fair Market Rent. (NLIHC: 2006)
- 2.2 million subprime home loans made in recent years have already failed or will end in foreclosure, costing homeowners as much as $164 billion. (CRL: 2006)
- Predatory payday lending now costs American families $4.2 billion per year in excessive fees. (CRL: 2006)

Housing improves health

- The number of low-income families that lack safe and affordable housing is related to the number of children that suffer from asthma, viral infections, anemia, stunted growth and other health problems. About 21,000 children have stunted growth attributable to the lack of stable housing; 10,000 children between the ages of 4 and 9 are hospitalized for asthma attacks each year because of cockroach infestation at home; and more than 180 children die each year in house fires attributable to faulty electrical heating and electrical equipment. (Sandel, et al: 1999)
- Children in bad housing have increased risk of viral or bacterial infections and a greater chance of suffering mental health and behavioral problems. (Harker: 2006)
- Housing deprivation leads to an average of 25 percent greater risk of disability or severe ill health across a person's lifespan. Those who suffer housing deprivation as children are more likely to suffer ill health in adulthood, even if they live in non-deprived conditions later in life. (Marsh, et al.: 2000)

Housing has a positive impact on children

- Children of homeowners are more likely to stay in school (by 7-9 percent) and daughters of homeowners are less likely to have children by age 18 (by 2-4 percent). (Green and White: 1996)
- Owning a home leads to a higher quality home environment, improved test scores in children (9 percent in math and 7 percent in reading), and reduced behavioral problems (by 3 percent). (Haurin, Parcel, and Haurin: 2002)
- Children who live in bad housing have lower educational attainment and a greater likelihood of being impoverished and unemployed as adults. (Harker: 2006)

Homeownership builds wealth

- Owning a home, especially for lower-income households, is an important means of wealth accumulation. For low-income minority families, median average annual housing wealth appreciation is $1,712 whereas there is no non-housing wealth accumulation. This wealth is achieved both through equity and forced savings resulting from mortgage repayment. (Boehm and Schlottmann: 2004)
- Homeownership increases intergenerational wealth accumulation through improved educational achievement in children, which leads to greater earnings when these children enter the workforce. (Boehm and Schlottmann: 2002)
- Homeowners live in larger, higher quality units; they enjoy better housing services with costs that fall over time; and they stand to make considerable returns if they remain owners for a long time. (Rohe, Van Zandt, and McCarthy: 2001)

Housing strengthens communities

- Homeowners are more likely to know their U.S. representative (by 10 percent) and school board head by name (by 9 percent), and are more likely to vote in local elections (by 15 percent) and work to solve local problems (by 6 percent). (DiPasquale and Glaeser: 1998)
- Homeowners are more likely to be satisfied with their homes and neighborhoods, and are more likely to volunteer in civic and political activities. (Rohe, Van Zandt, and McCarthy: 2000)
- Resident ownership is strongly related to better building security and quality, and to lower levels of crime. (Saegert and Winkel: 1998)

Global poverty facts

- By the year 2030, an additional 3 billion people, about 40 percent of the world's population, will need access to housing. This translates into a demand for 96,150 new affordable units every day and 4,000 every hour. (UN-Habitat: 2005)
- The World Bank has noted that a significant increase of investment in shelter and related infrastructure is necessary to meet the needs of the world's growing population. Yet since the mid 1990s only 10 percent of its shelter lending has gone to support low-income housing. (World Bank: 2006)
- One out of every three city dwellers – nearly a billion people – lives in a slum. (Slum indicators include: lack of water, lack of sanitation, overcrowding, non-durable structures and insecure tenure.) (UN-Habitat: 2006)
- More than 90 percent of slums are in the developing world where urbanization has become synonymous with slum formation. (UN-Habitat: 2006)
- Every week, more than a million people are born in, or move to, cities in the developing world. As a result, the urban population of developing countries will double from 2 billion to 4 billion in the next 30 years. (Kissick, et al: 2006),
- Across the globe, an average of one in every three city residents is living in inadequate housing with none, or few, basic services. In many sub-Saharan African cities, the slum population accounts for more than 70 percent of the urban population. (UN-Habitat: 2006)
- UN-Habitat has reported that because of poor living conditions, women living in slums are more likely to contract HIV/AIDS than their rural counterparts, and children in slums are more likely to die from water-borne and respiratory illness. (UN-Habitat: 2006)
- More than 14 million refugees and internally displaced people live in tents or other temporary shelters. (Kissick, et al: 2006)
- As much as 70 percent of the urban housing stock in sub-Saharan Africa, 50 percent in South Asia, and 25 percent in Latin America and the Caribbean is of poor quality and not in compliance with local regulations. (Kissick, et al: 2006)
- Children under 5 living in Habitat for Humanity houses in Malawi showed a 44 percent reduction in malaria, respiratory or gastrointestinal diseases compared to children living in traditional houses. The effect of improved housing on the health of young children was as high as that of water and sanitation programs. (Wolf, et al: 2001)
- Housing construction, especially in low-income countries, creates job opportunities for migrants to cities and stimulates the creation of small business. The titling and registration of land occupied by informal settlements allows those residents to access credit products, thereby helping to unlock fixed capital for productive investment. (Kissick, et al: 2006)
- Housing wealth is more equitably spread throughout society than other forms of wealth. Housing formation generates non-housing related expenditures that help drive the economy. (Kissick, et al: 2006)
- Investing in housing expands the local tax base. (Kissick, et al: 2006)

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MIKEL FLAMM

A volunteer house builder plays a game with children in Rach Gia, Vietnam. Many of the children and their families live on a garbage dump, but will move into houses being built as part of the Rainbow Village project. The project will enable as many as 90 families to move from the dump into their own decent, affordable homes.

Appendix

Build Louder FAQs

Q. What is Build Louder?
A. Build Louder is Habitat's multi-year advocacy campaign dedicated to influencing U.S. policies on the issues of neighborhood revitalization, which includes housing trust funds, and secure tenure.

Q. Where can I find Build Louder printed materials?
A. Build Louder T-shirts are available at the online store at habitat.org. Other promotional items may soon be added.

Q. What materials are available on My.Habitat?
A. At www.AdvocateWithHabitat.org downloadable materials and tools are available to help you support the Build Louder campaign. Some of these flyers, PowerPoint presentations, handouts and toolkits will also be available on My.Habitat.

Q. How do I get involved?
A. There are several ways to get involved in the Build Louder campaign. One of the best ways is to sign up to be an advocate at www.AdvocateWithHabitat.org so you can immediately take action on important issues affecting housing trust funds and secure tenure. Other ways to get involved can be found at www.AdvocateWithHabitat.org. If you're interested in hosting an event please email buildlouder@habitat.org.

Q. Are there examples of how the Build Louder issues are having an impact on Habitat's work? What's the measurable impact?
A. Already, Habitat partners, supporters, affiliates and volunteers have made an impact on the Build Louder campaign issues of secure tenure and housing trust funds. One significant accomplishment is that HFH advocates made more than 300 Congressional visits focused on the issue of housing trust funds during Habitat on the Hill 2008. Shortly thereafter, federal affordable-housing trust fund legislation passed in Congress.

Q. I have ideas for Build Louder. To whom do I direct them?
A. Great! Please send your ideas to buildlouder@habitat.org.

Q. What are other affiliates doing with Build Louder?
A. Affiliates and state support organizations are building louder by promoting the campaign among their volunteers and supporters. Examples include: putting Build Louder stickers on their hardhats, hosting Lunch 'n Learns on the worksite, featuring the Build Louder image on their Web sites and in their newsletters.

Q. I thought HFH wasn't allowed to take government funding. When did we change our position?
A. Although most of our support comes from non-governmental sources such as members of the community, companies and other organizations, Habitat welcomes government partnerships that include accepting funds and other resources. Habitat has a history of working with the government to make affordable homes possible.

For example, since HUD's Self Help Homeownership Opportunities Program began in 1996, this program has resulted in more than $78 million on Habitat infrastructure improvements. To date, SHOP funding has lead to 12,228 completed Habitat homes for almost 46,000 people.

Q. How can I get more in-depth information about what's happening on Capitol Hill?
A. If you have questions about Habitat's work in the U.S. capital please send an e-mail to HFHIAdvocacy@habitat.org.

Q. Why is HFH doing advocacy?
A. We cannot fulfill our mission and ensure housing for all simply by building more Habitat houses. Advocacy is a natural extension of the Habitat mission and supplements our house-building efforts. To reach the goal of safe, decent and affordable housing for all, we need to change systems, attitudes, policies and institutional behaviors that lead to inadequate housing and homelessness.

Q. How do we know if we should get involved in this issue (or any advocacy issue)? What should our decision-making process be for getting engaged with Build Louder?
A. Some affiliates have developed an advocacy policy at the affiliate level. Other affiliates have engaged in the Build Louder Campaign or in advocacy in general with approval by the executive director and the board of directors. We recommend that your first step be to designate an advocacy liaison as a point person to receive information from HFHI's Office of Government Relations and Advocacy.

Q. Can affiliates still get support for advocacy issues other than the Build Louder campaign issues?
A. Yes! Affiliates should feel free to contact HFHI's Office of Government Relations and Advocacy for support on any local or state level issues they want to work on. Regarding taking positions, affiliates can determine their positions on local issues but must coordinate on state-level positions with the SSO or the other affiliates in the state if there is no SSO. Similarly, affiliates and SSOs must adhere to HFHI positions on federal issues.

Q. How does the issue of secure tenure play out in the U.S.? Is it related to eminent domain?
A. In the U.S., land owners and renters enjoy many legal and regulatory protections at the federal, state and local level that help ensure tenure security. But even with these protections in place, renters and land owners can still face insecurity of tenure when legal protections are not enforced.

Although a government can exercise eminent domain, that does not necessarily lead to tenure insecurity. Under the U.S. Constitution, land owners are guaranteed fair compensation if their property is taken by the U.S. government. In addition, many states have additional levels of protections for land owners. In other countries, though, if eminent domain is exercised by a government with no protections in place for land owners, a government's practice of eminent domain may lead to tenure insecurity.

Sample petition

Dear {Local Government Official},

Recognizing that 1.6 billion people live in inadequate shelter around the world and that by 2030 an estimated 3 billion people will live in slum communities;

Calling attention to the lack of secure tenure for millions of poor and vulnerable individuals;

Expressing concern that here in {Enter national statistics such as... United States about 95 million people or one third of the nation face housing problems, such as overcrowding, poor quality shelter and homelessness};

{Enter locally relevant statistics};

Acknowledging that adequate housing leads to better health for families, stronger educations for children, and safer and more secure communities;

I, the undersigned, as a concerned constituent, urge you to address the world's housing crisis in your community by taking concrete action to create a world in which everyone enjoys the stability, the security and the dignity of a decent, affordable home. {Or insert specific request relevant to your local government official}.

First Name (please print):_____Last Name (please print):_____

Street Address: _____City:_____State:_____Zip:_____

|__|__|__

Sample press release

Logo/Affiliate logo goes here

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
[Your First and Last Name]
[Affiliate/Campus Chapter Name] Habitat for Humanity
[Your phone number]
[Your e-mail address]
[Your affiliate or campus chapter Web site address]

[Affiliate or Campus Chapter Name] Habitat for Humanity advocates for neighborhood revitalization and secure tenure on World Habitat Day 2009

[Your CITY, St.] [(Month, Day, 2009)]—In recognition of World Habitat Day 2009, [Affiliate/Campus Chapter Name] Habitat for Humanity will address the lack of decent housing around the world, including the need for affordable housing in [fill in your local area].

Focusing on this year's themes, secure tenure and neighborhood revitalization, [Affiliate/Campus Chapter Name] Habitat for Humanity will [fill in details about your event including a short description with date, time and location.]

"[Include a quote from an Affiliate/Campus Chapter spokesman or spokeswoman.]"

According to UN-Habitat, one out of every three city dwellers—nearly a billion people—live in slums. Many slum residents lack secure tenure, without any legal documentation of their property rights, in addition to living in severely inadequate housing conditions. Secure tenure not only facilitates opportunities for investment and wealth accumulation, but also provides a source of identity, status and political power, and serves as a basis for the pursuit of other rights.

About [Affiliate/Campus Chapter Name] Habitat for Humanity
[Insert Affiliate or Campus Chapter boilerplate statement.]

About Habitat for Humanity International
Habitat for Humanity International is an ecumenical Christian ministry that welcomes to its work all people dedicated to the cause of eliminating poverty housing. Since its founding in 1976, Habitat has built more than 300,000 houses worldwide, providing simple, decent and affordable shelter for more than 1.5 million people. For more information, visit www.habitat.org

Sample corporate partner letter

Affiliate Name
Affiliate Address
City, State Zip

Dear (corporation),
In 1985 the United Nations declared the first Monday in October to be "World Habitat Day" in recognition of the need for simple and decent shelter for people in the United States and around the world. Habitat for Humanity knows that good housing is key to helping a child turn into a productive adult. It may be difficult for you to imagine the effects poverty housing has on people, but here are a few statistics about the challenges they face: (Give three strong statistics from your community, here are some examples:)

- Every single minute people die from conditions related to substandard housing.
- A child in inadequate housing is 10 times more likely to contract meningitis, respiratory problems or asthma.
- Children living in overcrowded conditions are less likely to graduate from high school.

Now more than ever we need sustainable solutions to housing problems. Habitat for Humanity has a tried and tested solution giving people a chance to live in a simple, decent home they can afford. Partnerships where homeowners, donors and volunteers invest time and money to changes lives. Habitat for Humanity uses World Habitat Day as a call to action for individuals and organizations to change the reality of poverty housing and to work together to find solutions for those in need. During World Habitat Day we ask you to engage your corporation and its employees in the following ways: (list multiple ways for them to help, here are a few examples)

- Host a lunch and learn session at the workplace about housing issues.
- Wear a tool belt to work, for a small donation employees can wear jeans to work.
- Sponsor a volunteer build day or a home in the month of October.
- Support our efforts internationally by sponsoring a house in one of the more than 90 countries where Habitat builds. (include a tithe program close to your heart).

At Habitat for Humanity we know that we alone cannot end poverty housing. It will take the efforts of government, business and community leaders to provide adequate shelter. With your help we can change the reality for future generations in our community and around the globe. If you are interested in having a program on housing issues at your office or would like more information about donating to the work of Habitat for Humanity, please call (local contact for your affiliate).

Thank you and God bless,
Contact info

Sample individual donation letter

DATE

NAME
Address
City, State Zip

Dear (individual),

In 1985 the United Nations declared the first Monday in October "World Habitat Day" in order to recognize the vast housing need in cities around the world. Habitat for Humanity knows that good housing is key to helping a child turn into a productive adult. **Now more than ever we need your support**. Habitat for Humanity has a tried and tested partnership approach that makes families in need of shelter a key part of their own housing solution.

- **10 million** people die each year from substandard housing and living conditions.
- A child in inadequate housing is 10 times more likely to contract meningitis, respiratory problems or asthma than his or her counterparts in adequate housing.
- Children living in overcrowded conditions are **less likely to graduate from high school**.

We work hard with volunteers and donors who invest time and money into the partnership—so that families in need of housing can help build, then buy, their own home on terms they can afford. Habitat for Humanity uses World Habitat Day as a call to action for individuals and organizations to change the reality of poverty housing and to work together to find housing solutions for those in need. On this year's World Habitat Day, we urge you to consider how you can further engage in the solution, particularly in terms of supporting our mission.

Maybe you'll be moved to:

- Visit www.habitat.org where you can register to become an online advocate and receive alerts regarding how you can help speak up for those whose housing plights so often go unheard.
- Contact (local affiliate name) to find out how to be involved.
- Make a donation to (local affiliate name) by filling out the pledge card included with this letter.

At Habitat for Humanity we know that we alone cannot end poverty housing. It will take collaborative efforts from the public, private and nonprofit sectors in order to deliver serious impact. Your support will make a difference. With your help we can change the reality for future generations in our community and around the globe.

Signature
(Local affiliate ED/CEO)

P.S. *Take time on World Habitat Day to support housing organizations in your community. Together we can make a difference.(**If you can, you should hand write any P.S., this can be an effective fundraising tool**.)*

Sample church bulletin insert and litany

The United Nations annually designates the first Monday in October as World Habitat Day to move people across the globe to reflect on the world's housing crisis and to consider our collective responsibility for the future of the human habitat.

Habitat for Humanity recognizes World Habitat Day 2009 ***by focusing on secure tenure*** to emphasize the importance of feeling secure, safe and comfortable in one's own home. Sadly, millions of families around the world lck this security because they also lack legitimate rights to the home in which they live or to the land on which their home sits. They live every day in fear that they could be driven from their only shelter or that it could be bulldozed in the blink of an eye. Secure tenure gives families a place to be. ***A place to be safe. A place to be secure. A place to thrive.*** And this in turn creates better, stronger and healthier families and communities.

Litany of Shelter

Leader: Lord, you are a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path.
People: We praise and give thanks that your light shines for every person.
Leader: Search us God, and know our hearts.
People: Touch our lips as we pray for those in need of a place to be sheltered.
Leader: In the face of poverty housing, help us to act in love and partnership.
People: To create for all people a place to be secure.
Leader: Lead us in service for humanity,
People: That through your grace we may provide a place to be celebrated, a place to be understood, a place to be loved… a place to be at peace.
All: **Amen**.

Habitat for Humanity® of Kitsap County

P.O. Box 5347, Bremerton, WA 98312 • (360) 479-3853 • www.kitsaphabitat.org

Habitat for Humanity built 5,619 homes in 2007, six of those here in Kitsap County. The goal is to complete 14 homes in Kitsap County in 2008 and another 14 homes in 2009, done entirely through volunteer labor and privately donated funds:

____6,000+ volunteer hours per house
____$60,000 for construction materials or to sponsor a whole house
____Lunches supplied by volunteers for volunteers on Saturdays
____Hundreds of office and committee hours

All this from persons like you! Every dollar and every hour helps. We welcome your support of this vital ministry with your time, talents, and/or treasure.

____**To volunteer**, contact Volunteer Coordinator Sibylle Palmer:
Phone 360-550-2446 or 360-479-3558
E-mail volunteercoor@kitsaphabitat.org or
Sign up on-line through www.kitsaphabitat.org.

____**To donate**, please: Designate Habitat for Humanity of Kitsap County on your check or Give on-line at www.kitsaphabitat.org.

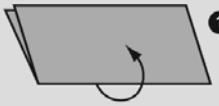
Habitat for Humanity is an ecumenical Christian housing ministry that develops communities in partnership with volunteers and low-income homeowner families, building decent, affordable homes that are sold at no profi t and no interest. Guided by Christian principles, Habitat welcomes participation from people of all faiths or no faith and from all skill levels or no skills. All of Habitat's words and actions are for the ultimate purpose of putting shelter on the hearts and minds of people in such a powerful way that poverty housing becomes socially, politically and religiously unacceptable. For more information about Habitat for Humanity of Kitsap County, visit the Habitat Web site at www.kitsaphabitat.org.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

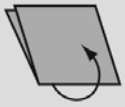
James 2:16-17: If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

Sample origami fundraising

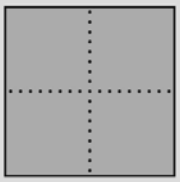
You can build a house!



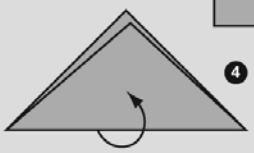
1. Start with a square piece of paper. Fold it in half.



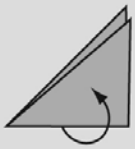
2. Fold it in half again.



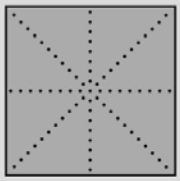
3. Unfold the paper.



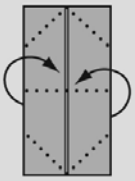
4. Place opposite corners together and fold.



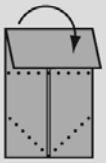
5. Fold the triangular shape in half.



6. Unfold the paper.



7. Fold both left and right outside edges to the center.



8. Fold top edge down, aligning it with the center fold.

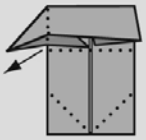
DETACH CARD HERE

Habitat for Humanity®

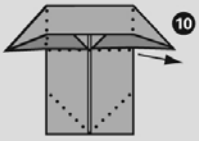
For more information on workplace giving:

Bill Campbell

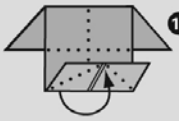
270 Peachtree St. NW, Atlanta, GA 30303 USA
(800) HABITAT (422-4828), Ext. 6771
giveatwork@habitat.org www.habitat.org



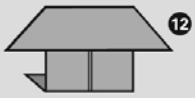
9. Take the inside flap and pull it outward. Fold down, aligning the edges to the center fold and to the outside folded edge.



10. Repeat, using the opposite flap.



11. Turn model over and fold the bottom edge up to the bottom of the roof (to the center fold).



12. Open it partially to create a stand for the house.

13. Using markers, paint or collage, have fun adding details to your house.

Congratulations! You've successfully built an origami house. On a Habitat for Humanity work site, someone with your skills can be a valuable volunteer. Volunteers of any skill level are welcome and will find others who can instruct them on how to build a simple, decent Habitat house with a partner family in need that is waiting to buy it.

Visit us at www.habitat.org!

2M/CPO/12-08

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THE GIFT THAT BUILDS

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