

Middle school

Objective

The group will learn about the importance of supporting the housing needs of people around the world.

■ PREPARATION

- Go to <https://www.habitat.org/how/why.aspx>, and locate the first paragraph under the heading “A core issue for global poverty: The state of the world’s housing.”
- Have a volunteer read the paragraph aloud. Ask another volunteer to summarize the paragraph’s main idea. (The world is experiencing a severe housing crisis, and it will worsen unless people everywhere step in.)
- On the board, write the following terms: *Health, Education, Security, Happiness*. Ask the group to think about how substandard housing might affect people’s daily lives in each of the categories you’ve listed. Have group members share their ideas, and write them on the board under the appropriate terms.
- Help the group get started by sharing the following example: Urban slums often lack clean drinking water, and people can become ill by drinking or bathing in unsanitary water. Jot down this example under *Health*.
- Then lead a discussion about why we should care about the housing needs of people we don’t know. Have group members consider how their own daily lives would be different without decent housing—and then consider that millions of children around the world are living in such conditions.

■ LEARN IT

- Explain to the group that Habitat for Humanity is an organization whose goal is to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness from the world.
- Divide the group into teams. Have them visit <https://www.habitat.org/intl/maps>. Ask each team to choose an area of the world and then a country on which to focus.
- Give teams time to read about the housing conditions and Habitat for Humanity projects in the country they have chosen.
- Explain that each team is going to make a poster that

provides information about and seeks support for a Habitat for Humanity project in their country.

- Ask the group what kinds of information they think they should include on their poster to make it both informative and persuasive. Some examples include the country’s name, information about the housing needs, images that illustrate the information, an explanation of Habitat for Humanity’s projects, and details about how to help.
- Have teams complete the “Poster planning” worksheet. If they need more information, encourage them to visit the following Web sites:
 - www.unhabitat.org (click on “Countries”)
 - www.adb.org (click on “Countries”)
 - www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html (click on “Countries”)
- Once teams have completed their planning sheets, give them a piece of poster board and simple supplies such as markers, scissors and tape, and have them make their posters.
- Ask each team to present its poster to the whole group.

■ LIVE IT

- Take time to reflect on the activity. Ask the group: What is the most important thing you have learned from this activity, and why? What two actions can you take to help improve the housing conditions in the country you researched? Discuss their responses.
- Discuss how group members can “live” what they’ve learned. Suggest that group members raise awareness about world housing issues by creating a rotating gallery for their posters. Together, contact local libraries, city buildings and churches to display their posters for a week at a time. As a group, visit the locations to plan and present their display. You may also encourage group members to spend one of your group meetings at each location of the rotating gallery so they may answer questions from the public and direct them to the proper channels to find more ways to help solve global housing poverty.

Poster planning

Country name: _____

Memorable facts or statistics about the housing situation there:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Brief description of Habitat for Humanity's work there:

How to help (Include phone numbers, Web sites and other information that people might need in order to donate time, money or services.):

List of possible images you might include on your poster:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

How will you arrange the information on your poster? On the back of this sheet, create a sketch of how your poster will look. Keep the following guidelines in mind:

- Be concise. Readers should be able to get the information they need in 30 seconds or less.
- Make sure any facts, statistics or images you provide are accurate, bold and memorable.
- Tell readers how they can help. Often, people don't help simply because they don't know how.
- Make your poster attractive. Write neatly. Check your spelling and grammar.