Our case for support
Help us build strength, stability and self-reliance.
Habitat for Humanity is a global leader

As a global organization delivering local impact, Habitat is uniquely positioned to address the world’s shelter crisis.
Our work in more than 70 countries and across all 50 states in the U.S. has helped transform the lives and communities of 29 million people through housing since 1976.

With the help of more than 1.4 million volunteers each year, Habitat serves a family somewhere around the world every 21 seconds.
Habitat Humanitarians are high-profile volunteers recognized for their invaluable contributions. This generous group serves as mission champions, advocates and spokespeople to raise awareness of the need for decent, affordable shelter in the U.S. and around the world.

We have tremendous friends.
“In the same way bricks form the foundation of a home for a family, the gift of a Habitat house provides the foundation for community growth and development. A home is instrumental in breaking the shackles of poverty from one generation to the next.

“Sometimes, God looks down on the world, and he says, ‘Why do my children treat each other like this?’ God looks down on the world today and sees you. God smiles because he sees you doing fantastic work.”

ARCHBISHOP EMERITUS DESMOND TUTU, PATRON OF HABITAT FOR HUMANITY SOUTH AFRICA

“When I volunteered on Habitat builds, I saw how readily families contributed their own labor. They worked as hard as the volunteers because they were building their own house. At the house dedication, there was no mistaking the joy and pride on their faces. I’ve heard how parents build on the stability of a Habitat home to enable their children to achieve greater strength and self-reliance. I know these stories are true as I’ve met some of the families myself.”

BOLLYWOOD ACTRESS AND HABITAT VOLUNTEER JACQUELINE FERNANDEZ

“I remember that first day in the house. Just seeing my mom’s smile, just seeing my little brother and sister. You know, after we got the house, I started separating myself from negative things. I was able to come home and work on my craft as a student and as an athlete. The Habitat house really helped me focus and mature.”

HOUSTON TEXANS QUARTERBACK, COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP MVP AND HABITAT VOLUNTEER DESHAUN WATSON

Other supporters include:

Our Habitat Humanitarians are former President Jimmy Carter, former first lady Rosalynn Carter, country music stars Garth Brooks and Trisha Yearwood, and world-renowned construction and real estate experts Drew and Jonathan Scott.
The scope of the problem we address is vast.

1 in 4 people in the world need decent housing.
More than 37 million households in the U.S. — 31.5% of all households in the country — are paying more than 30% of their income on housing, according to the 2019 *State of the Nation’s Housing* report.

Ninety percent of cities around the world do not provide affordable housing of adequate quality, according to the World Economic Forum. *(Habitat magazine, September 2019)*

Three-quarters of the world's population does not have legal documentation of their property rights, according to the World Economic Forum.

The World Health Organization says those living in poor conditions “are exposed to greater personal and environmental health risks, are less well-nourished, have less information and are less able to access health care, thus they have a higher risk of illness and disability.”

The United Nations estimates that 1 billion people around the world live in informal settlements, and 600 million more do not have adequate housing.
Driven by the vision that everyone needs a decent place to live, Habitat has partnered with families for 43 years to build and improve places they can call home.

We have the unmatched ability to address this need.
Our work focuses on increasing access to homeownership and housing finance, improving housing affordability and quality, helping communities prepare for and respond to natural disasters, and building strong and resilient neighborhoods.

Our work today includes:

- **New construction** where our houses and work processes are designed for their specific local settings and use locally available materials.

- **Improvement and repair of existing houses.** In the U.S., this work is done as part of our neighborhood revitalization efforts. Outside the U.S., we help families build incrementally and help create access to housing microfinance loans.

- **Advocacy,** which advances access to adequate and affordable housing through changes to policies and systems. This includes a campaign called Cost of Home, which aims to change housing policies across the United States to help make housing more affordable.

**Habitat works alongside the families who partner with us.**

- **Each family invests their time and effort** building their own home and the homes of others. This sweat equity can take many forms — from construction to working in a Habitat ReStore — and includes homeowner classes where families learn about their mortgage, insurance, maintenance, safety and more.

See the results:
We are aided by our volunteer-led model.

Each year, Habitat mobilizes 1.4 million volunteers to build, advocate and raise awareness about the worldwide need for shelter.
Habitat is a global community, with partners from all walks of life who lift their hands, hearts and voices to move our life-changing work forward worldwide. Volunteers, donors and families together increase our impact.

Hear from our volunteers:

“I had no idea that the to-be residents help to build homes — their home and their neighbors’ homes. Frankly, it’s beautiful. That was the moment I remember feeling empowered. I was a lucky man to be working with men and women all committed to a plan greater than themselves, committed to the idea of community.”

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HABITAT VOLUNTEER DONNA RICCA

“I've been lucky in life to be able to make a good living doing what I love to do. And I figure now it's my turn to give back. It wasn't just building, it wasn't just getting out of the house. There is something bigger involved. And it keeps me coming back.”

HABITAT VOLUNTEER TED MARSTILLER

We are built on a foundation of faith.

The idea that became Habitat first grew from the fertile soil of Koinonia Farm, a community farm outside of Americus, Georgia, founded by farmer and biblical scholar Clarence Jordan. Koinonia was established to serve as a “demonstration plot of the kingdom of God.”

While personal faith is not always the motivating factor for all Habitat volunteers, our mission has always been based on the idea that we serve God by serving others.

Habitat partners with all people — of different faiths or of no faith — whether they are seeking housing or joining us to help.

Habitat’s global prayer

God, teach us humility so that we may...

listen,
confess and forgive,
serve in relationship with the poor,
persevere in our mission,
unify as one body with many different parts, and

act with courage and boldness.

Amen.
Through shelter, we empower.

Affordable housing is the foundation on which families and communities thrive.
A decent place to live can remove barriers to opportunity, success and health that might have been a part of a family’s life for years, if not generations.

Better, affordable living conditions lead to improved health, stronger childhood development and give families the ability — and financial flexibility — to make forward-looking choices. Proper shelter creates jobs, revitalizes neighborhoods, attracts employers, increases consumer spending and government revenues, and lowers the risk of foreclosure, all while bringing transformative benefits to families and developing resiliency in communities.

Significant economic impact

Habitat Canada’s work has returned almost $42 million in societal benefits to the community. Research proves that the Habitat homeownership model generates a societal benefit return of $175,000 per family.

More than 17,000 low-income families have learned valuable skills about managing their household finances through regional financial education programs.

Habitat’s MicroBuild Fund has disbursed $132.53 million in capital to 54 financial institutions serving low-income households and has provided access to better housing for more than 827,000 people in 31 countries.

Seventy-four percent of homeowners in Georgia are better able to save money since purchasing their Habitat home, and approximately 71% say they’re better able to pay bills on time.

Habitat Charlotte homeowners have contributed $17 million in property taxes since 1983.

Greater Green Bay Habitat homeowners pay $268,000 in property taxes each year, adding a total of $11.8 million to the tax base since 1987.

“There’s hope that I’ll be able to help the kids get to colleges or buy their first cars, things that never would have been possible before Habitat.”

LORRIE, HABITAT HOMEOWNER
Long-lasting improvements for families

Ninety percent of surveyed Habitat homeowners in 44 U.S. cities said they could not have owned a home without help from Habitat.

Seventy-four percent of surveyed U.S. Habitat homeowners say their health has improved since moving into their homes.

Families living in the more than 5,000 homes built by Habitat India in the rural interior of Maharashtra have reported a higher standard of living and lower medical bills, thanks to less exposure to weather, insects and predators.

Ninety-five percent of Habitat Cambodia homeowners report reduced stress, and 86% report that their children were now able to study at home. Sixty-nine percent of families report increased income, with 123 families starting their own microbusinesses.

Fifty-seven percent of adults in surveyed U.S. Habitat households are furthering their education.

Thanks to solar shingles, one Habitat Houston homeowner’s electricity bill was reduced to $39 per month. She previously lived in an apartment where her monthly bill often reached $300.

“I feel good knowing that my house will go to my family, that they will have a place to live if I die.”

YOANNA, HABITAT HOMEOWNER
Positive impact on communities and society

More than 800,000 families in Pernambuco, Brazil, could benefit from the State Policy on Prevention and Mediation of Urban Land Conflicts that Habitat helped pass in 2015. The public policy provides vulnerable populations with **secure land tenure and property rights.**

A Habitat project partnering with Roma families in Slovakia to improve their living conditions identified that there had been "significant improvement in the health of the community through the provision of **safe, clean drinking water.**"

A survey of Habitat homeowners in Sacramento revealed that 48% families feel **more connected to their community.**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development says studies show that "homeowners accumulate wealth as the investment in their home grows, enjoy better living conditions, are often more involved in their communities, and have children who tend on average to do better in school and are less likely to become involved with crime."

"Healthy communities are places that foster good health, and basic conditions to thrive are available to everyone."

**DON SCHWARZ,**
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s senior vice president of program. The foundation is a financial supporter of Habitat’s neighborhood revitalization efforts.
Help us today.

Habitat’s strategic plan supplies the framework for exponentially expanding our worldwide impact so that we can partner with more families to build or improve places to call home.

Our Global Impact Fund supplies the flexible funding for that expansion, which enables us to build impact at the community, sector and societal levels.

Habitat’s Global Impact Fund moves our mission forward by:

- Leveraging resources to respond to the world’s housing need.
- Building the capacity of our global network.
- Investing wisely to sustain our programs through tough economic times.
- Designing innovative programs that reach ever-growing numbers of families.
- Practicing good stewardship in order to increase our efficiency and ensure the trust of our generous donors.