



“The idea of the one-week blitz is that if you asked me as a builder to build a house in a month for Habitat, I couldn’t do it, because I have other obligations. But if you can compress the time and enable a builder to do it in one week, it makes it a very manageable amount of time to build the home.”

– Tom Gipson, founder and national chairman of Home Builders Blitz

Homebuilder Tom Gipson and his wife, Pat, work on site at Habitat for Humanity's 2016 Home Builders Blitz in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Since the first local event in 2002, Home Builders Blitz has racked up some impressive numbers:

2,000+

Participating builders.

300+

Participating communities.

1,700+

Homes built.

4,290+

People housed (estimated).

The 2017 Home Builders Blitz is scheduled for June 5-9. New builder/affiliate partnerships continue to grow in communities across the country with each year, and we are looking forward to another highly productive week of construction.

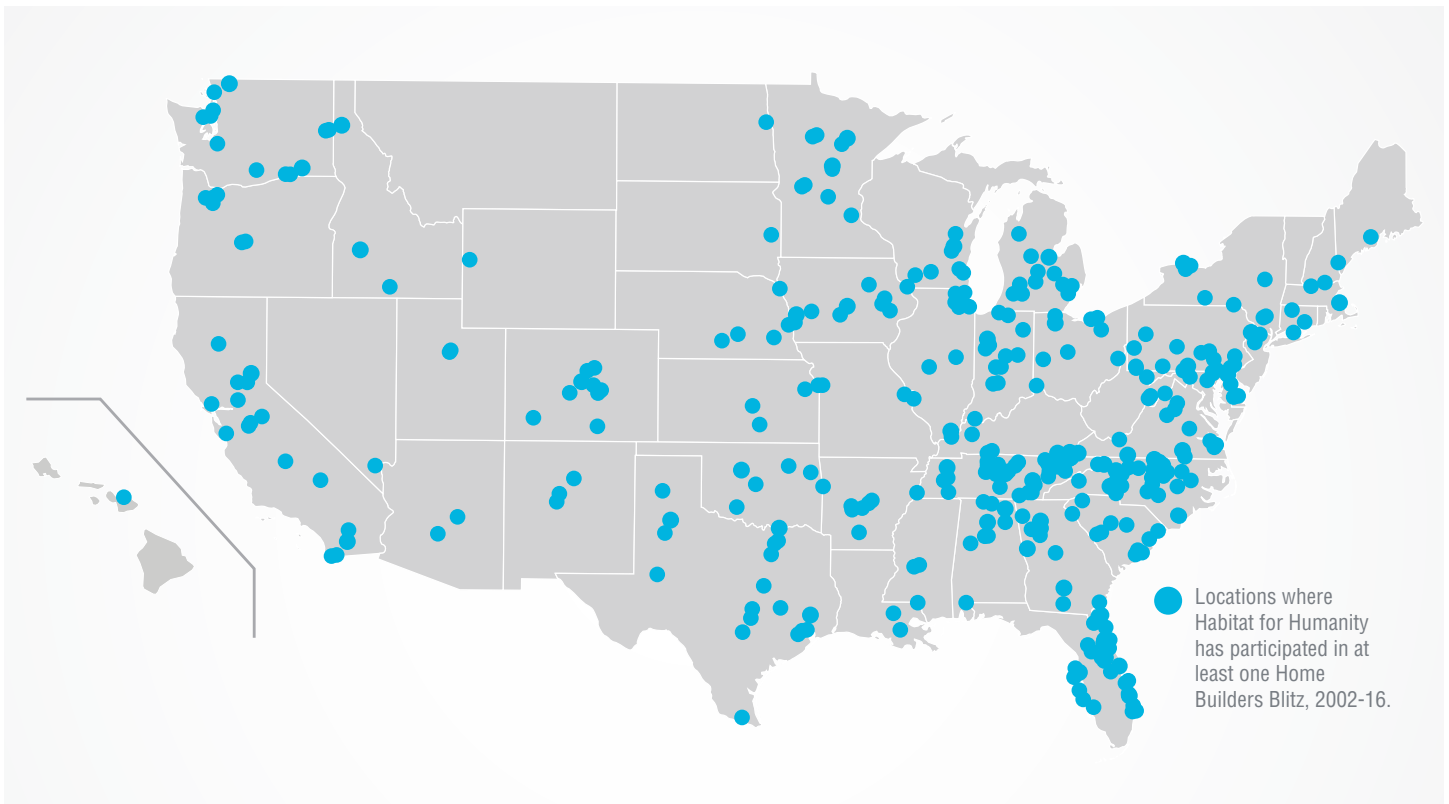
Home Builders Blitz

How the blitz began

In 2002, Habitat and 12 professional homebuilders teamed up to complete 12 homes in North Carolina in just five days. Habitat paid for the land; generous builders took care of the rest of the expense. Nothing like this had been done before. The “blitz build” was the result of a collaboration between Habitat for Humanity of Wake County and local custom homebuilder Tom Gipson, who mobilized local contractors. The builders provided free labor and worked with subcontractors and suppliers, who also donated their time and materials.

The results were so impressive that in 2006, Home Builders Blitz became a national initiative, partnering Habitat for Humanity with local builders to help people in need of housing. The goal was to deliver homes at no cost to Habitat. That year, Home Builders Blitz became the largest homebuilding effort in Habitat’s history, with more than 1,000 builders working with Habitat in 130 areas on about 450 homes across the United States.

After successful national events in 2008, 2012 and 2014, Home Builders Blitz became an annual event. It has added a total of more than 1,700 homes to communities by mobilizing builders and volunteers as hearts, hands and voices for the cause of safe, decent, affordable housing. To date, more than 300 local Habitats have participated.



WHAT'S IN IT FOR HABITAT

The Home Builders Blitz model is simple: Habitat identifies a contractor who will commit to lead the construction project and raise funds. Habitat also secures the site and selects the future homeowners.

Local Habitats can decide to build one home or multiple homes – the partnership model works regardless of scale. Habitat for Humanity of Greater Birmingham in Alabama has achieved great participation from local builders, constructing 110 homes, including 13 in 2016.

“Home Builders Blitz should work in almost every community to some degree,” says Charles Moore, president and CEO of Greater Birmingham Habitat. “Not everybody is going to be able to do 13, but others can do more than that.”

Local Habitats that participate in Home Builders Blitz forge and maintain exciting partnerships with local builders and their subcontractors, suppliers and business partners, allowing them to reach more future homeowners.

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newburgh in New York has been involved in every blitz since it became a national initiative, with more than 100 local builders taking part. The

event has allowed Habitat Greater Newburgh to partner with eight more families in need of housing.

“Our relationship with the Hudson Valley Building Association has been strengthened as a result of our participation in Home Builders Blitz,” says Cathy Collins, Habitat Greater Newburgh’s executive director.

Nearly 90 percent of participating local Habitats reported that they were able to boost production through Home Builders Blitz without significantly increasing their overhead.

“We get an increase in production, and we get great connections with builders,” Charles says. “We would have to add at least two more full-time staff to get what this one week does for us.”

The event also draws homebuilders who are new to Habitat: In the 2016 blitz, nearly 50 percent of participating builders were partnering with Habitat for the first time. A majority plan on returning to participate in the next blitz. Many builders who participated have become regular volunteers on Habitat builds, and some have gone on to serve as Habitat board members in their communities.



NANCY OLINGER

In 2016, professional homebuilders from across the United States helped nearly 250 families achieve strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter during Habitat for Humanity's annual Home Builders Blitz. In Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Cedar Valley Habitat and professional homebuilders like Jim Sattler (left) helped three area families build a place they can call home.

HOMEBUILDERS HELP BUILD HABITAT FOR HUMANITY COMMUNITIES

Having grown up in the building industry, I've always had great appreciation for the concept of "home." It's what drives me every day to do what I do. But the joy I've gotten from working with Habitat for Humanity over many years is indescribable. I am truly moved by this Christian ministry and all that we can do with God's help. I am always so pleased to support Habitat's mission in whatever ways possible, and I am grateful that our local Home Builders Association is so squarely behind this effort.

That's why, when given the opportunity to serve as a lead builder for Habitat's Home Builders Blitz in 2014, I jumped at it. While I had supported Habitat in various ways over the past couple of decades, this was an opportunity for me to participate in a hands-on way and really make an impact. It also gave me the chance to work with fellow builders, suppliers and subcontractors in a one-of-a-kind community endeavor.

The best part of this experience, by far, was working with our Habitat homeowner family. Amy and her two daughters were with us every step of the way. They worked incredibly hard that week, helping to maintain the site and pitch in wherever needed. When we were short on siding

installers early in the week, Amy willingly stepped into that role, helping us meet our goal. She did it all with a smile on her face, knowing that she was turning her dream of homeownership into a reality!

Presenting Amy with the keys to her house on the final day of the week was the highlight. In the daily bustle of our work lives, it's easy to lose sight of how many people in our community care about doing good. At that moment, I was so grateful for the opportunity to be involved with all of the caring individuals and the Habitat team that helped Amy make her dream of homeownership a reality. I was overcome with emotion at this beautiful ceremony, but even more touched by the fact that we were helping to make such incredible change possible for Amy and her girls.

I am serving as a lead builder again in 2016, this year in partnership with my brother, Joe. What a privilege, honor and blessing it is to do this work with both my immediate family and my extended homebuilding family in Cedar Rapids!

Jim Sattler of Sattler Homes & Remodeling in Cedar Rapids, Iowa

everyone

needs a place to call home



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