

habitat[®]

THE MAGAZINE OF HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Open a
door for
every child



DECEMBER 2018
habitat.org

You unlock the door



Every key to every Habitat home is a key to investments in education, nutrition, futures.

Habitat homeowners are some of the most resilient people I know, overcoming adversity time and time again, despite obstacles and odds.

Many people view poverty as a single failing of the individual or of society — one that with enough tenacity anyone should be able to overcome. What I've found, however, is that poverty isn't a single closed door. It's a series of them.

Whether these doors are open to us can depend largely on factors outside of our control: the neighborhood we were born in, the school district we were raised in, the genetic health issues we were passed down. Each of these doors can trigger a cascade of closing doors behind it. The zip code, family and skin you were born in either lead you to — or close you off from — access to higher education, approval for loans, potential jobs, higher wages, stable housing.

Eventually, as the doors close, poverty becomes a lack of freedom and of choice.

For Maximino and Catalina, the birth of their beautiful daughter Isabel marked the closing of a door: their dream of homeownership. This momentous occasion in their life was paired with the realization that they would now need to devote their time, careers and savings to the full-time care of their daughter, who was born with cerebral palsy. Homeownership was a sacrifice they were more than willing to make — but one that no family should have to.

In the wake of Hurricane Irma, Sara simply couldn't cover the cost of repairs on her badly damaged, red-tagged home. And on her limited fixed income, traditional avenues of support through her bank or local government were unavailable to her. "Every door that other people were walking through to get funding was getting slammed in my face," she says. "There was no way out that I could see." Her self-worth and confidence "flat-lined."

This is where the work of Habitat finds its moment. We work alongside families to make a way where there seemingly is none. Every key to every Habitat home is a key to the many more doors that lay beyond — to investments in education, nutrition, futures.

When a family unlocks the door to tangible shelter and improved living conditions, it's all the doors to the intangible — confidence, self-sufficiency, stability — that finally come into view.

You make all of this possible. These doors, and all the passageways they represent, hinge on your support. Thank you for paving the way for the Maximinos and Catalinas, the Saras and the millions of others who understand the preciousness of that sliver of light, of hope and of promise, that streams through an unlocked door.

Jonathan T.M. Reckford
Chief Executive Officer
Habitat for Humanity International

HABITAT'S VISION

A world where everyone has a decent place to live

Driven by the vision that everyone needs a decent place to live, Habitat for Humanity began in 1976 as a grassroots effort on a community farm in southern Georgia. The Christian housing organization has since grown to become a leading global nonprofit working in local communities across all 50 states in the U.S. and in more than 70 countries.

Families and individuals in need of a hand up partner with Habitat to build or improve a place they can call home. Habitat homeowners help build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage.

Through financial support, volunteering or adding a voice to support affordable housing, everyone can help families achieve the strength, stability and self-reliance they need to build better lives for themselves.

Through shelter, we empower. To learn more, visit habitat.org.

LET US HEAR FROM YOU

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Printed on 100 percent recycled paper

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ISSN 0890-958X Vol. 35 No. 3

Habitat for Humanity®



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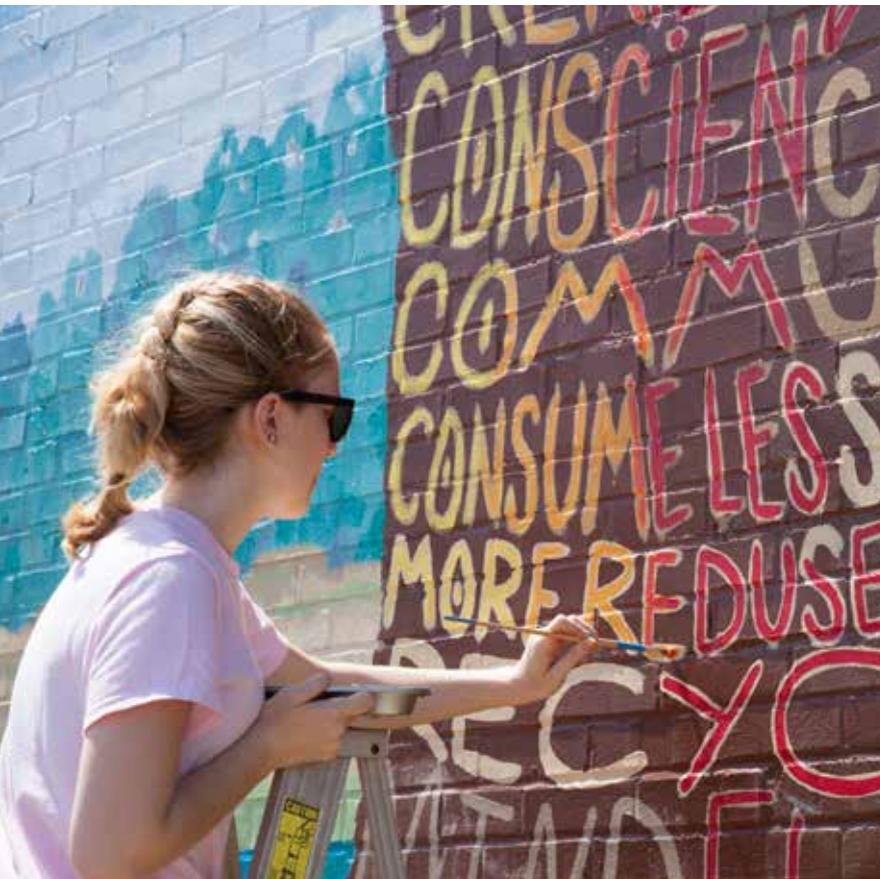




“My Habitat house is the miracle in my life. I want to tell God, ‘Thank you for giving me this house to serve others.’”

As this year draws to a close, we celebrate the more than 22 million individuals who have partnered with Habitat since our founding, individuals like Lusiati who have improved their living conditions with help from Habitat. With your support, we are able to help families access the tools they need for a better tomorrow. Sweat equity, affordability, empowerment. Lusiati has used her Habitat home and the stability it provides as a springboard to help others. She volunteers in her community in Indonesia, visiting the elderly and young mothers with children to help connect them with local government services. And she spreads the story of Habitat everywhere she goes. Your help makes this possible. Thank you for everything that you do, every tool and talent that you bring to Habitat's work, as we all work together to make this a world where everyone has a decent place to live.

Read more about Lusiati, meet other Habitat homeowners and celebrate all that we have accomplished. Visit [habitat.org](https://www.habitat.org) to see our multimedia annual report today!



In June 2018, the Aid & International Development Forum bestowed its 2018 Asia Innovator of the Year Award upon Rajan Samuel of Habitat for Humanity India.

Samuel received the honor during the AIDF Asia Summit in Bangkok, Thailand; the award celebrates individuals and teams who have demonstrated leadership, vision and creative approaches to helping drive Asia's

engager

“Neighborhoods flourish when the people who live and work in them have a say in shaping them,” says George Hobor, a program officer with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. “That’s the idea behind Habitat for Humanity’s new Quality of Life Framework, and it’s a critical step in making sure everyone — no matter who they are or where they live — has the opportunity to live the healthiest life possible. Strengthening community engagement and resident action is a fresh approach to neighborhood revitalization, and we’re eager to learn what the impact will be.”

The effort will span five years. The new tool recognizes that community connectedness, cooperation and collective action are the foundation to any neighborhood’s revitalization. Residents and community partners will identify and spearhead changes that they view as essential to revitalization for their specific neighborhood, whether that’s improved housing, increased safety, additional educational opportunities or amenities such as new parks.

The neighborhoods testing the new tool are located in: Charlottesville, Virginia; Dacono, Colorado; Lafayette, Louisiana; Los Angeles; Moncks Corner, South Carolina; Muncie, Indiana; Philadelphia; Pittsfield, Massachusetts; Pittsburgh; and Tucson, Arizona.

“We are excited about the varying contexts these neighborhoods represent and the subsequent learnings that will come out of these next five years,” Hix says. “There is so much potential. I know great things are on the horizon.”

UNITED STATES

Stepping stones to sustainable change



Habitat for Humanity is embarking on a new effort to identify how best to improve the quality of life and health of residents in neighborhoods poised for revitalization.

This effort will be driven by residents in 10 communities, with the goal of learning revitalization strategies that can work in neighborhoods nationwide. “We are looking for the stepping stones that will create systemic and sustainable change in neighborhoods,” says Rebecca Hix, Habitat for Humanity International’s director of neighborhood revitalization.

A \$2.5 million grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is the catalyst for the effort, which will test a new tool, called the Quality of Life Framework, designed by residents, community partners and Habitat. Lowe’s, Wells Fargo and General Motors also are financially supporting the effort.

PARAGUAY

From hopelessness to empowerment

progress toward fulfilling the U.N.'s Sustainable Development Goals.

The forum recognized Habitat India for bringing together partners from government, the private sector and civil society to create and advocate for decent and affordable housing, access to clean water, and better hygiene and sanitation processes.



Isabel wanted something better for her 6-year-old daughter, Alexandra. Something better than sharing an overcrowded rental that overflowed with sewage during heavy rains.

“She always told me, ‘Mommy, I want our own house,’” Isabel says.

The two now have a home of their own. During Habitat Paraguay’s recent Women Build event, volunteers from the city of Limpio joined up with a visiting Global Village volunteer team whose members hailed from across the United States to help Isabel build a home for her daughter. “I did not expect so much,” Isabel says.

She also talks about the day when a feeling of empowerment replaced one of hopelessness. She was living in the rental with relatives, and her daughter already had encouraged her to apply to Habitat. “I was crying because the sewage got into our room,” Isabel says. “But that day, the sky opened for us because I received a call from Habitat to tell me that my application was approved.”

ment

INDIA

A renewed sense of hope

Krishna Devi’s family was among the first to be resettled after the Delhi government in 2006 demolished the slum where they had been living to make way for a new power plant. They continued to struggle for many years.

The family first relocated to a tent made of plastic sheets. Then their home was upgraded to walls of thatched bamboo, but it lacked a proper drainage system. The roof leaked and water seeped in, ruining the family’s household items during the heavy rains. The government constructed community toilets, but they often were out of order. The family defecated in the open for safety and hygiene reasons.

Krishna Devi worked in construction as a day laborer with her husband, which allowed them to send their four children to school. Her husband died in 2015, another blow to the family.

But today, the family has a renewed sense of hope. After partnering with Habitat India, they live in a safe, watertight house with a kitchen and a toilet. It is “a beautiful house where my family can live together,” Krishna Devi says.

The house is often filled with the joyous sounds of her grandchild. It also provides her daughter Pooja a place to tutor schoolchildren and help support the family. The family has adopted a stray Labrador named Jimmy.

“My children are happy leading a much better life,” Krishna Devi says.



KENYA

Expanding access to affordable financing



Janet is a farmer in Bomet, in western Kenya. She grows cabbages, potatoes and beans to sell in town, and her husband works as a handyman. The couple and their six children live in a new brick home with three bedrooms, a living room and separate kitchen and toilet.

“Everything about this house makes me happy,” Janet says. “I have enjoyed every single day. I have much more confidence, and people have started to treat me respectfully. It makes me happy to see the children thrive.”

Janet’s happiness is the result of the Nyumba Smart Loan, a financial product developed by Kenya Women Microfinance Bank with advice from Habitat’s Terwilliger Center for Innovation in Shelter. The Terwilliger Center is an initiative within Habitat to catalyze the private sector’s responses to the need for affordable housing. The center works to expand services and finance packages to low-income families so that they can improve their shelter.

Janet’s family had been living in a small wooden house with barely enough space for everyone to sleep. The weather in Bomet is often cold, and wind would seep through the thin, wooden walls, which were insulated with only newspapers and flimsy cardboard. “The cold air that ran through the room always made me fear that a flu would turn into a serious illness like pneumonia,” Janet says.

When Janet and her husband applied for and received their small loan, they were then able to build their new home over time. Like Janet, most of the world’s people acquire shelter incrementally, building homes step by step as their families grow and as their limited finances allow.

Once Janet and her husband fully pay off their loan, they will take out additional loans for improvements. “We get a lot of visitors,” Janet says, “and they all want to know how we managed to create such a nice home.”

Since 1982, Habitat Kenya has worked alongside more than 20,000 families in 250 communities to help them achieve decent and affordable homes.



MYANMAR

A new home and new skills

Her family's new bamboo Habitat house on the outskirts of Bago City has given Myint Myint Sein peace of mind.

There is room for everyone, so her children no longer have to sleep at a relative's house. And the family no longer has to worry about the constant repairs that had to be made when their old house flooded.

As an added bonus, Myint Myint Sein's older son also learned new construction skills while helping to build their home, skills that have allowed him to land a job and help support the family.

Everyone in the family pitched in on the new house. Myint Myint Sein's mother-in-law, Daw Yee, helped prepare bamboo nails for the workers and volunteers. "We were happy to contribute to building our home," Myint Myint Sein says.

They also were happy to move from where they had been living. The roof in the old house leaked, and water damaged the floor and walls during heavy rains. A new latrine is a vast improvement over the old one, which had no roof or door.

"This is a strong house that can withstand winds," Daw Yee says. The 74-year-old now has space to meditate and walk around without having to worry about unsteady flooring. "My health is better now," she says, "and the floor is comfortable to sit on."

Their new home has another draw, Daw Yee says. "People now like to stop and admire our house."



"This is a strong house that can withstand winds. My health is better now, and the floor is comfortable to sit on."

HABITAT HOMEOWNER
DAW YEE



Habitat's involvement in Myanmar began after Cyclone Nargis struck the country in May 2008. Since then, Habitat Myanmar and partner World Concern have built and repaired more than 1,700 core houses in the country's delta region and have begun water and sanitation projects, including constructing flood-resistant homes and latrines and distributing ceramic water filters in 15 villages.

connection



130

Number of communities across the United States where AmeriCorps members are serving with Habitat during the 2018-2019 service year.

In that time, Habitat AmeriCorps members will contribute more than 600,000 hours of service building or improving homes alongside homeowners and volunteers.



12.2M

73,511

Families affected by the floods and landslides in Kerala, India, who received humanitarian aid kits thanks to the efforts of Habitat India and their partners. Habitat India also has launched a tools bank to help families with cleanup and long-term reconstruction and plans transitional shelters, house repairs and new houses.



Total square footage of Habitat ReStore space in the U.S. That's more than 280 acres of retail operations supporting Habitat locally in 899 locations.

330 million

Households in cities around the world who do not have access to affordable and secure housing, according to the World Resources Institute. Without action, the problem will become even more critical, as this housing gap is projected to grow 30 percent by 2025.



118,229

Hours volunteered by RV Care-A-Vanners as they traveled the U.S. by recreational vehicle to build with Habitat locally in fiscal year 2017. Nearly half of these hours were put in by volunteers supporting Habitat in locations affected by disaster.



Help us give Habitat a lift this Giving Tuesday!

There is no better feeling than knowing that you've given a family a hand up – that all-important lift – that will help them achieve more stability.

Helping a family build a decent and affordable house can make all the difference in the world.

That's why we partner with Habitat for Humanity and why we're asking you to join us this Giving Tuesday.

– HABITAT HUMANITARIANS **DREW AND JONATHAN SCOTT**



Visit [habitat.org/scottbrothers](https://www.habitat.org/scottbrothers) and remember to check out Habitat this Nov. 27.



“That *feeling*
of warmth
and home”

THE GENEROSITY OF QUILTMAKERS
ENSURES THAT HABITAT HOMEOWNERS
KNOW THEY ARE SEEN, SUSTAINED AND
WRAPPED IN LOVE.



One quilt, set aside for a young boy, is covered in the colorful bandanas and playful poses of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. Another, for a mother, is adorned with watercolor, paisley and floral fabrics in every tone of purple imaginable.

Each work of art is neatly tied with ribbon with a corresponding name tag — one for each resident of the 33 new Habitat homes going up in Lacey, Washington, a suburb of Olympia.

For months, the Quiltmakers of Olympia

have poured their time and their hearts into the patient piecing together of fabric into intricate blocks, sewing the blocks into plush quilt tops, and combining the tops with middle and bottom layers, all to create these beautiful quilts, each a housewarming gift for their newest neighbors.

The quilters are leaning into their existing talents to support Habitat’s mission by donating their skill, their scraps and their spare time to spread a little more love and a little more comfort to the families around them. They do it because they know that the



Shanna Paxton Photography

“You don’t necessarily have to swing a hammer to help Habitat families.”

Shawna Dutton, South Puget Sound Habitat

work — of strengthening families, revitalizing neighborhoods and building community — doesn’t end when construction does.

“You don’t necessarily have to swing a hammer to help Habitat families,” says Shawna Dutton, marketing and development manager of South Puget Sound Habitat. “You can show somebody support in so many different ways, using whatever talents you have, wherever you are, to help”

Anita Blair, an Olympia guild member, says the quilters’ work is like a Habitat home build. It comes together best in community with a group of people contributing materials, time or know-how. “It’s truly an investment of time and love,” she says. “So making a quilt for someone tells them that we’re behind them. That we all want them to be happy, to be supported, to be secure.”

The generosity of quilters to ensure that Habitat families know they are seen, sustained





and wrapped in love occurs across the country.

In Santa Rosa, California, Habitat Sonoma County, responding to a growing interest from the community, started the Welcome Home Quilters for some of its volunteers. The group, which meets monthly, creates a quilt for every child in every Habitat

home and a larger quilt for each family. Once a year, they also create what they have termed an “Opportunity Quilt.” It is raffled off, and ticket sales fund their quilts for the rest of the year, creating a self-sustaining model.

In Saginaw, Michigan, Jane Werner and Linda Grindahl saw the potential for turning their hobby into a tool for changing lives.



*Caleb's quilt,
with all its love
and all of its
stories, had
come full circle.*

The two tapped into the interest and skill of their entire town to throw a community quilt show. Now in its 17th year, the show — which brings in donated quilts from Michigan, Ohio, Illinois and other states — has raised more than \$175,000 for Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat.

In Greenville, South Carolina, the women of the Nimble Thimbles Quilting Guild have spent thousands of hours over the past decade quilting more than 275 works of art for Habitat families, including several Quilts of Valor, an honor reserved for veterans of the U.S. armed forces.

Collectively, recipients of the quilts feel the impacts of these gifts, figuratively and literally. “When you talk about quilts creating that feeling of warmth and home, that is something that these artists give to every one of our family members,” says Jennifer Faner, director of homeowner and community engagement at Habitat Greenville County.



It's a feeling that continues across years and generations. In 1995, Trisha and her three children moved into their new Habitat house in northern Michigan. At the house dedication, a small group of women presented the family with handmade gifts — four quilts, one for everyone. “When they were opening up the quilts, my son Caleb latched onto one. He said, ‘That one's mine,’” Trisha says.

Ever since, wherever Caleb has gone, that quilt has gone, too. Caleb served in the U.S. Marine Corps for eight years. “He actually asked me to ship it to him in Iraq while he was stationed there,” Trisha says.

When Trisha told that story, Wendy Davis, executive director of Habitat Grand





Traverse Region, teared up. Soon after, Davis received a picture from Caleb of him with his cherished quilt. And just like Caleb with his quilt, Davis carries that photo with her everywhere.

Over the years, the colorful squares faded from sunlight and seams unraveled. With Caleb's blessing, Davis took the quilt back to the original quilters at the Presbyterian Church of Traverse City, a small group of talented women who still are making quilts for new Habitat homeowners today.

As the mending began, the women realized that Caleb's was the very first quilt that they had sewn as a group. Back in their hands, the quilt, with all its love and all of its stories, had come full circle.

And the tradition continues. At her house dedication in March 2018, new homeowner Shan of Chattanooga, Tennessee, felt acceptance as she was enveloped in her own quilt from the Chattanooga Modern Quilt Guild.

Although she had put in hundreds of hours of sweat equity into the construction of

her home and her neighbors' homes around her, it wasn't until that labor of love made by a dozen caring hands was placed in her own that Shan finally felt like she was home.

"I've never experienced so much joy and excitement from something that to others might seem so simple," Shan says. "But to me at that very moment, that quilt meant the world."

"To me at that very moment, that quilt meant the world."

Shan, Habitat Greater Chattanooga Area homeowner



Your checkbook is just one of many **tools for year-end giving.**



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- If you have a **donor advised fund**, you can contact your advisor, or, donate online at myhabitatlegacy.org/gifts-from-donor-advised-funds.

Call us at (800) 422-4828, ext. 3614, to explore year-end giving opportunities that can expand your impact.





home is the keysm

Everyone deserves a safe, affordable place to call home. Yet for many families that kind of strong foundation remains out of reach.

Far too many families pay rent beyond their means or live in crowded, inadequate spaces. Home becomes a place to escape from, rather than escape to.

Earlier this year, Habitat for Humanity's annual Home is the Key campaign once again brought partners and supporters together to help call attention to the critical need for affordable housing across the United States and to activate consumers to join the cause.

This year's campaign was bolstered by the involvement of our newest Habitat Humanitarians, Drew and Jonathan Scott. The campaign's center point occurred in Nashville, Tennessee, with two progressive side-by-side home builds throughout April. Volunteers from each of our partner companies worked alongside Habitat Greater Nashville and two future homeowners, celebrating the house dedication at month's end.

April was a month of sweat equity and joy, filled with support for and commitment to a world where everyone has a decent place to live. And next April will be more of the same! Learn more about this annual effort at [habitat.org/homeisthekey](https://www.habitat.org/homeisthekey).





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Doors *that lead to ...*

The door of a Habitat for Humanity house opens up a world of possibility.

The possibility of financial independence. Of a stable present. Of a more successful tomorrow.

Three Habitat families share what their doors have opened up for them.





Confidence

Trakeysha is all smiles as she opens the front door of her Habitat house in Memphis.

Building her house and becoming a homeowner is an investment, Trakeysha says, an investment that she has made in herself.

“This is a major accomplishment for me, and it has given me so much confidence,” Trakeysha says. “When I get up in the morning, my mind is ready for whatever is on the other side of that door.”

Immediately outside the door is a yard that Trakeysha loves to toil in, planting flowers and trimming bushes. “I have fallen in love with cutting my grass,” she says, beaming.

Across the street are Trakeysha’s neighbors, now close friends, who built their Habitat homes when she did. “Every day, we check up on each other,” she says.

Across town are Trakeysha’s clients, mostly widows with dementia whom she cares for. “I love my work,” she says. “It is a ministry within itself. And some day, I may need someone to take care of me. I do believe in the reaping and the sowing.”

Trakeysha’s home sits on Peaceful Alley. “The street name fits me,” she says. “When you come into my home, it is a

place of peace. It is my sanctuary.”

Before becoming a homeowner, Trakeysha lived in an apartment that took nearly half her paycheck. Now, she has an affordable mortgage.

And a lot more responsibility, she says. “Being a homeowner, it all falls on you. But it is teaching me how and when to spend my money, how to take care of myself and plan for my future.”

There’s one more thing it has taught her, she says. “It has given me a whole new appreciation for the word ‘grateful.’”



Opportunity

Ponijah has lived her entire life in the house that her father built in their Indonesian village.

Although she has fond memories of growing up and raising her own family there, the house fell into a state of disrepair over the decades. A 2006 earthquake caused even more damage and made life hard.

When she partnered with Habitat Indonesia in 2016, Ponijah was sleeping on a dirt floor. Termites were eating her bamboo walls. She had

to put buckets out during rainstorms because the roof leaked. And she did not have a toilet.

Today, Ponijah lives in a pretty, white Habitat house made of concrete-block walls, a watertight roof of metal sheets and a tile floor. She has access to water and an attached toilet.

Sturdy, wooden doors keep her safe and warm. They also open onto a home that gives Ponijah a way to support herself. For more than 60 years, she has made and sold tempeh, a protein-rich soybean product wrapped in banana



leaves that originated in Indonesia. In her old house, her homemade tempeh often got ruined by insects and rain.

That isn't a problem in her new house, which is big enough to store the tempeh that she sells to locals as she walks through her village. "The floor of my house is dry and clean," she says, "so it's safe to keep the newly wrapped tempeh."

Ponijah says her new house will make old age easier. "I am very happy," she says.



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A new reality

"I can't find the right words to describe how we feel living in this house."

**MAXIMINO,
EVERGREEN
HABITAT
HOMEOWNER**

The doors in Maximino and Catalina's Habitat home represent something life-changing for the people who live there.

For Lizeth, each door is wide enough to accommodate her wheelchair. That means safeguarding the dignity and mobility of the 12-year-old, who no longer has to be carried from one room to another as she did where the family lived before.

The doors to the home's bedrooms mean she and her siblings finally have a place of their own to sleep and discover who they are.

The day that Maximino and Catalina received the key to their front door was the day they felt that they could care for their family the way they wanted to. "I can't find the right words to describe how we feel living in this house," Maximino says.

That is, in part, because he and his wife never thought they would be able to afford a house after Catalina had to stop working to care for Lizeth, who was born with cerebral palsy.

Adjusting to a single income has been difficult, especially after Lizeth's medical bills ballooned. "After that, I had to forget about the idea of buying a house," Maximino says. "I thought it was impossible."

Becoming a homeowner in Vancouver, Washington, where Maximino and his family

live, is increasingly difficult. The city has few available rentals and the ones that do exist are expensive. In the past five years, Vancouver rents have soared even as incomes have made only modest gains.

Maximino and Catalina could barely afford the rent on a two-bedroom duplex, a place that couldn't fully accommodate the family. Lizeth needs her own room for her wheelchair and medical equipment. Maximino and Catalina shared a second bedroom with their youngest daughter, 4-year-old Liliana, while their son, 14-year-old Cesar, slept in the living room.

Lizeth's occupational therapist mentioned Evergreen Habitat's homeownership program to Catalina. After looking into their work, Maximino attended an orientation that very weekend. When he and Catalina found out the next month that they had been accepted, the couple was floored. "I wasn't expecting that letter," Maximino says.

In addition to the wider doors, wider hallways and a bathroom with a lower sink, toilet and grab bars make it easier for Catalina to properly care for Lizeth. No longer a makeshift bedroom, the living room is now a place for more family activities, like reading aloud together.

When he considers his family's new reality, Maximino is still in awe at the haven their home offers now — as well as the doors to growth that it will open for each of them in the future.

"We love this house," he says.



“I never had people be so nice to me. You couldn’t meet people any better.”

Helping people stay in their homes as they age

Regardless of age, everyone deserves a decent place to live. That’s why Habitat for Humanity’s work includes an Aging in Place initiative designed to help people like Walter live safely in their homes as they age.

We are grateful for the partnership and support of these sponsors who make this important work of home repairs and modifications possible.

AARP Foundation®

The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation

William Randolph Hearst Foundation

Lowe’s Corporation, Inc.



If you want to learn more about how you can support this important work, email aip@habitat.org.

A community takes shape

With each smile shared and ladder held, each morning prayer circle formed and beam lifted in unison, the 2018 Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project in St. Joseph County, Indiana, cultivated community.

The volunteers who came from as close as a mile away and as far as London, England, found common ground in the task at hand – helping future Habitat homeowners achieve the strength, stability and independence they need to build a better future for themselves and their families.

During the project's 35 years, President and Mrs. Carter have mobilized some 103,000

volunteers to help build, renovate or repair 4,331 homes in 14 countries around the world – continually growing this community of giving across languages and time zones.

In Indiana, it was both the small moments of shared meals and shared jokes, and the big triumphs of raised walls and torn down barriers, that saw this community blossom among volunteers, homeowners and staff.

Here is a look at some of these moments.

Talk show host and longtime Habitat supporter David Letterman credits his volunteerism to the example set by President and Mrs. Carter. Since his involvement with Habitat following Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Letterman has sponsored and helped build 24 Habitat homes.



Volunteers and future Habitat homeowners worked side by side on 23 homes in this Mishawaka, Indiana, neighborhood. During the week, Habitat St. Joseph County announced that the community will continue to expand with the recent acquisition of an adjacent seven acres of land.



Each morning, future Habitat homeowners lined up before dawn, pom-poms in hand and high-fives at the ready, to enthusiastically greet the day and welcome volunteers to the work site.



Future Habitat homeowner Nusrat and University of Notre Dame senior Emma Erwin exchange hugs at the Carter Work Project. Nusrat offered to cook for Erwin and other members of Notre Dame's Habitat campus chapter, which raised the money and helped build the home she will share with her 10-year-old son, Nishorgo.



Last year, President and Mrs. Carter and Habitat volunteers helped Todd build a home for his family in Winnipeg, Canada. This year, Todd made a 1,000-mile journey to help future homeowner Valencia build her house. “I told her how amazing my experience has been,” Todd says, “and that hopefully, she will be able to build houses for someone else one day.”



Habitat Humanitarian and former first lady Rosalynn Carter chats with 3-year-old Ky about his new home. Ericka, Ky's mom and future Habitat homeowner, says she will “work as hard as I can to show the volunteers how much we appreciate and deserve this opportunity.”



Volunteers unfurl rolls of sod on the final day of the weeklong Carter Work Project. With the neighborhood soon to become home to 45 children, the grass will get plenty of wear from playdates, ball games and tag.



Future homeowner Athena celebrates drilling in the numbers of her new address. “All of these volunteers could be going about their normal day but they are here, taking time to help us,” Athena says. “I know this is in their hearts.”





Our work continues

Habitat Collier County homeowner Magdala and her 3-year-old son Zachary have a new start in Immokalee, Florida. Hurricane Irma took much of Magdala’s roof along with it as the storm swept through. Her apartment was officially red-tagged by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, signifying that it was unsafe to live in. But with nowhere else to go, Magdala remained.

Every day, with her mop and bucket in hand, she went to battle against the rain that streamed through the ceiling, waiting for her landlord to make the necessary repairs. As weeks turned into months, as the walls yellowed and mold sprouted from the constant water damage, she realized nothing was going to change. So she reached out to Habitat to bring that change herself. She completed her required sweat equity hours in record time, and she and Zachary moved into their new home in summer 2018.

Habitat continues to work with families like Magdala’s to rebuild and strengthen housing in communities affected by the historically devastating hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria. By July 2018, we had delivered more than 15,700 recovery services and construction activities in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico. With the generous support of donors and volunteers, we’ve made notable progress working with homeowners, other nonprofits and the public sector to help communities recover in each of the affected regions.

“Now everything is different,” Magdala says. “I feel better now. I feel safer. And I just feel happy — so happy.”

You can learn more about this work by visiting [habitat.org/hurricanes](https://www.habitat.org/hurricanes).



Our corporate partner **NISSAN** North America has given Habitat a generous gift to establish our 2018 Nissan Challenge.

Habitat challenges you and other loyal supporters to give what you can today at habitat.org/challenge.

*Your gift, along with Nissan's, helps Habitat **double our impact** by helping families in your community and around the world, who are looking to build a foundation for a stronger future, starting with decent, affordable housing.*