



Chemung County
Habitat
for Humanity®

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

All volunteers are required to view this orientation. At the end of this presentation, you will be asked to verify that you completed the requirement.

Thank you for volunteering!



You are Part of a Larger Effort

Each year, across all Habitat for Humanity organizations, we...

- Mobilize millions of people to join the cause of affordable shelter.
- Help more than half a million people around the world improve their shelter situation.



Orientation Outline

Part 1: Brief History of Habitat for Humanity

- Learn about Habitat for Humanity International and Chemung County Habitat for Humanity

Part 2: Why We Do What We Do

- Learn about our Partner Families and how volunteering impacts their lives

Part 3: Volunteer Opportunities and Safety



Part 1: A Brief History

- Habitat for Humanity is a worldwide, nonprofit, non-proselytizing, ecumenical Christian organization.
- Started in 1976 by Millard and Linda Fuller.
- Influenced by Koinonia Farm and its concept of partnership housing.
- Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter got involved in 1984.
- International headquarters in Americus, Georgia.
- Administrative headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia.



Habitat for Humanity's Mission

mission



Seeking to put God's love into action...

...Habitat for Humanity brings people together...

...to build homes, communities and hope.

vision

A world where everyone has a decent place to live.

principles

- 1. Demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ.**
- 2. Focus on shelter.**
- 3. Advocate for affordable housing.**
- 4. Promote dignity and hope.**
- 5. Support sustainable and transformational development.**

At Work in Chemung County...

- Chemung County Habitat for Humanity began in 1989.
- Provides homes to families in need.
- Organize Volunteer Events:
 - Woman Build
 - Building on Faith
- Coordinate hundreds of local volunteers at our build sites every year.



Part 2: Why We Do What We Do

Chemung County's poverty rate is 16.5% as compared to 14.5% for New York State. The majority of Chemung County's housing stock was built prior to the 1970's with home values well below NYS averages.

A lack of safe, affordable housing options and aging housing infrastructure can be seen as both a cause and an effect of poverty in Chemung County.

These statistics indicate that the need for safe and affordable housing in our communities will only continue to grow in the future.



Our Partner Families...

Partner Families are selected based upon the following three criteria:

- **Need** – The family has a need for safe and affordable housing.
- **Ability to pay** – They have the ability acquire a down payment and pay an affordable mortgage.
- **Willingness to partner with us** – The family is willing to perform at least 250 hours of Sweat Equity and attend an approved homebuyer education class.

Every family is a partner. We do our best to ensure that they get a safe, decent, affordable home and keep it. We help them find affordable mortgages through a lender of their choosing. Families must show a need for housing and a history of responsible credit and debt management. A Habitat house is NOT a FREE house. Many people think that Habitat gives away "free houses." This is far from the truth! While our houses are very affordable, they are not free.



How You Can Help

- Habitat relies heavily on volunteers to aid the staff of Chemung County Habitat for Humanity in achieving its goal of providing safe, affordable housing to families in the Chemung County area.
- Donations are a vital part of our organization. Chemung County Habitat for Humanity accepts contributions of all types, including monetary donations, tools and building supplies.
Click here to donate:

<https://chemungcountyhabitat.org/donate>



Part 3: Volunteering

Community groups, individuals, and corporate groups are welcome to participate.

Benefits of Volunteering

- You learn new skills.
- You meet new people.
- You feel good about your accomplishments.
- You grow from putting feet to your faith.



A Typical Day at Our Build Sites

- Volunteer work days are Weekdays and Saturdays by appointment.
- Work hours are between 8:30 am and 2:30 pm
- Work tasks are chosen or assigned based on the volunteer's skill level.
- Attire is old work clothes.
- Age requirements:
 - 18 and older – all tasks permitted.
 - 16 to 17 – construction work, no power tools.
 - 14 to 15 – painting/landscaping when no active construction is happening at site.



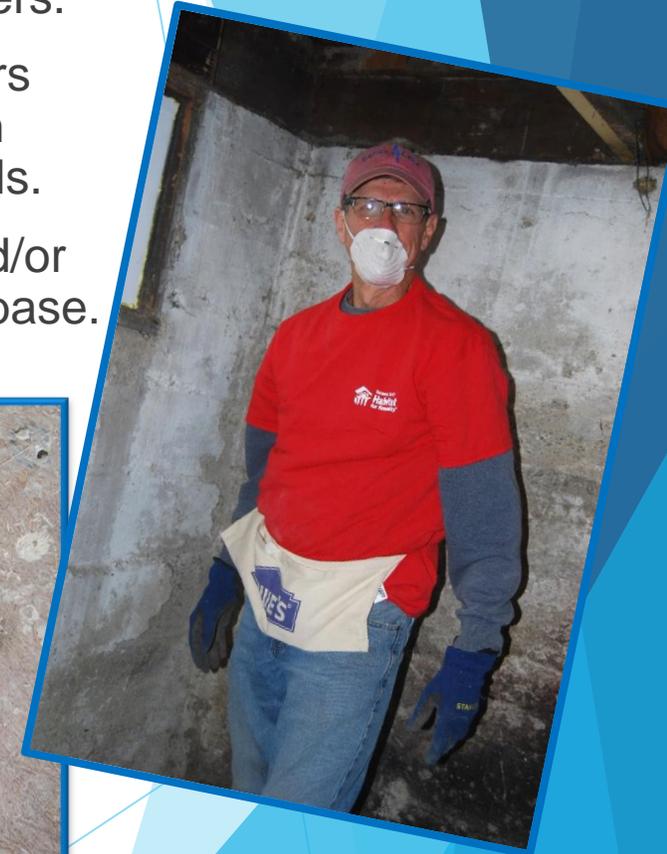
Build Site Volunteer Jobs

- General cleaning and clearing of trash and debris
- Landscaping
- Painting
- Installing insulation, drywall, and household fixtures
- Carpentry work: walls, cabinets, doors, framing
- Flooring
- Electrical, plumbing and HVAC



Basic Build Site Safety...

- Wear old clothes that can get dirty, and long pants when working with trash or landscaping.
- Wear gloves when working with trash, cleaning chemicals, or sharp tools/materials.
- Wear goggles when working with power tools.
- Wear a mask when working with dust, mold, or trash.
- **Do Not** wear open toe shoes.
- **Do Not** place tools/power cables in walkways or in front of stairs where others could trip.
- If you're not sure how to use a tool...**ask**. We'll be happy to teach you how to properly use tools.
- **Do Not** leave tools on top of ladders.
- Wear hard hats when you or others are working above head level with heavy/dangerous materials or tools.
- Make sure ladders are secure and/or have another person holding the base.

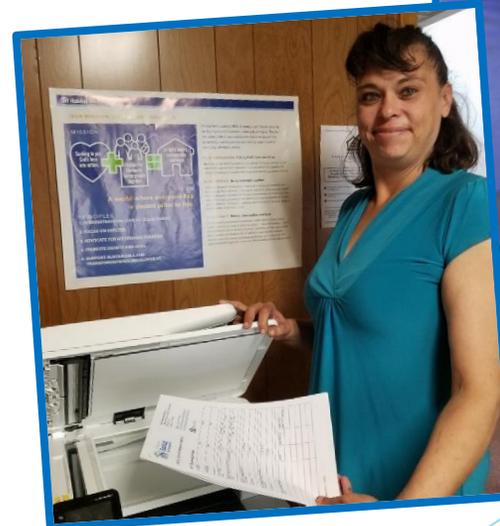


Volunteering at Our Office

- The Habitat office is the administrative hub of the organization.
- Located at: 219 E. 14th St
Elmira Heights, NY 14903
- By appointment
- Attire is business casual.
- Email: info@chemungcountyhabitat.org

Administrative Volunteer Jobs

- Answer phones
- Clean/organize office areas
- Prepare materials for meetings or events
- Data entry
- Bulk mailings
- Perform other general office support activities (copying, cutting, etc.)
- Coordinate or sign-in volunteers
- Assist with fundraising



Expectations for Volunteers

- Habitat for Humanity International adheres to a Volunteer Code of Conduct.
- The code helps all volunteers understand the rewards and responsibilities of volunteering.
- The volunteer code emphasizes these areas:
 - 1) Promoting a respectful community
 - 2) Prioritizing site safety
 - 3) Upholding a zero-tolerance policy for alcohol, drugs and weapons
 - 4) Model behavior that respects the human rights of all people and protects beneficiaries and children from exploitation and abuse
 - 5) Following the gift giving policy
 - 6) Safeguarding Habitat for Humanity assets
 - 7) Maintaining confidentiality



Your Commitment

Habitat welcomes volunteers who can make a one-time or regular commitment.

Many of the weekday volunteers work one or two days a week, and many regular Saturday volunteers work two or three Saturdays a month.

Other volunteers, particularly students, work intensively for blocks of time.

Construction volunteers should plan to work the entire day or at least two to three hours at a time.

Cancellations do happen, but it is important that they be minimized. Keep in mind that once you are scheduled to volunteer, our construction staff plans accordingly. If you need to cancel, inform us as soon as possible.

Let's Get Started!

- Join hundreds of other Habitat volunteers who build homes, communities and hope!
- One more step: Verify completion of this orientation on the next page.



Thank you for choosing to volunteer with Habitat for Humanity!

To verify completion of this orientation, click here:
<https://form.jotform.com/92393689276172>



“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.”

~Elizabeth Andrew