

Frequently Asked Questions

Women Build challenges women from all walks of life to build—and to advocate for—decent, affordable houses in their own communities and throughout the world.

QUESTION: What is the Women Build program?

ANSWER: Women Build is a Habitat for Humanity International program that encourages women to make a difference by building homes and communities. The program seeks to encourage women volunteers to further the home-building mission of Habitat for Humanity. Since Women Build's official creation in 1998, Women Build volunteers have constructed more than 1,600 homes around the world. In 2009, volunteers helped build an additional 252 Women Build houses.

QUESTION: How can I get involved with the Women Build program?

ANSWER: There are a number of Habitat affiliates that construct Women Build houses on a regular basis. Many of these events are listed in Habitat's special events database. Go to www.habitat.org/wb/. Select "Find Women Build Event" in the left menu to locate the build closest to you.

Many women are already involved with Habitat, even though they may never enter a construction site. Habitat affiliates cannot fulfill their mission to build and renovate simple, decent houses without the support and assistance of women from their local communities.

If you do not find a Women Build project near you, [contact your local affiliate](#). It may be that the affiliate has done a Women Build project in the past and/or is planning one in the near future. You might be able to help them prepare for the next Women Build house. Other women will be interested as well and you could get started by coordinating a "Women Build Workday" to gain construction skills while working on a Habitat house as a build-up to constructing an entire Women Build house.

If you want to start a Women Build project, begin by contacting Habitat for Humanity International's Women Build program at womenbuild@habitat.org so we can help you with training, promotional and organizational materials.

QUESTION: What is the Women Build training program?

ANSWER: The Women Build training program teaches women volunteers, and the women in partner families, how to construct decent, affordable housing with Habitat affiliates worldwide. Lowe's, underwriter of the Women Build program, is also expanding much-needed training opportunities for



women by offering “how-to” clinics at local Lowe’s stores. Through these free clinics, Habitat’s women volunteers and partner homeowners gain hands-on experience in basic construction techniques, enabling them to become more effective in their volunteer efforts with Women Build projects.

Training is available in most areas. To learn more about Lowe’s Habitat for Humanity Women Build clinics in your area, please contact Habitat for Humanity International’s Women Build program to receive a complete clinic information packet and application.

Habitat for Humanity International’s Women Build program also arranges special leadership training sessions each year led by Women Build department staff. Several sessions are held each year in conjunction with different affiliates. For more information, e-mail wbttraining@habitat.org.

QUESTION: Are men excluded from Women Build projects?

ANSWER: Absolutely not. Women Build isn’t about excluding anyone. It is about including women and opening new doors of opportunity. Men are often involved in our training programs and build projects in supportive roles, and also as subcontractors when needed.

QUESTION: What is National Women Build Week?

ANSWER: National Women Build Week is Habitat’s signature Women Build event in the United States. Held each year during the week leading up to Mother’s Day, the weeklong event challenges women to devote at least one day to helping eliminate poverty housing. National Women Build Week began in 2007 and was developed through the partnership between Habitat and Lowe’s, the underwriter of the Women Build program. Each year, thousands of volunteers participate at more than 200 Habitat worksites, helping build houses and raise awareness for our mission.

QUESTION: Is Women Build an international movement?

ANSWER: Yes it is. While the majority of Habitat’s Women Builds take place in the United States, dozens of Women Builds have taken place in other countries. Most are locally

developed and executed. However, there are opportunities to travel and participate in some of these events outside your own country—Women Build Global Village trips are regularly led to different destinations. Check the “Special Interest Builds” link at www.habitat.org/gv/special_interest_builds.aspx for upcoming Women Build Global Village trips.

Habitat for Humanity also strives to connect donors and supporters with women-led projects in many countries through a program called Project-Based Funding. The program enables local Women Build groups to send extra tithe funding that will support international projects helping women, children and the disadvantaged living in poverty housing. For more information on Women Build’s international work and how you can get involved, contact womenbuild@habitat.org.

QUESTION: Does Women Build offer any activities for girls too young to volunteer on site?

ANSWER: Yes. There are many ways for girls to get involved in Habitat’s mission. Check out www.habitat.org/youthprograms for ideas.

Women Build also offers a teaching kit specifically for pre-teen girls. “Girls Build” is a complete, ready-to-use curriculum for educators and youth leaders of girls, ages 10 to 12. The mission of Girls Build is to partner with youth organizations to educate preteen girls about Habitat for Humanity, homeownership and community needs. For more info, contact girlsbuild@habitat.org.

QUESTION: Does Habitat promote feminist issues?

ANSWER: Decent, affordable housing is not a feminist issue. It is a quality of life and basic human dignity issue facing families everywhere. The Women Build program of Habitat for Humanity International has one mission, and that is to empower women to take action against poverty housing conditions. Women Build brings together women from all walks of life to address in a concrete way the housing crisis facing millions of women and children across the globe. The more people we can train to become effective volunteers, the better equipped we will be to fight poverty housing—and we are training women to do just that.



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Lowe’s is the underwriter of the Women Build program.

