



## **Adopt-a-Day Challenge!**



P.O. Box 632 Kentville, N.S. B4N 3X7  
[www.habitatav.com](http://www.habitatav.com)  
[habitat.av@gmail.com](mailto:habitat.av@gmail.com)



## Invitation

Imagine your employees working together to build a home for a family in need, Imagine that while you are having this incredible experience, your employees are also deepening their team building skills and respect for the company they work for.

By Adopting a Day with Habitat for Humanity Nova Scotia Annapolis Valley Project, you get all the benefits of employee team building while giving back to the community. The employees and the company will experience the following benefits:

- 🔨 Helping a local family in need who would not otherwise achieve homeownership
- 🔨 Gain deep insights about productive teaming
- 🔨 Increase goodwill and visibility for the company while providing participants with new sources of inspiration, empowerment and self worth
- 🔨 Enhancing team skills, such as communication, collaboration, project management, creative thinking, accountability, goal setting, cross functional teaming and information sharing
- 🔨 Challenging participants at a deeper level, both mentally and physically
- 🔨 Providing an experience that is highly relevant and meaningful to all participants
- 🔨 Giving back to the community



Maple Avenue, Wolfville- Habitat for Humanity Nova Scotia Annapolis Valley Project

## The Need For Affordable Housing

Poverty levels are increasing in the Annapolis Valley, and the dream of homeownership is not becoming a reality for many low-income families. High-end housing is booming, leaving many unable to move into their first simple, decent home. The following are staggering statistics on housing in Canada;

- 🔨 1.7 Million Canadian families live without adequate or affordable housing
- 🔨 1 in 6 Canadian children live in poverty
- 🔨 Around the globe, over 1 million people are living in the streets or in poverty housing
- 🔨 Over 100,000 Canadians are homeless and rely on shelters
- 🔨 Over half a million Canadians pay more than half of their household income on shelter
- 🔨 Just under 5 million Canadians have incomes below the Low-Income cut off

Habitat for Humanity Nova Scotia Annapolis Valley Project will empower some of these families each year by partnering with them to become owners of a Habitat home. Habitat's unique approach to homebuilding relies on community volunteers, donations, involvement of the partner family and an interest free mortgage.

Surveying the loss of our trusses from wind storm, December 13, 2010



## Who We Are

Habitat for Humanity Nova Scotia Annapolis Valley Project is a community based not for profit organization working a world where everyone has a safe and decent place to live. Our mission is to mobilize volunteers and community partners in building affordable housing and promoting homeownership as a means to breaking the cycle of poverty. Habitat for Humanity is a worldwide network which spans 100 countries, built 1800 homes in Canada alone, in 200 communities. Habitat for Humanity dedicates a new home every 10 minutes! Currently, there are 350,000 homes build by Habitat for Humanity in the world!

Since the establishment of the Habitat for Humanity HRM affiliate in 1992 over 28 Habitat homes have been built in the Halifax Regional Municipality. These homes provide housing for over 130 men, women and children. There have also been 2 Habitat homes built on the South Shore. In 2009, Habitat for Humanity established a project in the Annapolis Valley. This project is currently building two homes for local Valley families, thanks to the generous donation of land by the Town of Wolfville—but we need your help to complete



## Whom We Serve

Habitat addresses a segment of the population who are not well served by either the subsidized or private housing markets; the working low-income family. Habitat helps those below the poverty line to become home owners, rather than be dependent on social assistance for housing. A Habitat house gives partner families the opportunity to build equity, rather than continue to spend a disproportional amount of income on substandard rental housing.

- 🔨 Habitat's approach is to offer a hand up, not a hand out;
- 🔨 Habitat for Humanity builds and sells houses at no interest or profit to families who need decent shelter who would not be able to purchase their own home.
- 🔨 Homeowners must contribute 500 hours of volunteer labour, known as "sweat equity". Into the construction of their homes and then be able to repay an interest free mortgage.
- 🔨 Homeowners mortgage payments go into a revolving fund used to build more houses with families in need of decent shelter.
- 🔨 Mortgage costs are kept low by use of volunteer labour and the generous donation of funds and building materials.

## Family Selection

Families submit applications to Habitat, which are reviewed a volunteer family Selection Committee. Their recommendations go to our volunteer Board of Directors for approval. Families are selected based on three criteria:

1. **Need for the home-** Homeowners must be in an inadequate housing situation. Home visits are conducted to establish current living conditions.
2. **Ability to pay a non-interest, no profit mortgage-**Family income must fall beneath the poverty (LICO) line, yet income must be sufficient to repay a long term, interest free mortgage.
3. **Willingness to partner-**Families must be willing to contribute 500 volunteer hours, known as sweat equity, to Habitat prior to moving into their home. These volunteer hours build pride of ownership and show a commitment to receiving a hand up, not a hand out



## How Homes are Built and Funded

Habitat builds homes with volunteer labour and as much donated or cost reduced material as possible. Corporate sponsors provide the majority of the funding required to build the home. Local fundraising efforts take place to offset expenses of materials, services and land when they are not available through donations. Financial support is received from individuals, corporations, service groups and the faith community.

Habitat houses follow standardized design criteria which maintain the "simple and decent" archetype.

## The Fund for Humanity

The homeowners' monthly mortgage payments go into a fund which is used to build more homes. The more homes that exist, the more cash flow there is available for further housing. This revolving "Fund for Humanity" fuels exponential growth in the number of houses that are built over time.

## The Adopt a Day Challenge!

Habitat for Humanity needs to help offset the high cost of building new homes. We are a not for profit organization who are reliant on groups like yours to help continue our mission. The money you contribute will go towards the cost of building materials. Habitat for Humanity Nova Scotia Annapolis Valley Project will provide your group with an experience which is rewarding and you will leave with the sense of a job well done!



## Cost of Adopt a Day

Minimum of \$100.00 per participant which can be contributed by your company, or the team can assist in raising funds.





## Some ideas how your team can raise money to participate;

- 🔨 Each individual member can use our pledge sheet, available upon request, to obtain sponsors.
- 🔨 Many companies will match funds for every dollar you raise (or for every hour you do community service work). Be sure to talk to your company's Human Resources Department to learn how this may help.
- 🔨 If you are a Faith group, consider including the congregation in your fundraising efforts by holding bake sales following a service or suggest a collection on behalf of Habitat for Humanity Nova Scotia Annapolis Valley Project.

## What you receive from Habitat

- 🔨 A day at the office that you will not soon forget
- 🔨 A chance to help a local family in need
- 🔨 An invitation to the dedication ceremony where you will witness the family receive the keys to their first home (bring tissues!)
- 🔨 Your team and company name listed as our Adopt a Day supporters on our web site and post build thank you ad which runs annually in the local media



## Adopt a Day Procedures

- 🔨 Please contact Habitat for Humanity Nova Scotia Annapolis Valley Project for possible dates and activities for your group by emailing [habitat.av@gmail.com](mailto:habitat.av@gmail.com)
- 🔨 Have a team leader recruit up to 10 people per day to be on your team. These can be friends, co-workers, relatives, or people from your community or faith group. Volunteers must be at least 16 years old. If your group exceeds 10 people you can book another day.
- 🔨 Each team captain is responsible for gathering individual donations from their team members and confirming the full amount with Habitat for Humanity Nova Scotia Annapolis Valley Project at least 10 days prior to your build day. Your team captain should contact us to arrange a time to bring your donations complete with pledge forms. To ensure accuracy in processing we cannot accept pledges at build site.
- 🔨 The team captain is responsible for having each team member fill out and sign the Waiver form and for ensuring each participant has completed the on-line safety training. The safety confirmation and waivers should be brought to the build site.
- 🔨 Please be on time! We begin our day at 9 A.M and build until 3 P.M. We provide everything you will need for the day including the hard hats, steel toed boots, gloves and nail belts. All you need to bring is a good attitude
- 🔨 Please advice HFH AV if you plan to have any form of media attend your build day.



Together we build communities

## Excerpt from a letter from The Condran Family: 2007 Home recipients

"When I look back to where all 6 of us were living, being overcrowded, living in mold, no ventilation, leaking windows that prevented me from keeping them warm, children living in an unfinished basement with no natural light, just the cold basement floors and plumbing pipes running through the "make shift rooms". This kind of living has an impact on a family greater than anyone not living the experience could ever know. My children never had friends over, some missed a lot of time from school because they never felt well. My daughter complained of breathing problems, and sleeping problems. It's hard living that way, you have a sense of shame. Our new home has changed my children tremendously, they all have lots of friends over to their home, and they smile and feel proud. I honestly didn't even know they had so many friends. Our new home has made a big impact on their emotional wellbeing...something you can't put a price tag on...my daughter sleeps better, and breathes better, she rarely complains of these problems anymore. They are happy, more smiles, way less fighting...more positive interaction and family stuff. We are warmer, and our home provides adequate space for us to live at an affordable price. My children overall have grown in emotion and spirit since we moved; they do better in school...perhaps because they rest better and breathe better.

Personally speaking, it has impacted me as well, in so many wonderful ways. The relief in my heart is great when I see my children happy and comfortable, I too sleep better and breathe better. Emotionally, it's lifted my spirits to be able to belong to a wonderful community where I feel a sense of belonging, to be there for my neighbors and to work nearby in my community. I take pride in putting my hard work into my home and showing all the wonderful people that help us get here, how grateful we are! I finally have a place to call home for my growing children, somewhere they can someday bring my grandchildren. It gives me security and peace to finally feel I have roots. It's hard to put into words how huge an impact, there are so many everyday situations and positive feelings that stem from what Habitat, businesses and many volunteers have helped my family achieve.

We now can also have our extended families over for Christmas, and holidays...something I've never had room to do...this is now possible because great companies, and many individuals gave from their heart to support it. I think of them everyday, and extend my home to them to visit anytime. The fellowship, humanity and connection of so many people and places coming together to support a family to have affordable, decent living space, has provided a wonderful, character building attitude, for my 4 children who were a part of and watched it all happen. We talk about it a lot, how amazing a feeling it is, to see people/businesses extending their knowledge and hard work, selflessly to lift up others... Wow! Next to love, the feeling of connection to other fellow people working as family and friends is totally incredible these days."

