



Background on the Organization

The Beginning

Habitat for Humanity International officially began in 1976. Its founders, Millard and Linda Fuller, had earlier built some houses for families in rural southwest Georgia, as well as spending three years in Zaire doing the same.

Upon their return to the United States, the Fullers gathered a group of people together to discuss the idea of forming an organization to build houses for those in need throughout the United States, and in developing countries. Their mission was to put the tragedy of poverty housing and homelessness in the hearts and minds of people everywhere. And their goal was to eliminate poverty housing worldwide.

The Habitat Organization

Since that small beginning, the Habitat organization has built more than 150,000 houses in more than 92 countries, and provided more than 750,000 people in over 3,000 communities with safe, decent, affordable shelter.

The work of Habitat is accomplished at the local level by affiliates – independent, locally run, nonprofit organizations. Each affiliate coordinates all aspects of home building in its local area which includes fundraising, site selection, family selection and support, construction, and mortgage servicing. There are more than 2,200 active affiliates worldwide, including all 50 of the United States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

The headquarters for Habitat for Humanity International is located in Americus, Georgia. From that location, information, training, and a variety of other support services are provided to Habitat affiliates worldwide. Habitat affiliates also receive assistance from regional and area offices. To help fund Habitat work in other nations, each affiliate is asked to “tithe,” or give 10% of their contributions to International. However, 100% of local contributions that are designated for specific projects, stay at the local level.

Our Local Affiliate

Founded in 1991 by a handful of local residents, Habitat for Humanity Inland Valley covers an area bounded on the north by Perris and Lake Elsinore, and the San Diego County Line on the south.

Over the past 14 years, volunteers have built or rehabilitated six houses – two in Temecula, one in Lake Elsinore, and three in Perris. Another five houses are planned for Old Town Temecula at the northwest corner of First and Pujol. Construction of the houses, on a street called Habitat Way, will take place in 2005. *(See other side)*

Office Location: 41615 Winchester Road, Suite 214, Temecula, CA
Mailing Address: 27475 Ynez Road, PMB 390, Temecula, CA 92591
909-296-3362, 909-296-3363 (Fax), www.habitat4inlandvalley.org
“We give families a hand-up, not a handout.”

Our Local Affiliate (Continued)

Our local affiliate has two paid employees, a full-time Executive Director and a part-time Bookkeeper. All other functions are performed by volunteers. The Board of Directors has grown to 16 and represents a wide variety of experience and talent. Add to that a myriad of helping hands from the community and things get done. Volunteers assist with everything from administration, marketing, fundraising, and public relations - to construction planning, coordination, and building.

How the Program Works

Through volunteer labor and donations of money and materials, simple, affordable houses are built or rehabilitated. These houses are sold to selected “partner” families at no profit with no-interest loans. This keeps the monthly mortgage payments affordable. In turn, Habitat pays the taxes and insurance out of the mortgage payments and uses the balance towards building still more houses. The more houses an affiliate has, the greater the revenue stream and ability to build still more houses.

The Role of Government

A frequently asked question about Habitat centers on government involvement. Habitat for Humanity is not a government agency and does not accept government funds for construction of houses. Habitat does, however, welcome partnerships with governments to “set the stage” for the construction of houses. This might include things such as donations of property, houses for rehabilitation, infrastructure for streets, utilities, administrative expenses, etc.

How You Can Help

Habitat for Humanity Inland Valley is a California Nonprofit 501(c)3 organization. Our Federal Tax ID is: 33-0461 804. Donations of money and materials are welcome as are volunteer labor and expertise. We gladly acknowledge all donations, including those that are in-kind.

Volunteers are always needed and welcome, not just during a build but year-round in a variety of organizational activities. Currently, volunteers serve on a number of committees, or “Teams,” as they are called locally. To find out more about our Administration, Family Selection & Support, Construction, Public Relations, Fundraising, and Finance Teams, call the number below or log on to our web site at www.habitat4inlandvalley.org.

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