



Family Selection

Our Organization

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry that seeks to eliminate substandard housing. It partners with selected low-income families to build or renovate adequate, affordable housing. Habitat houses are sold to the selected families at no profit with no-interest loans.

How Families Get Selected

Three basic guidelines are used to select Habitat partner families:

1. *Need for adequate shelter.* Families are considered for Habitat houses if their present housing is not adequate, and if adequate housing cannot be obtained through other conventional means. Lack of adequate housing might include overcrowded conditions because of family size. Taken into consideration are the number, ages, and gender of children, compared to the number of bedrooms in the family's current home.

Another factor that determines need is the percentage of monthly income that is currently spent on housing.

Also considered are problems with the present housing such as structure, water, electrical or sewage service systems, heating system, or failure to meet city property maintenance standards.

2. *Ability to pay.* Since partner families actually buy houses from Habitat, they must demonstrate their ability to pay monthly mortgage payments. Credit history is taken into consideration, and the total family income must fall within a low-income range that is determined using HUD guidelines. Families are also required to make a \$1,000 down payment on the house.
3. *Willingness to partner.* When selected, families become "partners" in the Habitat movement. Each family is required to complete 500 hours of volunteer work on their own or other Habitat houses. These volunteer hours are called "sweat equity" and must be completed before the family moves into their new home.

Partner families must also be willing to participate in various Habitat training programs such as household budgeting and home maintenance. Habitat maintains an ongoing relationship with its homeowners, many of whom act as mentors to new partners.

The Process for Selecting Families

Once Habitat makes a commitment to build or rehabilitate a house, the Family Selection Team goes to work. Months before the first nail is pounded, publicity about the house and a search for a family begins. The team selects a date and location for a public information meeting. Flyers advertising the meeting are distributed throughout the community and press releases are submitted to local newspapers and radio stations.

(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."

At the public information meeting, families hear how the program works and start the application process. Because of the number of families interested, program applicants are required to attend the initial meeting, and all subsequent meetings that follow.

The entire screening process can take as long as six months and involves filling out applications that require complete information on credit and finances; employment history; plus letters of recommendation from employers, landlords, and others. Home visits are also conducted by members of the Family Selection Team.

When selecting partner families, Habitat for Humanity does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, age, handicap, religion, national origin, family status or marital status, or because all or part of income is derived from any public assistance program.

Not Enough Houses

There are many people in the community in need of a helping hand. This makes the decision of selecting families difficult, as there are always more applicants than available houses. For Habitat volunteers, the joy of seeing hard-working families realize the dream of home ownership is balanced by the first-hand knowledge of the many others still in need.

The good news is that, as each affiliate grows, its ability to help others also grows. This is because some of the revenue generated by the mortgage payments of Habitat homeowners can be used towards building still more houses.

How You Can Help

Donations of money and materials are always welcome as are volunteer labor and expertise. We gladly acknowledge all donations, including those that are in-kind.

Volunteers are needed and welcome, not just during a build but year-round in a variety of organizational activities. Currently, volunteers serve on a number of teams. To find out more about our Administration, Family Selection & Support, Construction, Public Relations, and Fundraising Teams, call 296-3362, or log on to our web site at www.habitat4inlandvalley.org.

Habitat for Humanity Inland Valley is a California Nonprofit 501(c)3 organization. Our Federal Tax ID is: 33-0461 804.

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