



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q. What type of volunteer opportunity is available?**

A. New Construction Builds. We build new, simple, affordable homes from the ground up in St. Joseph. NRI (Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative) is designed to transform neighborhoods, join together residents, churches, businesses, local government and communities to create a shared vision of revitalization. ReStore, our new and used home improvement warehouse. Stocking, assisting customers, organizing and cleaning items. Tuesday-Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm.

### **Q. When can I volunteer? How long do I need to volunteer?**

A. You can volunteer whenever we have a project. You can work one hour or stay all day. Your group may choose to work in shifts, just have them sign out when they leave.

<b>Volunteer Opportunity</b>	<b>Days</b>	<b>Times</b>
New Construction, NRI	Tuesday - Saturday	8:30 AM to 3:30 PM
ReStore	Tuesday-Saturday	10:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Lunch Provider	Tuesday- Saturday	11:30 AM
Office work/Clerical	Monday thru Friday	8AM to 4 PM

### **Q. How old do I have to be to volunteer?**

A. It is the policy of Habitat for Humanity that children under the **age of 16** are not allowed to volunteer or be present on the worksite while there is any construction in progress. Minors **16 and 17 years of age** are allowed to participate in general construction, however activity such as: the use of power tools, excavation, demolition, or working at heights above 12 feet is not permitted. It is further the policy of Habitat for Humanity that every five minors must be accompanied by a responsible adult of **21 years of age** or more. All volunteers under the age of 18 must have the individual waiver **signed** by a parent. If you are under the age of 16 and would like to participate please contact the volunteer coordinator for information on where you can volunteer.

**Under no circumstances should children under the age of 15 be permitted on the worksite.**

**Q. I know which dates I want to volunteer but should I schedule my dates now?**

A. Yes. Schedule your dates before planning a build as we may have the allotted volunteers for that day. Have an alternate date in case your first choice is full.

**Q. How do I volunteer?**

A. Please call the volunteer coordinator at 816.279.2552. Please have all the information of approximate number of volunteers, contact person and their phone number, an alternate contact person and their phone number and who is providing lunch.

**Q. Do I need experience?**

A. No. Volunteers with all levels of experience are invited to volunteer with us. If you have construction experience, please let our Construction staff know when you arrive on site.

**Q. Does St. Joseph Habitat for Humanity provide food?**

A. If you are a group we would like for you to try to have your own lunch providers. Some people in your group or organization that may not like or cannot do construction work but would still like to help could be the lunch providers for that day. When you are a lunch provider for your group we would like to include staff and regular volunteers that will be working that day (usually 5 or 6 additional).

**Q. Should I bring food or water?**

A. We provide ice water on site and if you are not with a group or organization that is providing lunch that day, you need to provide your own.

**Q. May I work even though I have some physical limitations? What if I have allergies/asthma?**

A. Yes. There are a number of tasks that do not involve strenuous labor. Please advise the Habitat staff you are working with of your limitations. You should take into account the humidity, heat and abundance of plant life as we build our homes outdoors.

**Q. Where do I report to in the morning?**

A. You will receive an email or phone call at least one week prior to your work date(s) asking you to confirm your date(s) and your total volunteer number. Once you confirm, you will receive a worksite meeting place.

**Q. What goes on at the worksite?**

A. Homes are at all stages of the construction process. We build houses from the floor up. Tasks on the construction site fluctuate depending on need, weather, etc. You will be assigned to a task that morning and if you are at all uncomfortable, please let the Construction Manager know this and he will reassign you.

**Q. Does St. Joseph Habitat for Humanity provide transportation?**

A. No. It is the responsibility of the volunteer to arrange their own travel.

**Q. Should I bring my own tools?**

A. It is not necessary to bring any tools; if you wish to bring your own tools you are welcome to but you are responsible for them. Items that are especially useful are a tool belt, hammer, measuring tape, pencil, razor knife, etc. Please clearly label all tools and again Habitat is not responsible for and lost or stolen tools.

**Q. What do I wear?**

A. Footwear needs to be sturdy and closed-toe and closed-heel. Boots or sneakers are both considered appropriate footwear. You will not be allowed on the site if you are wearing open-toed shoes. Please prepare for the weather by checking the forecast before you arrive at the work site. If it is sunny, please bring a hat, sunscreen, and sunglasses. If it is raining, please bring a jacket, raincoat, and/or rain boots.

**Q. What if the weather is bad?**

A. Work will continue on-site unless determined otherwise by the staff. It is very rare that a work day is cancelled. If there is any question about cancelling the work day please call the Construction Supervisor. You will receive that phone number when you schedule your day.

**Q. Do I have to go to an orientation/training?**

A. No. You will receive a short orientation of 15 minutes once you arrive at the work site, which includes a safety lecture.

**Q. Is there any paperwork?**

A. Yes. All volunteers will need to sign a waiver. If there is anyone under 18 a signed **minor waiver from their parent or guardian is needed**. In compliance with Habitat for Humanity's guidelines, anyone under 18 without a signed waiver from their parent or guardian will be asked to leave the work site. When you arrive at the worksite there will be a sign in sheet for volunteers, please remember to sign out when you leave. We keep track of your hours.

**Q. What if I need to cancel my work dates?**

A. Call as soon as you know that you cannot work so that we can schedule others to take your place.