

### **What is the typical size of a Habitat Group?**

A Habitat Construction Group usually consists of 5 to 15 individuals from the same church, civic group, or business organization who volunteer at Habitat. We limit our group size to 15 because we have so many groups who volunteer with us, and we want to make sure we include as many groups as possible.

### **How can a new crew get started?**

1. Fill out and return (by mail, fax, or email) the Group Volunteer Application Form below.
2. Once we receive your application, we will contact you with one or two possible dates within the time frame you listed. You will need to respond within one week to confirm that date. *Please note that there is often a waitlist for groups that do not donate.*
3. As the workday approaches, you will receive information about your workday, including the address of the site and a description of the tasks that will be performed.
4. On your assigned day, please arrive by 7:45 to sign in. The day will begin at 8am with a group orientation, and it is very important that you be there, as that is when we explain and assign tasks.

### **What is a day like on the site?**

A representative from Habitat will gather everyone at the beginning of the workday. He or she will begin with introductions, safety instructions, an outline of the work to be done and an opening prayer. The folks present will then be divided up into smaller groups to work on specific jobs. Each group will have a leader on site to explain the task and provide supervision of the task.

### **Is there an age limitation?**

No one under the age of 16 will be permitted on a building site while work is being done. No one under the age of 18 will be allowed to use any power equipment, work on a ladder, the roof, or participate in any hazardous activity. Volunteers under the age of 18 must have a parent or guardian sign the Waiver and Release of Liability.

### **What about youth or school groups?**

In order to ensure proper supervision for a safe and effective work site, there must be a 1 adult to 4 youth ratio. In addition, an adult must be designated as the leader or co-leader of the group. Tasks appropriate to groups of 16 & 17 year olds are landscaping and painting.

### **Who is responsible if someone gets hurt while working at Habitat?**

Each Habitat volunteer must sign a *Release of Liability* form and bring it to the job site on their first volunteer date. We keep that form on file, so it only has to be filled out once a year. Your and your group's personal health insurance plan should cover the individual while engaged in volunteer work; however, each volunteer should verify that he or she has this type of coverage prior to signing the Release form.

### **What about working with the future owner of the home?**

The relationship you build with your partner family is just as important as the house you construct. Make sure that the homeowner is an integral part of the building process. There may also be a crew of future homeowners who are trying to earn hours so they can begin working on their own home, and we encourage groups to get to know these people as well.



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF BROWARD, INC.
GROUP VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please Print)

Name of Group: \_\_\_\_\_

- High School and undergraduate groups please list adult advisor

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

VOLUNTEER PREFERENCES

Approximate group size: \_\_\_\_\_

(please note that we usually limit group sizes to 15, except for HabiTeam groups)

What is your preference for volunteer workdays?

\_\_\_ Weekday

\_\_\_ Saturday

How many members of your group are under 18? \_\_\_\_\_

Has your group volunteered with us before? \_\_\_\_\_

When would your group like to come out and volunteer?

\_\_\_ January - March

\_\_\_ Specific Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ April - June

\_\_\_ July - September

\_\_\_ October - December

At times we have workday opportunities open up at the last minute; please indicate if your group may be available on short notice: \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

HabiTeam Program

Groups that make a small donation through our HabiTeam program receive first priority in volunteer projects and dates and also have the opportunity to bring more members. Please indicate if your group is interested in learning more: \_\_\_ Yes, we would like more information. \_\_\_ No, we are not interested.

CONSTRUCTION EXPERIENCE

Please describe any specific construction skills people in your group may have, for instance, roofing, landscaping, or painting. We welcome volunteer groups of all skill levels.

PLEASE MAIL OR FAX COMPLETED FORM TO:

Christi Rice, Development Associate

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