

A Foundation of Faith



Habitat for Humanity's mission statement

Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.

Our why: Seeking to put God's love into action

- Since our beginning in 1976, Habitat has been built on a foundation of faith and Christian principles. Our mission is to build safe, affordable housing with people in the United States and around the world, which comes from a desire to put God's love into action.
- God's love is the foundation of everything that we do at Habitat – we are called to love all our neighbors. God's love calls us to put our faith in action, and Habitat is a vehicle in which others can put their faith into action.
- Many people feel called to the work of Habitat for Humanity as a response of faith. Habitat provides concrete ways for people of all faiths to love and serve their neighbors.

Our how: Habitat for Humanity brings people together

- Faith communities play an integral role in the health and vitality of communities and are natural allies in Habitat's mission.
- Common across different world religions are the values of justice, the golden rule, etc. Habitat is a place where people can come together for the common good.
- Habitat has an open-door policy: All who desire to be a part of this work are welcome, regardless of religious preference or background. We build with all people regardless of race, ethnicity, national origin, tribe, religion, gender, age, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and disability.

Our what: To build homes, communities and hope

- Habitat is a partnership founded on common ground— bridging theological differences by putting love into action. Everyone can use a hammer as an instrument to manifest God's love and serve their neighbor. Habitat's founder, Millard Fuller, called this concept "the theology of the hammer." "We may disagree on all sorts of other things," said Fuller, "but we can agree on the idea of building homes with God's people in need." Habitat for Humanity welcomes all people to build with us in partnership. "God's love leaves nobody out, and my love should not either. This understanding drives 'the theology of the hammer' around the world, steadily building more and more houses in more and more countries."

Theology of the Hammer Quotes

- "Simply stated, the "theology of the hammer" is the understanding that our faith mandates that we do more than just talk about faith and sing about love. We must put faith and love into action to make them real, to make them come alive for people. Faith must be incarnated; that is to say, it must become more than a verbal proclamation or an intellectual assent. True faith must be acted out." – Millard Fuller, co-founder of Habitat for Humanity International
- "This theology is also about bringing a wide diversity of people, churches, and other organizations together to build houses and establish viable and dynamic communities. It is acknowledging that differences of opinion exist on numerous subjects – political, philosophical, and theological – but that we can find common ground in using a hammer as an instrument to manifest God's love." – Millard Fuller, co-founder of Habitat for Humanity International
- "Serving others is a shared value between different traditions and communities, providing common ground for them to meet on. By doing service with people from diverse religious backgrounds, we build uniquely strong bonds with one another. Furthermore, when diverse people gather to do service, the nature of the services is often strengthened because a range of perspectives can help solve problems." – Eboo Patel, CEO and founder of Interfaith America
- "We don't have to reach theological agreement on every major issue to be able to come out and serve people in need. We've found that there's a unity and a breaking down of barriers when we bring people from different faith backgrounds and from all different parts of our society to come out and work together. That process of coming out and building together is remarkable. You put up walls and at the same time you take down walls, and it's a fascinating thing to see." - Jonathan Reckford, CEO of Habitat for Humanity International