

## **Individual Volunteer Programs**

Welcome to Habitat for Humanity-MidOhio's Volunteer Orientation: Individual Volunteer Programs! When most people think of Habitat, they think of our construction opportunities. Throughout this video, we're going to share the plethora of different volunteer opportunities we offer, both in the construction field and not, as well as how to get signed up.

Keep in mind, the following are individual volunteer opportunities. Stay tuned until the end of the video for resources on group volunteer opportunities.

### ***New Builds and Home Repairs***

We have on-site volunteer opportunities most Tuesdays through Saturdays from 8:30am to 3:30pm. We are looking for individuals and groups of six to ten (six for interior work, ten for exterior work). Our repair shifts typically need smaller groups and individuals, since they often occur in a smaller work space. Common repair projects include window replacement, bathroom accessibility modifications, and porch/handrail repair. You must be 16 years or older to volunteer on site—minors must be accompanied by an adult 21 years or older at a five to one ratio. 16 and 17-year olds do have some additional restrictions on site: no power tool usage and no heights above 6 feet. No experience is required to volunteer on our build sites or repairs! On-site leadership, tools, and materials are provided. Volunteers help with all phases of construction, excluding foundation, roofing, drywall, and licensed trades such as electrical, plumbing, and HVAC. Common volunteer activities include: framing, siding, painting, and installing interior finishes, such as doors and trim.

At Habitat MidOhio, we have a variety of volunteer groups that work on site on a regular basis and bring many years of experience to their work at Habitat. If you're interested in volunteering on a Habitat construction site on a regular basis, please check out our regular crews page on our website to find a group that might work best for you! The link for which can be found in the description beneath the video.

### ***Special Interests Builds/Groups***

We also wanted to highlight two special interest groups with Habitat MidOhio: Women Build and Habitat Young Professionals. Here's a little bit more information on both.

Our Women Build program aims to create an inclusive environment for all volunteers, particularly for women or other gender minorities who have historically not been included in the construction field. One home is built with our Women Build program annually. We typically need individuals and groups of 6-10 most Tuesdays through Saturdays from 8:30am to 3:30pm during that project. As mentioned before, no previous experience is required! To learn more about Women Build, visit our website, the link for which can be found in the description below the video.

Our Habitat Young Professionals, or HYP, group is comprised of individuals aged 21-40 with the commitment to bring positive change to the community, build connections, develop leadership skills, and provide opportunities for growth. The intention of HYP is to engage more young professionals in Habitat's mission, a demographic that is often missing in the Habitat volunteer pool. HYP offers monthly evening crew shifts, as well as social, fundraising, and professional development events to all members. HYP also has board members who meet monthly, providing leadership to the group and planning events.

To learn more about HYP, visit our website, the link to which can be found in the description below the video.

### ***ReStore Opportunities***

Next up, we have our ReStore opportunities. As a volunteer in one of our three ReStores, you would assist our staff in the daily operations of the store. Typical tasks include unloading and accepting donations, organizing new product on the store floor, reorganizing and cleaning specific store sections, and helping customers load their purchases. We can take individual volunteers or groups of up to ten. The minimum age to volunteer in the ReStore is 16.

As mentioned in a previous video, we also use volunteers for deconstruction projects. Deconstructions typically consist of uninstalling and salvaging cabinets, bathroom vanities, lighting, windows, and much more. Deconstruction projects are scheduled sporadically as needs arise, and typically, they have a shorter project turnaround lasting one day to multiple days depending on the project size and the number of items we are salvaging. We look for both individuals and groups of volunteers—the group size depends on the scope of the project. We also have opportunities for Deconstruction project leads. The minimum age to volunteer on one of our Deconstruction projects is 18.

And, of course, anyone can donate or shop at our ReStores!

### ***Playhouse Project***

One of our newer programs is The Playhouse Project. Our program started locally in 2019 and is a unique opportunity that allows Habitat MidOhio to partner with sponsors to build a playhouse for a local family who otherwise couldn't afford one—providing children with a creative place to play and imagine what home means to them. Funds raised go toward building new houses right here in central Ohio. Since the Playhouse Project is a fundraiser for Habitat MidOhio, building and designing a playhouse for a local family does require financial sponsorship. However, in order to make each Playhouse build a success, there's a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes. The following volunteer opportunities are for general volunteers and do not require a sponsorship.

Kit Creation: The first thing we need to do is create all the Playhouse pieces out of lumber in our warehouse. The minimum age for Kit Creation is 18 and basic construction knowledge and comfort with power tools is preferred, as the entirety of the shift involves cutting lumber with power tools. This is one of our only volunteer opportunities where we require prior knowledge because of the nature of the work. This is a great opportunity for those looking to improve their woodworking skills!

Kit Priming: After Kit Creation comes Kit Priming. The minimum age for a Priming shift is 12, as the entirety of the shift is painting the kit pieces that were created in the Kit Creation process. All of the pieces get a coat of primer to be ready for a build day! We can take individual volunteers or groups of up to 10 for this opportunity.

Playhouse Captains: Often times, we need some extra hands when it comes to leading sponsor groups through the process of building and decorating a playhouse—that's where Playhouse Captains come in! Captains must be at least 18 and possess excellent people skills, in addition to some basic

construction knowledge. We especially need Playhouse Captains for our annual Blitz build every spring, and typically offer several training sessions leading up to that event.

Special Event Help: Finally, our Playhouse Project program has some annual special events, like our Playhouse Blitz. We can use extra hands for packing up supplies, set up, tear down, registration, etc. during these events.

To learn more about the Playhouse Project and volunteer opportunities, visit our website, which is linked in the description below.

### ***Other Ways to Get Involved***

Did the previous volunteer opportunities not pique your interest? No worries! There are many other volunteer opportunities with Habitat MidOhio outside of the construction field. Here are just a few...

Our volunteer photographers help us capture special moments at Habitat. They take photos at Wall Raisings and Home Dedications, as well as progress shots at our construction sites and other special events.

Our Habitat Ambassadors help share Habitat's mission with a wider audience. They attend tabling events and speaking engagements to represent Habitat, often times for volunteer recruitment. We provide training and resources prior to attending outreach events. Check out the Habitat Ambassadors page on our website to learn more.

Our Homeowner Selection Committee is a group of volunteers who conduct home visits with potential Habitat partner families, help introduce them to Habitat's programs, and recommend applicants for approval to Habitat's Board of Directors. They meet monthly to review and assign new home visits.

We also have volunteers that help with special events. Some of these include...

For our annual 24 Hours of Hockey fundraising event, local hockey players participate in a 24-hour-long game of hockey to fundraise for Habitat's Veterans programs. There are a variety of ways to volunteer for this event, like being on the ice or simply keeping score!

Sometimes, our ReStores will host special events, such as our annual flower sale or donation drives. Stay on the lookout for event announcements on our social media, website, and volunteer website!

We also have long-term volunteers who fill specialized roles in our finance, volunteer services, and homeowner services departments for office support.

For more information on any of these programs, check out our website, or contact [volunteers@habitatmidohio.org](mailto:volunteers@habitatmidohio.org).

### ***Court/School Hours***

If you are looking to complete community service hours with Habitat MidOhio for court or school, there are a couple things to keep in mind. Court-ordered hours must be completed at one of our ReStores. School hours should generally be completed at one of our ReStores, but there are exceptions

if you have received other permission. The first step is to fill out a request form at the provided link—you will not be able to sign up for shifts on our volunteer website until you have been approved in our system.

Now that you've learned about all the different ways to get involved with Habitat MidOhio, let's talk about how to get started.

### ***How to Get Started***

The first step is to visit our volunteer website at [volunteer.habitatmidohio.org](http://volunteer.habitatmidohio.org). There, you can create an account, check out available shifts, and register for those that work for you! All volunteers must fill out a waiver before their first shift, which can be found at the provided link. Waivers must be filled out once every calendar year.

Keep in mind, some specialized volunteer positions require a background check.

As we know that the amount of volunteer information here can be overwhelming, we have some recommended steps to finding the volunteer role for you! These steps can be found on our website, the link for which can be found in the description below. There, you can check out our programs, website, our volunteer manuals for both individuals and groups, and various volunteer policies and procedures.

To keep up-to-date with the latest volunteer opportunities, sign up for our weekly email, the link for which can be found in the link below.

### ***Questions?***

Thank you for watching Habitat MidOhio's Volunteer Orientation video series and for your interest in volunteering with our organization! We hope you learned something new, and we look forward to having you volunteer soon.

If you were interested in learning more about group opportunities, check out our Team Volunteer Manual. Once you have read that over, you can either contact [volunteers@habitatmidohio.org](mailto:volunteers@habitatmidohio.org) with the opportunity you are interested in or fill out a Group Inquiry form. The link to both the Team Volunteer Manual and the Group Inquiry form can be found in the description below this video.

Still have more questions? Please email them to [volunteers@habitatmidohio.org](mailto:volunteers@habitatmidohio.org), and a Volunteer Services team member will follow up.