

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **What is Habitat for Humanity and its Bryan/College Station affiliate?**

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit housing organization working in local communities across all 50 states and in more than 70 countries around the world. Habitat's vision is of a world where everyone has a decent place to live. Habitat works toward this vision by building and improving homes in partnership with individuals and families in need of a decent and affordable place to live.

## **How does B/CS Habitat's homeownership program work?**

Families and individuals in need of decent, affordable housing apply for homeownership during two application periods during the year.

Qualifications are based on three criteria:

1. The applicant's level of need.
2. Their willingness to partner with Habitat.
  - a. As part of their willingness to partner, Habitat's homebuyers invest hundreds of hours of their own labor, called sweat equity, working alongside volunteers and other Habitat homeowners.
3. Their ability to repay a mortgage through an affordable payment plan.

Habitat for Humanity follows a nondiscriminatory policy of family selection. Neither race, sex nor religion is a factor in choosing Habitat's homeowners.

## **How many Habitat subdivisions are in Bryan/College Station?**

Miracle Place – 16 home  
Sharon's Court – 47 home  
Faith Subdivision - 24 homes  
Angel's Gate – 110 homes  
Hope Subdivision – 84 homes (Groundbreaking in 2022)

## **How big are Habitat homes?**

- 3 bedroom, 2 bath, ~ 1100 sq. ft.
- 4 bedroom, 2 bath, ~ 1200 sq. ft.
- 5 bedroom, 2 bath, ~1400 sq. ft.

## **How is the size of the home determined (i.e. 3, 4 or 5 bedrooms)?**

The size of the home is determined by the number of people in the family, age of children and gender of children.

## **Who founded Habitat for Humanity?**

While President and Mrs. Carter are Habitat's most famous volunteers and have worked tirelessly since 1984 to help families build houses and to raise awareness of the need for affordable housing, Habitat was founded by Millard and Linda Fuller in 1976.

### **Do I have to have construction skills to volunteer?**

You do not have to have any construction skills or experience to volunteer! Our construction team will teach you everything you need to know. We have qualified supervisors there to guide you.

### **What volunteer opportunities do you offer?**

Volunteer opportunities are posted on our website week by week for individual spots.

Construction – Habitat uses volunteer labor for most jobs on the construction site: framing, siding, painting, caulking, flooring, landscaping, and fencing.

ReStore – Help with moving and stocking inventory, interacting with customers, cleaning, small build projects, and tons of other things. The Habitat Restore sells donated furniture, appliances, building supplies, and home décor. All the profits go to help us build more homes, and divert items that might have gone to the landfill back into the homes of folks in B/CS.

Homebuyer Selection Committee - The committee plays an important advisory and supporting role for the staff member in charge of managing the Homebuyer program and ensures that Habitat objectively and fairly selects new homebuyers. The Homebuyer Selection Committee typically meets 4 times a year to help with applications, do home visits, and decide which homeowners qualify for our program. Final approval is made by the Board of Directors only after the Selection Committee has recommended approval through a majority vote.

Lunch Provider - Help feed hungry volunteers! If you want to provide lunch to our volunteers you will provide the food, beverages, and paper products for approximately 30 volunteers on any scheduled build day. Volunteers have done everything from grilling hot dogs or burgers at the site to making lasagna, chili, or casserole, to purchasing a pizza or serving up sandwiches, chips, and fruit. It's a huge help!

### **When can I volunteer?**

Volunteers can be scheduled on the construction site Tuesday - Friday from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm and Saturday from 8:00 am – 12:00 pm. We can schedule morning time blocks between 8:00 am – 12:00 pm, afternoon blocks between 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm, or even full days!

Volunteers can be scheduled at ReStore Tuesday - Saturday between 10:15 am - 6:00 pm. Time blocks are flexible, but we ask you to commit to at least 2 hours.

### **Are Habitat houses free?**

No, Habitat homes are not free. Homeowners purchase a 30-year loan with a 0% interest from Habitat and pay a monthly mortgage to Habitat. Their mortgage payments are then filtered back into the program to assist with building more homes for future families.

### **How much does a Habitat home cost?**

A house can cost between \$100,000-\$125,000 with several factors that can cause this to fluctuate (i.e. land, labor, supply chain, etc). The initial investment to begin building a home costs \$80,000. A home can only begin building once the goal of \$80,000 has been met.

### **Does B/CS Habitat receive government funding?**

No, Habitat for Humanity does not receive any government funding.

### **How does B/CS Habitat receive funds?**

- Individual/Business/Grants/Foundations
- Homeowners Mortgage Payments
- Habitat ReStore

### **What is the process for sponsoring a home in full (\$80,000)?**

Please start by contacting our Director of Development, Carl Orozco, at [corozco@habitatbcs.org](mailto:corozco@habitatbcs.org) or (979) 255-0564 ext. 104. A meeting will be scheduled to discuss the timeline and expectations from the donor as well as B/CS Habitat in further detail.

### **Are sponsors required to volunteer on the home?**

No, this is not a requirement. We have had house sponsors in the past that will provide the cost of a home, but do not participate in the construction. However, we do encourage our donors to volunteer on the site and spend time with the family that will be receiving the home.

### **What is the B/CS Habitat ReStore?**

Habitat for Humanity ReStore is an extension of Habitat for Humanity that functions as a home improvement store and donation center that sells new and gently used furniture, home accessories, building materials and appliances to the public at a fraction of the retail price. All proceeds are used to build homes and improve communities locally and around the world.

### **What donations does the ReStore accept?**

- Household items
- Furniture
- Appliances
- TVs
- Lighting
- Building materials
- Doors and windows
- Plumbing supplies
- Hand and power tools
- Flooring

### **What donations does the ReStore not accept?**

- Mattresses
- Baby items

### **Does the ReStore offer donation pick up?**

Yes! If you have a large furniture item(s), our ReStore team can send a truck to you for pick up.

Please call (979) 704-6245 to schedule.

### **Can I volunteer at the ReStore?**

Yes, volunteers help with moving and stocking inventory, interacting with customers, cleaning, small build projects, and tons of other things. Volunteers can be scheduled at ReStore Tuesday - Saturday between 10:15 am - 6:00 pm. Time blocks are flexible, but we ask you to commit to at least 2 hours.

### **Where is the ReStore?**

Our Restore is located at:  
2211 Maloney Avenue  
Bryan, TX 77801

Hours are:  
Tuesday through Saturday – 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.