

Habitat for Humanity- Legacy Project

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Habitat for Humanity was founded in Americus, Georgia, in 1976 by Millard and Linda Fuller (Habitat for Humanity, 2020). Today Habitat for Humanity operates worldwide and has helped build and renovate and repair more than 600,000 decent, affordable houses sheltering more than three million people worldwide.

Habitat for Humanity in Danville, Illinois, was created in 1986. Danville started with remodeling homes before its first new build. HFH of Danville went on to open a restore in August 2010, which has developed into the main fundraising endeavor for HFH of Danville. Locally, Habitat Danville builds two homes annually in low-income neighborhoods. Next year, they plan to build three new homes. This location has seven full-time employees and ten regular volunteers.

Habitat for Humanity contributes to improving individuals and the community by providing clean, adequate housing, and household maintenance education. This organization is funded through monetary donations, Habitat Restore money, and Cars for Homes. The mission is seeking to put God's love into action; Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities, and hope. The vision is a world where everyone has a decent place to live. The purpose of this is the ability to sell houses to those who need safe, affordable housing at no profit with no interest charged. There are many services offered with this opportunity, such as building and educating the new homeowners on home maintenance and financing.

The applicants must be willing to partner with Habitat for Humanity and repay the mortgage with a payment plan and receive financial and home maintenance education. The individual must complete three hundred and fifty hours of sweat equity towards building a Habitat home. The recipients of these homes must pay one thousand dollars down and be able to pay four hundred

to four hundred and fifty dollars monthly. These services affect more than seven million people around the world annually.

The store manager and our main point of contact was a gentleman named Dan Duncheon. Dan started with a Bachelor of Arts in Theater from The University of Notre Dame in Indiana. He went on to own/manage two retail stores and then acted as a Contractor Sales Representative at Lowe's in Danville. Because he is a self-described "Rummage Sale Junkie," the idea of helping the Habitat Restore appealed to him. His store is open Tuesday through Saturday from ten in the morning until five in the evening. The store is located in a safe, easy to get to, and easily accessible by public bus transportation. The location is clean and friendly. The household median income is below eighty percent of the average area income. While volunteering at this location, we improved the community's quality by sorting and putting out Christmas inventory for purchase. Our group gained knowledge of many aspects that Habitat for Humanity proves for the community ensuring safe homes to families. We made a significant difference by sorting and putting out inventory to raise money to improve the community and provide safe homes on October 20, 2020. We chose this opportunity as it positively impacted the community, which gave us the privilege to give back to an organization that has welcomed us with open arms as students in their community.

Abby Sellek

Inadequate housing and poor maintenance have significant health implications. Common findings among households that negatively impact health include mold and mildew growth, pest and vermin infestations, disconnected or non-functioning utilities, unsanitary food preparation areas, unclean living areas and trash removal, poor hygiene, and overcrowding (Ali et al., 2018). Mold, mildew, and pest infestations in the home have increased respiratory illness and asthma

risk. Overcrowding, unsanitary surfaces, lack of infrastructure for proper hygiene, and improper waste removal are associated with increased gastrointestinal illness and skin infections.

Researchers found that many illnesses and injuries related to residential conditions can be prevented with housing repair and maintenance (Ali et al., 2018).

Habitat for Humanity works to provide safe housing that fosters growth and community engagement. During builds, the community often comes together to contribute and welcome the new family. Johnstone et al. (2015) determined that security and social support play a significant role in long-term well-being. Social interaction and support decreases stress and improves psychological wellness. Clean, stable housing provides individuals a safe space to gather and socialize. Safe neighborhoods also encourage community members to get outdoors and engage outside of the home. Individuals with robust support systems are more likely to obtain better jobs, continuing education, and live healthier lifestyles (Johnstone et al., 2015).

Nnaemeka Uwakwe

Swope & Hernández (2019) demonstrate the complexities of housing and its impact on local communities' health disparities. Affordable housing allows individuals with low socioeconomic status affordable housing, and grants access to neighboring hospitals and facilities to purchase medication. Many hindrances contribute to health disparities, such as cost, environmental conditions, racial and economic segregation (Swope & Hernández, 2019). Habitat for Humanity strives to create and resolve these communities' issues with poor quality living conditions, unaffordable housing, limited access to hospitals, public transportations, and stores. Habitat for Humanity is not only just providing housing for those in need but also providing a healthier world for these people because without a roof over someone's head, leading to more

diseases due to chronic stress, lack of sleep, and environmental conditions if living in shelters or on the street.

Habitat for Humanity began providing housing for low-income families and prioritizing holistic neighborhoods that created cleaner and healthier communities. Guidry et al. (2020) discuss the impact of climate change in North Carolina and how three critical components can create a healthier neighborhood for those living in low-income houses. Habitat for Humanity begins creating sustainable living conditions by reducing electric power from greenhouse gas emissions, fostering long-term energy affordability, and increasing clean energy innovation (Guidry et al., 2020). With climate change rapidly increasing, this can cause serious health issues to children growing up with dirty air, water, and potential natural disasters accelerating. These three initiative plans provide a roadmap for cleaner air, water, and indoor environments that can be sustainable and affordable for those in need.

Kayley Sollers

Habitat for Humanity offers a partnership between the community and promotes building better health for the community. During the home construction, the families must work on their home while also volunteering additional hours towards Habitat for Humanity services (Drouillard et al., 2017). While families volunteer hours towards building a better health environment, families are also actively improving health. Performing work improving the community benefits everyone involved (Drouillard et al., 2017).

An aspect of Habitat for Humanity includes empowering people by participating to build their house empowers not only that person but the community. Training goes beyond construction skills where participants have to put 300 to 650 hours in creating their own homes and teach them about homeownership and financial management. In more recent years, this

organization has gradually shifted its priorities towards becoming a more holistic neighborhood stabilization program receiving a large amount of federal funding to help stabilize neighborhoods (Tong Zou et al., 2018).

Graciela Dassori

Evidence shows that Habitat for Humanity in the community has reported that their homeowners completed at least GED and some college education and are employed. Also, their kids are attending school, and high school students already have plans for higher education. Criminality declines in their neighborhoods, which proves Habitat for Humanity does affect not only the individual and its family quality of life but also the entire community. Strengthening a disadvantaged person will help them in the future to better living conditions and their overall attitude towards life. Since teaching skills, the individual will have more opportunities and capacities (Delmelle et al., 2017).

Hope Dykes

Individuals who own their own homes find a sense of empowerment and improved self-esteem. Evidence also shows that positive effects extend into health arenas, like reducing cardiovascular disease and obesity (Kearns & Whitley, 2020). Kearns and Whitley (2020) also address the positive mental health outcomes of community engagement people. Habitat for Humanity provides homeownership and an opportunity for people to be involved in a community-oriented project.

Yeung et al. (2017) discuss the health benefits of volunteering. When people volunteer for humanitarian efforts, they gain amplified health benefits (Yeung et al., 2017). Habitat for Humanity offers opportunities for volunteering in the Habitat Restore to raise money and hands-on volunteer hours to build and maintain these homes.

Kelly Lonergan

Habitat for Humanity offers financial education classes for their clients to increase the "sweat equity." These classes target homeowners to increase confidence to sustain control over finances and reduce financial stress (Habitat for Humanity, 2020). Financial stress contributes to poor health, such as increased coronary artery disease in women and decreased quality of life (White et al., 2018). In the study by White et al. (2018), women were interviewed before and after financial education classes. This study proved the effectiveness of these programs to be worth the time and effort. After two years, the annual income increased by \$8,000, the women demonstrated improved quality of life, half of the participants lost weight, and healthier eating habits were reported (White et al., 2018).

Financial satisfaction and financial behaviors prove to go hand-in-hand (Aboagye & Jun, 2018). Practicing positive spending habits and saving are commonly learned behaviors influenced by socioeconomic factors such as income, education, medical, credit card, and student loan debt. Coaching that promotes healthy financial behaviors has been shown to increase overall health and well-being and offsets the negativity associated with debt (Aboagye & Jun, 2018). Like the program provided by Habitat for Humanity, individuals who receive financial education feel more empowered and in more control of their stresses.

Graciela Dassori

The impact of a house upgrade or building a new one in a low-income neighborhood impacts the other house's appraisal. Habitat for Humanity has evidence that their work in their communities has increased the home value by home improvement, consequently affecting the neighborhood overall house appraisal. When a home appraisal occurs, many factors are involved, including studying the block group poverty rate and observed property characteristics. So,

improving the community and giving them tools to be successful directly affects and increases home value. Habitat for Humanity gets available lots that may be unappealing to start with, foreclosure homes that may need improvement, or the owner's property in bad condition. Consequently, this improves the esthetics of the community (Simittrarachhi et al., 2019).

Khyati Patel

Evidence associated with human health and well-being to impoverished living and housing conditions has a long past as a driver of public health policy and action. The socio-ecological model of health, widely accepted in public health, challenged this approach to the way of public health (Sharpe et al., 2018). A new framework had planned to represent principal elements affecting health, including one or more of four components: lifestyle, environment, human biology, and healthcare organization. In North, America people tend to spend an average of around 89% of their time indoors, with approximately 69% remain in the residential indoor environment over the life course with the percentage increasing for homemakers, elderly, and very young people (Sharpe et al., 2018). There is a clear case for more holistic and integrated approaches to improving health and well-being through adequate housing. Future involvements must consider housing as a residence component while considering social, economic, physical, cultural, environmental, and historical differences among communities.

Community participation confessed in 1978. It showed the community as central to the planning, organizing, operation, and control of primary health care, even though the previous examination focused on low- and middle-income countries (Haldane et al., 2019). Additional studies were done using Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) guidelines. It consists of those affected in the community, consumers, public, service users, households, patients, and their agents in developing, implementing, and evaluating health

benefits, policies, or interventions. Results showed that supporting different communities' participation resulted in positive outcomes at the organizational, community, and individual levels. More comprehensively, it includes works that reflect the influence on social capital, socio-cultural, community development, and environmental improvements. Health outcomes are those that show changes in a community member's health condition. Community involvement is key to improving healthcare (Haldane et al., 2019).

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