

Coles County Habitat for Humanity

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Habitat for Humanity ReStore:

- Hours of Operation: Sunday and Monday: Closed, Tuesday-Friday: 9:00AM - 4:00PM
- Address: 520 W Lincoln Ave, Charleston, IL 61920
- Phone Number: (217) 348-7066
- Website: <https://colescountyhabitat.net>
- Point of Contact (POC): Angela Blair
- Degree held: Bachelors in Finance and License in Real Estate
- Background/Organization Leadership: Responsible for housing logistics for the low-income families, fundraising for housing materials, and manager of the Habitat for Humanity ReStore.

History of Habitat for Humanity:

- Coles County Habitat for Humanity was founded in 1989.
- Volunteers and workers seek to improve the community by eliminating substandard housing in Coles County. They work towards providing safe, decent, affordable housing.
- The program has an Affordable Housing program that includes creating housing, partner family selection and support, and homeowner education on mortgage management and servicing.
- Founders of the Organization: Millard Fuller and Linda Fuller

Organization's Background:

- How large is the organization:** Habitat for Humanity is a global nonprofit housing organization working in local communities across all 50 states in the U.S. and approximately 70 countries.
- Funding for Habitat for Humanity:** It depends on financial donations to fund its work. Habitat for Humanity also has local home improvement stores called Habitat ReStores, which sell reusable and surplus building materials, furniture, and appliances to the public. The money made from these sales is used to generate support for Habitat's mission. All proceeds are used to support building affordable housing for qualified families living in Coles County.

Mission Statement, Philosophy, and Purpose:

- Mission Statement:** Habitat for Humanity's mission is seeking to put God's love into action. Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities, and hope. Their principles are to demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ, focus on shelter, advocate for affordable housing, promote dignity and hope, and support sustainable and transformative development.
- Philosophy:** Habitat's vision is of a world where everyone has a decent place to live. Habitat works toward our vision by building strength, stability, and self-reliance in partnership with people and families needing a decent and affordable home.
- Purpose:** To enrich the quality of life by building and preserving safe, affordable housing for qualified families and individuals through education, networking, and community partnerships.

Employment and Population Served:

- Employment within the Organization:** One manager, one full-time and two part-time; the rest are volunteers. Three hundred volunteers volunteer each year for Habitat for Humanity and the ReStore store in Coles County. Volunteers must be 16 years or older.
- Is this a long- or short-term service?** Habitat for Humanity is a long-term service organization. They also have long-term U.S. headquarters volunteer opportunities based on the community's current needs.
- Population served:** Coles County Habitat for Humanity serves low-income families to help them build a place they can call home. They partner with complex working families in need and help them build affordable homes for themselves and their families at no interest or profit.

Location Safety and Transportation:

- The Habitat for Humanity and ReStores locations are clean, friendly, and in good condition.
- Habitat for Humanity: Clean, well-kept, and organized; there is a receptionist in the front of the office to greet customers.
- ReStores: The store is organized and has clear sections based on item classification. The store has a pet English bulldog named Gus standing by the door to greet customers as they walk in. Both the Habitat for Humanity and Habitat ReStores location is safe and easily accessible to the community.
- Transportation is not offered, but there are bus stops available near the plaza.

Criteria for Service and Areas of Eligibility:

- Ability to pay criteria:** Applicants must be able and willing to pay an affordable mortgage. Mortgage payments are cycled back into the community to help build other Habitat houses in Coles County.
- Housing Needs:** Applicants must demonstrate a need for safe, affordable housing. Coles County Habitat has approved six different housing needs; applicants must demonstrate at least one of those needs: Structural issues, living in an unsafe neighborhood, rent-burdened, homelessness, overcrowding, and health/safety issues
- Willingness to Partner:** Applicants must be active partners with Habitat throughout the process from selection, construction, and beyond.



Services Offered:

- Financial support:** So that families can build strength, stability, and independence with Habitat for Humanity by building a safe and secure place to call home.
- Financial Education:** They are helping individuals with significant investment in their homes. Topics are budgeting, credit cards and credit reports, debt and loans, saving, investing, and planning for the future, emergencies, as well as Habitat homeowner mortgages.
- Housing needs:** It arises from natural disasters and emergency conflicts, including sustainable shelter and housing solutions.
- Educating communities who are interested in learning more about housing options:** Online courses, articles, and downloadable resources. The topics range from construction basics to housing finance options.
- Offer preventative support and information for disaster-prone areas.** Year-round preparedness efforts to ensure individuals are ready when emergencies occur.

Who do they serve?

- Is there a fee for service:** There is no fee for service. All merchandise is donation-based, so the patrons do not have to pay a fee for shopping.
- How many people are served annually:** There are thousands of people served annually by the Habitat for Humanity home store. One to two homes are built for qualified families each year
- What is one way the organizations might be helped or improved:** Habitat for Humanity helps families every day by offering home goods at an affordable price. Habitat for Humanity also does a "home-build" annually to benefit one needy family in the community.
- How is this organization relevant to the nursing profession:** This organization is relevant and crucial to the nursing profession by helping underserved community members daily.
- How did your service impact the organization:** Our service impacted the organization by helping clean, sort, and organize donations, cleaning the store, and responding to the needs of other volunteers and other store employees in whatever help they may have needed.

How Can We Serve the Organization:

- To serve this organization, we spent a total of eight hours volunteering at the Habitat for Humanity Restore.
- Our time was spent:** Cleaning and sorting items that needed to be priced, putting priced items out on display, sorting through donation bins, cleaning the store, storing large donation items such as tables, desks, and beds
- How can others in the community serve this organization?** The Habitat for Humanity Restore functions mainly off of volunteers. Community members can help by offering their time to the store. They also have fundraisers throughout the year that help keep the restore running.

Future Needs for Habitat for Humanity:

What are the future needs of the organization: The organization runs solely off of donations, fundraising events, and income from the Restore.

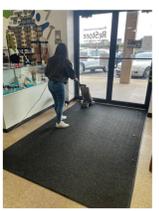
- Corporate Participation: Ensure affordable homeownership for low-to-moderate-income families
- In-Kind Donations: Donations of construction materials & or pro-bono services reduce costs, which allows the organization to serve more families and build stronger communities.
- Attend an Event: Increase awareness and raise funds that support their mission
- Donate Household Items: ReStore is a nonprofit home improvement store and donation center that resell used goods for a fraction of the retail price.

What are the future needs of the recipients: Ability to pay housing needs, manage their finance, and a willingness to partner with the organization. Each family has to work a minimum of 225 hours of sweat equity towards their house and attend 5 homeowners education classes. Every day that a family works together towards building their future, they are one day closer to self-empowerment and opportunities.

What are the future directions and goals of the organization: Habitat for Humanity's goal is to raise more funds to build more homes each year to help families build homes and pay an affordable mortgage payment. To reach this goal the organization needs to increase the number of volunteers to help carry out the organizations mission and purpose The next build for Coles County Habitat for Humanity is set to start in March/April 2022.

Conclusion:

- The Habitat for Humanity has locations all over the United States.
- Habitat for Humanity continues to collect donations, provide resources for individuals at lower prices, and build homes for community members in need (Habitat for Humanity, 2021).
- Habitat for Humanity helps at-risk and needy community members build homes and furnish homes for a reasonable price (Habitat for Humanity, 2021).
- The main goal is to build homes for needy families in the community (Habitat for Humanity, 2021).
- All proceeds and donations made to Habitat for Humanity go towards home building in the community (Habitat for Humanity, 2021).
- Habitat for Humanity sites across the country must have daily volunteers, as they receive many donations daily.
- In addition to volunteering, Americans should consider donating to their local Habitat for Humanity chapter to serve their community better. One may never know when this could end up saving a person's life.



Reference:

Habitat for Humanity. (2021). *Our mission, vision and principles*. Habitat for Humanity. <https://www.habitat.org/about/mission-and-vision>