

ExxonMobil Build

Since 1989, ExxonMobil has partially sponsored five houses and fully sponsored their 11th home in Baton Rouge last spring. Additionally, ExxonMobil has also donated at least one rehab house that was moved and renovated for a deserving family.

Catholic Build

The Catholic Coalition built its 24th Habitat home last spring. The Catholic Coalition includes eight area churches – Most Blessed Sacrament, Our Lady of Mercy, St. Aloysius, St. George, St. Jean Vianney, St. Patrick, St. Thomas More and St. Alphonsus.

Albemarle Youth Build

The Albemarle Foundation sponsored its 10th Albemarle Youth Blitz Build last spring. Construction was completed in four weekends by students and teachers from Catholic High School, Episcopal High School, St. Joseph's Academy, and employees of the Albemarle Corp.

LSU Greek Build

The LSU Fraternities and Sororities spent Greek Week 2016 last spring building two homes with deserving families. These are the 21st and 22nd homes built by the Greeks since they began their partnership with Habitat in 2005.

HOME Funds Build

One home was built last fall with funds from the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, which is the largest Federal block grant to state and local governments designed exclusively to create affordable housing for low-income households.

Methodist Build

The United Methodist Churches of Greater Baton Rouge have been building homes and hope with low-income families since 1988. Last fall they built their 34th home.

Dow Build in Port Allen

Dow Chemical Company sponsored its 19th house last fall. Employees of the Dow Chemical Company have helped build homes for over 30 families in West Baton Rouge and Iberville Parishes.

Women Build

The 12th Annual Women Build home was built last fall. Since 2005, *Women Build* has been bringing together women to actively address the problem of local women and children living in poverty.

Catholic High Build

Catholic High School sponsored its 2nd Habitat home last fall. Catholic High has partnered with Habitat since 2001 by providing volunteers for the annual Youth Build, but this was the second year that students, teachers and administration joined together to raise the funds for an entire house.

Homeowner Spotlight: Mekuriaw Tadesse

While some Habitat partners in the Greater Baton Rouge community may not be native to Louisiana, one particular partner has had quite the journey to homeownership. A journey of over 8,000 miles in fact.

Before moving to the United States, Mekuriaw Tadesse lived in a refugee camp in Kenya to escape the civil war in Ethiopia. After 20 years in the camp, Tadesse received a sponsorship from Catholic Charities for the opportunity to move to the United States with his two children George and Mekides. After a long journey, Tadesse and his children arrived in Baton Rouge on December 15, 2011.

Tadesse said that he found it difficult to adapt to his new surroundings and meet new people in his community, until he befriended Elisha Nyambaka, another former African resident and a Habitat homeowner. Elisha informed Tadesse about the program and everything Habitat could do for him and his family.

"I didn't believe it! I thought it couldn't be true. If I got into the program, my family would finally have a chance to be stable. I thought of what life was like in the refugee camp – how hard it was. I was so excited and happy to hear about Habitat!"

After making his way through the Habitat homeowner process, Tadesse completed 50 hours of work on the construction site in his first month in the program.

"I was so happy to learn new skills and finally meet and talk with new people. Habitat made it easier to socialize with others. I believed this was my family's chance and I didn't want to miss it. I was eager to work."

Tadesse's home, sponsored by the Catholic Coalition, was completed in June 2016. It was the 24th home sponsored and built by the Catholic Coalition. Habitat for Humanity of Greater Baton Rouge Board member

and construction site volunteer Bryon Hume remembers the hard work that Tadesse and his family put in to building their home.

"Working alongside Tadesse as we labored as one to help build his new home, it was refreshing to see through his eyes his unique view on life and the different paths that brought us and the other volunteer workers together. Although our time learning from each other was short, I came to appreciate the sacrifices he had to endure to take care of his family, and it was an honor to assist in helping his dream and the dreams of his family come true. Thank you HFHGBR for the opportunity to serve."

Since the completion of their home Tadesse and his children have continued to appreciate the benefits of their hard work with Habitat. They moved into their new house last fall and are enjoying the security of a real home. Tadesse's son recently earned a soccer and academic scholarship to Spring Hill College next fall and his daughter is doing well in high school.

"When I heard my build was sponsored by the Catholic Coalition I thought it must be God," he said. "First Catholic Charities helped me reach America. Now, the Catholic Coalition helped me to build a home."



ReStore North
4301 Airline Hwy
Baton Rouge, LA 70805

ReStore Southeast
10300 Perkins Road
Baton Rouge, LA 70810

ReStore Donation Hotline: 225-315-0127

The Habitat ReStore is a retail outlet where quality, used and surplus building materials are sold at a fraction of normal prices. Proceeds from the ReStore help fund the construction of Habitat houses within our community. Materials sold by the Habitat ReStore are usually donated from building supply stores, contractors, demolition crews or from individuals. In addition to raising funds, the ReStore helps the environment by rechanneling good, usable materials into use. In 2016, the ReStore saved more than 1,436,561 pounds of usable building materials from the landfill.

In November 2003, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Baton Rouge opened the ReStore North on Airline Highway and Plank Road. The ReStore Southeast opened in February 2016 at 10300 Perkins Road (behind the Ethan Allen store) in order to better reach customers and donors in the southeastern part of the city.



2016-2017
Annual Report
Building Houses, Building Hope

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Habitat for Humanity of Greater Baton Rouge is a Christian-based ministry that builds and renovates houses in partnership with the community. We provide opportunities for families in need to purchase their own homes, build community and improve their lives.

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Baton Rouge

Purpose:

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Baton Rouge works in partnership with low-income families and the community to eliminate poverty housing. Habitat is not a handout but a "hand up." Homes are sold to partner families at no profit and financed by Habitat with affordable, no-interest loans. The incomes of those selected fall within the range of 27% to 60% of median family income for the parish where they live.

Criteria for ownership:

Selection is based on housing need, ability to repay the cost of the home, and willingness to partner with Habitat for Humanity. An important aspect of the Habitat partnership is the requirement that all partner families put in 255 hours of "sweat equity" helping to build their homes. Since 1989 more than 80,000 volunteers have worked alongside our homeowner partners and their families and friends. Homeowners are also required to attend homeowner education courses and pay closing costs.

History:

Since 1989, Habitat volunteers have renovated or built safe, affordable homes for 335 families. Habitat for Humanity of Greater Baton Rouge serves a four parish area including Ascension, East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge and Iberville.

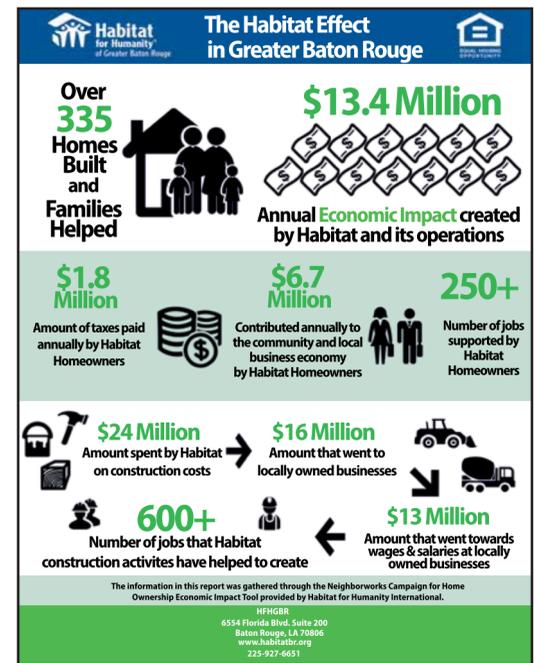
Flood Relief:

Last year our community suffered from a devastating natural disaster. The catastrophic floods of last August damaged 142,000 homes in South Louisiana, with only a small percentage insured against flooding. The result was thousands of homeowners struggling to rebuild, many of them without the financial means to repair their homes.

While Habitat for Humanity of Greater Baton Rouge is not traditionally a disaster recovery organization, the extensive damage to our community made it clear that we must be a part of the recovery process. Last fall our construction staff gutted

and cleaned 80 damaged homes with teams of volunteers and homeowners in need. We have set the goal to rebuild 100 homes.

HFHGBR is committed to helping stabilize neighborhoods by rebuilding with low-income homeowners, allowing them to stay in their neighborhoods rather than search for new housing further from their jobs, schools and community. By assisting those displaced by this natural disaster, we can one day ensure that everyone in our community has a safe and decent place to live.



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Annual Report
Building Houses, Building Hope

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Jason Hunt, Rebuild homeowner

"I just wanted to take the time to thank Habitat for Humanity and its partners for the wonderful work they have done in our home. It looks AMAZING! I cannot speak highly enough about the teams that came to help and their level of professionalism. We are humbled by your efforts and blessed beyond measure. Please keep up the good work and I pray God continues to bless you and your families! We are looking forward to moving in soon."

Suzanne Tessier, Financial Reporting at Albemarle Foundation, Albemarle Youth Build Sponsor

"The Habitat leadership and staff are amazing. It is an honor to work with such a motivated group of people on a mission to end poverty housing. St. Teresa of Calcutta said 'Give your hands to serve and your hearts to love.' I am honored to work alongside an organization and group of volunteers who do just that."

Cheryl Barton Olinde, Inner Wheel Club of Baton Rouge, Attic Trash & Treasure Sale Co-Chair

"The partnership between Inner Wheel of Baton Rouge and Habitat for Humanity of Greater Baton Rouge has truly been a wonderful experience. The Habitat team is goal oriented and intently focused on getting the job done. It has been a pleasure working with the Habitat staff and volunteers. We hope to continue this partnership for many years to come."

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Baton Rouge

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Dear Friends,

We are blessed to be part of this community, which has come together to help friends, family, neighbors, and even strangers after the devastating flood in August. Our work came into bolder focus last year when thousands of families lost the most fundamental of needs: a home.

Sadly, our community is still struggling to recover. Competition for limited housing continues to keep many people far from their jobs and schools. Even with the tireless work of churches, organizations, non-profits, and individuals, much work is left to be done. As a housing ministry, we knew that we must be a part of the recovery process. Last Fall, we gutted 80 damaged homes with homeowners in need, and we began the rebuilding process with 8 homeowners. Our goal is to complete 100 rebuilds! This goal is made possible by the ongoing support of our community and generous folks from around the country.

Along with our flood relief efforts, we are continuing to build homes with deserving families. We are grateful for our partnerships that allowed us to build 11 homes in 2016. These partnerships have enabled us to build 335 homes since we began our affiliate in 1989. These corporations, churches, schools, organizations, and individuals have dedicated funds and volunteer labor in support of our mission year after year.

Last year, we kicked off 2016 with the 11th house fully sponsored and built by ExxonMobil. Last Spring, the Catholic Coalition built its 24th home, the LSU Greeks built their 21st and 22nd homes, and we completed the 10th Albemarle Youth Build sponsored by Albemarle and built with Albemarle employees and students from St. Joseph's Academy, Catholic High School, and Episcopal High School. In the Fall, the United Methodist Churches built their 34th home, Dow built its 19th home, and Catholic High School completed the 2nd house they have sponsored and built. We also built a home with HOME Funds, thanks to the support of former Mayor Kip Holden, the Metro Council, EBR Office of Community Development, and HUD. Our 12th Women Build home was also built in the Fall, although we decided to cancel the annual Pink Tool Belt Bash fundraiser following the flooding. We have already scheduled this year's Bash for Aug. 22, 2017, and we are looking forward to having the best Bash yet in support of Women Build 2017!

We are so fortunate to have the ongoing support of our community and our many partnerships. All of these efforts help us fulfill the founding vision of Habitat: that everyone deserves a simple, decent place to live. On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff, we thank the Baton Rouge community for your incredible and ongoing support!

- Erin Kilgore, Habitat Board President



Erin Kilgore, Habitat Board President



Making Habitat a Habit: Suzanne Tessier

When did you begin volunteering with Habitat?

I started volunteering my freshman year at LSU. I saw a flyer for the LSU Chapter of Habitat for Humanity and knew it would be fun and rewarding. I hadn't done service since I was at St. Joseph's Academy and I missed it. I was anxious to get back into it. I had no clue how much Habitat would influence my life in college and beyond. Some of my best college memories were made on Saturday mornings at the build site. The spring breaks when I travelled with the LSU Chapter to Habitat sites in Texas, Georgia and Florida rivaled the spring breaks with friends at the beach. Habitat offered a means to stay connected to the community outside LSU.

Do you remember the first home you worked on?

I think my first home was in the neighborhood off Gardere where we had a whole street of Habitat homes. I remember being amazed that the homeowner and her family were working with us and was surprised at how fun building could be. I teared up at my first Dedication and have done so every Dedication since.

What made you choose Habitat as a volunteer opportunity?

I like being outside and I am not afraid of manual labor. I was apprehensive about being completely unskilled, but the Habitat staff members are excellent teachers. I knew early on that this opportunity was a special one.

What inspires you to continue to volunteer?

I firmly believe Habitat builds communities and changes

lives. Home ownership can single-handedly change the trajectory of a deserving family. Having a safe, affordable place to call home gives parents the freedom to focus on their job and family. It provides kids the security to know their school and surroundings will stay relatively constant. Aside from the benefits to the individual family, Habitat transforms neighborhoods and brings volunteers of all ages, races, religions and socio-economic levels together for a common goal. In a community as divided as ours, it is heartwarming to see the good that can be done with generous donations and willing hands.

How has your volunteer work with Habitat continued and changed over the years?

Over 15 years ago I started my service with Habitat and I am blessed to continue my service through Albemarle Foundation. Every year, Albemarle Foundation funds a Habitat house and partners with Episcopal High School, St. Joseph's Academy, Catholic High School and the homeowner to build the house. From Albemarle Corporation and Albemarle employees who fund the home, to the Habitat staff, to the volunteers, partner homeowners and so many more, it takes a village to build a home. Everyone is needed and has a purpose in the building process. It is incredibly humbling to be a small piece of the puzzle.

Now that I am a mom, Habitat has a whole new meaning for me. Providing my kids with a safe, loving environment where they can thrive is my biggest priority. I want to help other parents do the same for their children. I hope to lead my boys by example of what it means to be a part of a community and to contribute to it in a meaningful way. I look forward to them being 16 so they can join me on the build site.



The Habitat Effect in Greater Baton Rouge 2016



37,681 = **21**
volunteer hours = full-time employees



11 new homes built in 2016



\$1,105,047 in ReStore gross sales
= **14.7** Habitat houses

Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers, partners and donors for helping us build homes and hope!

80 flood damaged homes gutted

100 rebuilds planned



1,436,561 pounds of material saved from the landfill

335 homes built since 1989



Operational Expenses

Total Audited Functional Expense Support Services	\$279,245
Less Rent	\$28,654
Total Adjusted Support	\$250,591

Total Audited Expenses	\$3,443,420
Less ReStore	\$704,643
Less Rent	\$28,654
Total Adjusted Audited Expenses	\$2,710,123
Operational Expenses at June 30, 2016	9.2%

Through conservative spending, sound accounting, and incredible volunteer support, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Baton Rouge spent **9.2%** of its income last year on overhead. This allows us to build more homes with deserving partner families.