



INFORMATION FOR CONSTRUCTION VOLUNTEERS

Thank you for your interest in volunteering for Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity during our summer 2009 *multi-faith build*. Without financial and volunteer support from our community, we simply could not build simple, decent, affordable homes with our low-income Homebuyers / Partner Families!

We build year-round and always have several homes under construction. Construction workdays are scheduled most Wednesdays through Saturdays from 8:15-4:00. Construction Managers are on site to provide instruction and direction and all skill levels are needed.

ON YOUR SCHEDULED WORKDAY It is extremely important for your scheduled group number to be consistent. *If your anticipated group number changes please contact Amber Duimstra, Volunteer Manager, as soon as you can. We plan site supervision, material delivery and tasks based on the number of volunteers expected.* We prefer that volunteers commit to work a full day as opposed to half-day shifts.

AGE REQUIREMENTS Construction volunteers must be at least 16 years-old. Volunteers ages 16 and 17 must have a parent/guardian sign their waiver of liability and be accompanied to the site by an adult who is legally responsible for them. Youth groups volunteering on the construction site must have a ratio of one (1) adult to every four (4) youths. Please let us know in advance if you are planning to bring a youth group.

WHAT TO BRING Approximately a week before the scheduled workday, your Volunteer Team Leader (as identified on the schedule) will receive an email with site information and an attached waiver. Please print out the attached waiver, sign it, and bring it with you on the day you volunteer. ***IMPORTANT: Even if you have volunteered for us before, you are required to fill out a waiver each time you volunteer.*** Water will be provided on site, but you may want to bring your own water bottle/drink. Tools and safety equipment will be provided. You may bring your own tools, but don't forget to label them and take them home with you! (We will not be responsible for lost or broken tools AND we reserve the right to inspect them for safety purposes.)

WHEN YOU ARRIVE **Please** check in with the Site Host or Construction Manager. You will be asked to sign-in, fill out a name tag and turn in your liability waiver. If you have specific concerns (fear of heights, bad back, pregnant, etc.), please tell the Construction Manager at this time.

WHAT YOU WILL DO The email sent a week before your workday will include a web link to inform you of the expected tasks for the day, but these may change. Please be flexible and patient as the site crew matches everyone to their tasks. If you are skilled in a particular task and would be willing to lead a small group, let the Construction Manager know. If you have little to no construction experience, please do not be intimidated—roughly 90% of our volunteers are unskilled in construction. You will have a great opportunity to learn new skills and have fun in the process! A Construction Manager will be available during the day—if you are in doubt about any task, please ask. You will not be required to do anything you are uncomfortable with (using power tools, climbing on ladders, etc.). We want this to be a safe, rewarding, and enjoyable experience for everyone.

WHAT TO WEAR It is best to dress in layers and wear clothing that can get very dirty and even ruined. *Absolutely no open-toed shoes are allowed on site.* It might be a good idea for volunteers to bring sunscreen or bug spray in the summer months. In the colder weather or during winter months, volunteers should wear clothes warm enough to

work outside if necessary. *The site may be muddy—you may want to bring another pair of shoes to wear home and a plastic bag.*

LUNCH DETAILS There will be a lunch break beginning at approximately 11:30 a.m. Lunch is generally on your own; however, several participating churches have agreed to provide lunches for those who volunteer to help build this house. If you have special dietary needs please feel free to bring a sack lunch or leave the site to pick up lunch. We do encourage you to stay and enjoy fellowship with Habitat staff and the other volunteers.

LATE ARRIVAL/ WEATHER HOTLINE *Occasionally* it is necessary to move volunteers to a different site at the last minute due to weather or construction complications. If you arrive late and no one is at your scheduled site, call someone from your team or my cell at (515) 778-6708 to get re-route instructions. If the weather looks questionable for construction the morning of your workday, please call our weather hotline after 7:00 a.m. for delays or cancellations at **(515) 471-8686 Ex. 350.**

LEARNING ABOUT THE PARTNER FAMILY Information will be available on site about the family who will be purchasing the home. To read more about the family selection process, please visit the Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity website: <http://www.gdmhabitat.org/>.

In addition to volunteer opportunities in house construction and rehabilitation, we are always looking for helping hands in many other areas: Our ReStore, office help and special event coordination... just to name a few. Please see our website for details or contact me with your particular interests.

We look forward to seeing you out on the work site!

In Partnership,

Amber Duimstra, *Volunteer Manager*
Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity
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