

Building Strength, Stability and Self-reliance through Shelter

No matter who we are or where we come from, we all deserve to have a decent life. We deserve to feel strength and stability day after day. We deserve to know we have the power to take care of ourselves and build our own futures. At Habitat for Humanity, this is what unites us. Through shelter, we empower.

What Does a Habitat Home Really Mean?



- Children of homeowners are 116% more likely to graduate from college.
- Out of the total 152 families assisted to date, the foreclosure rate for Pikes Peak Habitat is only 4%.
- In 2016 Pikes Peak Habitat homeowners paid a total of \$86,000 in El Paso County property taxes.
- Parents have more time for family activities.
- Nearly 75% Pikes Peak Habitat families experience greater financial independence, and are more able to spend time volunteering or donating to charities.

Habitat in El Paso County

- Founded in 1986, Pikes Peak Habitat is the second largest Habitat affiliate in Colorado.
- Families are selected according to need for affordable housing, willingness to partner, and ability to make the monthly mortgage payments upon purchasing their Habitat house with an affordable mortgage.
- These families must have income within 35%-80% area median income for El Paso County.
For a family of four, that's between \$25,760 and \$58,900.
- Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity builds or rehabs six to eight homes each year.
- 28 Pikes Peak Habitat homeowners have already paid off their mortgages!

A Homeowner's View

While Liz worked on her house, she would regularly show her little boy, Hayden, pictures of their house, pointing out his room, and telling him what she worked on in the house. When he finally visited the house with Mom one day, he walked into the house, instinctively found his room by himself, and promptly sat in the middle to claim it.

"There is a comfort in knowing that our first home is our forever home."

Elizabeth, Habitat homeowner



Building Quality Homes

Each house costs an average of \$150,000, and we continually secure funding from a broad range of sources: foundations and trusts, businesses and corporations, churches, individuals, government entities, special events, an annual direct mail campaign, and quarterly newsletters. Not only do volunteers make our houses more affordable (90% of each house is volunteer-built), but many in-kind donations come from companies such as Whirlpool, Schneider Electric, Clark Land Surveying, RMG Engineers, Hunter Douglas, local property appraisers, as well as deferred tap fees from local government. Another source of income is our ReStore, a discount building supply store that sells new and donated plumbing and electrical supplies, lumber, windows, sinks, and cabinets at discounts 50-70% below retail. Now in its 13th year, the ReStore has reached over \$12 million in sales with more than \$4 million in proceeds benefitting Pikes Peak Habitat.

The Need for Affordable Housing...

In El Paso County, 75,000 people of a 650,000+ population live below the poverty line. The median house price is \$218,300 in El Paso County, and \$221,700 in Colorado Springs. El Paso has one of the fastest rental rate increases in the country, and to afford the average area rent of \$1,300 a family needs an annual salary of \$40,714 (\$19.57/hour). This is over \$21,000 more than full-time employment at minimum wage. The number of children who live in poverty in this county is approaching 18% with nearly 4,600 low-income families that are waitlisted for subsidized housing.

...and the Success of Homeownership

In December, two young brothers, Gary (8) and Dominic (4), celebrated the dedication of their Habitat house with their family. Dominic asked Gary if it was going to be their new house, and Gary replied, "No, this is our new HOME; our house is where we've *been* living."

We are determined to eradicate poverty housing, and as lofty a goal as that is, with each family served we do just that. For them, poverty housing is eradicated. They no longer have to worry about their rent increasing, working multiple jobs to pay for an apartment in a safer neighborhood for their children, or moving once again and uprooting their kids from schools and friends.



With Habitat, families learn tactics for successful homeownership through classes on financial education, good neighbor relations, and maintaining their home not only as shelter for their family but as a newly-acquired asset. Pikes Peak Habitat has a 96% success rate of families keeping their homes. We stress the importance of open communication so that we can provide the appropriate assistance, and in most cases, we can remedy the challenges that arise in keeping a home.