

every faith

can be put into action.

Faith in Action: A Newsletter of Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity

Pikes Peak Habitat: How it Works

Although most people are familiar with the Habitat name, there are still many misconceptions about what we do, who we are, and how your congregation can participate. This month's newsletter will help you get a better grasp about what goes on at Pikes Peak Habitat and how you and your faith community can get involved.

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Edited by: Dustin Alarid

Seeking to put God's love into action, Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.

Does Habitat give away free homes? The short answer: no. We believe that by *empowering* people, we can make a true and lasting impact in their lives. For this reason, we pride ourselves in providing a hand-up rather than a hand-out. Everyone who receives a Habitat home does so as a *homeowner* and pays an affordable monthly *mortgage*. Not only that, but every Habitat homeowner is required to put in 200 hours of 'sweat equity'. This includes 200 hours volunteering to build their own home, their neighbor's home, and more.

Is Habitat a secular organization? We are proud to be a faith-based non-profit. Habitat has deep Christian roots and continues to operate as an ecumenical Christian organization. We are motivated by God's love, and just as Jesus demonstrated, we serve *all people* – regardless of race or religion. Likewise, we always welcome the opportunity to partner with people and organizations of all cultural and religious backgrounds.

Do volunteers need to have prior construction experience? Volunteer groups come from a variety of different backgrounds and many do not have any construction experience. Our staff works closely with volunteers, teaching them the skills they need to accomplish the day's tasks. Ninety percent of a Habitat home is built by volunteers; we absolutely could not do it without you!

I am unable to help at the build site. Are there other ways to volunteer? Yes! First and foremost, we can always use a little prayer. Additionally, you can invite us to give a presentation at your place of worship, you can provide lunch for build-site volunteers, you can prepare a welcome basket for our new homeowners, you can help organize a fundraiser, and much more...the sky's the limit!

Is there really a housing crisis in El Paso County? One in seven households in Colorado spend more than half their income on housing. This is not surprising given how quickly rents and home costs are rising here in El Paso County and around the state. In our very own neighborhoods it is not hard to find families who are doing everything the right way, are working hard, and yet are still struggling to make ends meet.

Still have questions? Want to get involved? Contact: dustin@pikespeakhabitat.org or **719.722.4967**



**THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®**

Thrivent Faith Build Kick-Off Events!

Is your church passionate about serving the community? Consider being part of this year's Thrivent Faith Build! This March, we are hosting two events where you can meet our staff, learn more about the program, and enjoy a delicious meal! These events are free and open to all Christian denominations. Come and learn how your church can help transform the lives of a family in need of affordable housing.

Kick-off Breakfast:

Tuesday, March 10, 2020
7:30am to 8:30am
Venue TBD (within CO Springs)

Kick-off Lunch:

Thursday, March 12, 2020
12:00pm to 1:00pm
Venue TBD (within CO Springs)

Please RSVP to:
dustin@pikespeakhabitat.org



Did you Know?

Affordable housing has a major impact on a child's education.

Families who spend too much of their income on housing often must make critical trade-offs, including forgoing educational and enrichment opportunities for themselves and their children.

For children, frequent or unplanned moves will often negatively impact achievement. A stable place to call home provides a secure environment and adequate space to study and think. Better lighting, room for a small desk, a parent's ability to devote time to helping with homework – all of these can lead to improved academic outcomes.*

*Source: <https://www.habitat.org/impact/role-of-housing-educational->

How can you help?



Pray

for Pikes Peak Habitat



Volunteer

as a group or an individual



Apply

to join our Faith Committee



Invite

us to speak to your faith group

A Tradition of Tithing

At Pikes Peak Habitat, we are passionate about ensuring that everyone, everywhere has a safe and decent place to live. Not only do we build an average of eight affordable new homes per year in El Paso County, but we also contribute to international development projects around the world.

We proudly tithe 10% of all undesignated funds to Habitat for Humanity International projects in Côte d'Ivoire, Nepal, and the Orphans and Vulnerable Children Fund.

Occasionally (and perhaps very soon...*hint-hint*), Pikes Peak Habitat leads trips overseas, as well. These “Global Village” trips are opportunities to volunteer and visit Habitat projects happening internationally. The trips are always inspirational and eternally rewarding. We hope you can join us for one of these once in a lifetime experiences.



The Danuwar family, proud Habitat homeowners from Kavre District, Nepal.

Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing organization that builds homes with people in need of affordable housing regardless of race and religion. We invite volunteers of all faiths (and no faith) to help us build in unity.

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