



Partners in building better futures

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Through the Habitat for Humanity and Thrivent Partnership, young people have the opportunity to experience a new way to express their faith, work in partnership with a diverse group of people and make a positive difference in their own communities.

Under Federal wage and hour laws, children under the age of 18 are not allowed to work on a construction site. Children under 14 should not be allowed on the actual construction site. Local Habitat affiliates may have stricter age requirements, so please consult with them with regard to their policy on youth involvement. **There are, however, many creative opportunities for young people to get involved. Following are some examples of what youth from schools, churches, and youth serving organizations can do in conjunction with the Habitat and Thrivent Partnership.**

#### **Ages 5-7**

- Make a welcome basket for the homeowner family.
- Stock the pantry for a new homeowner family.
- Build a model house out of blocks or other materials; then relate it to a real home.
- Construct house banks as a fundraising tool.
- Have children perform a song or skit during a dedication ceremony.

#### **Ages 7-10**

- Build a mailbox for the partner family.
- Design posters and have a poster contest about poverty housing.
- Make wooden key holders, picture frames or doorstops from scraps on site.
- Coordinate a birthday gift project for partner family children.

#### **Ages 10-12**

- Speak to classmates about the partnership with the help of participating congregation members, members of Thrivent or the homeowner family.
- Construct and paint window boxes to be used as fundraising items.
- Design a T-shirt to be sold at a fundraising event.

#### **Ages 12-17**

- Paint clay flower pots and plant them with flowers for a homeowner's porch.
- Build picnic or lunch tables for the work site.
- Tutor younger partner family children.
- Provide babysitting for children of homeowners or volunteers.
- Organize and serve meals to volunteer builders.
- Visit the building site and discuss the problem of poverty housing and homelessness in your community.

**Activities appropriate for youth of various ages**

- Participate in the house dedication ceremony.
- Prepare and serve food for volunteers.
- Stock the kitchen pantry.

**Fundraising activities**

Fundraising activities are ideal opportunities for youth to contribute their time and talent to help raise funds to support a home building project. The following fundraising activities can be performed by youth of various ages. The amount of supervision needed will vary based on the activity selected and the ages of the youth involved.

- Basketball, volleyball, tennis, soccer or other sports tournaments for youth or adults.
- Car washes.
- Pet washes.
- “Hike for Humanity” or other walk-a-thons.
- Cleaning stadiums or operating concessions at sporting events.
- Bake sales.
- T-shirt design contest.
- Greeting card design contest.