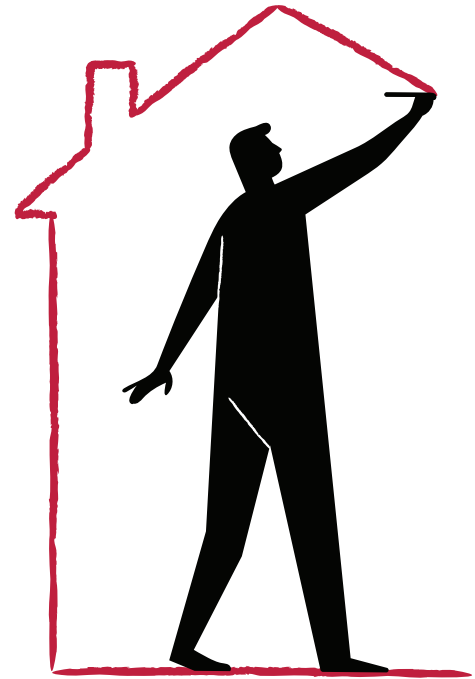


Bring Faith Builds to life in your church

Church Awareness, Engagement and Fundraising Guide



Partnering with Habitat for Humanity and Thrivent in a Faith Builds project is an exciting way for members of your church to make an immediate impact where they live, work and worship. Experience firsthand how God touches the hearts of new homeowners—and the volunteers who work alongside them.

Churches are invited to participate in Faith Builds through prayer, volunteerism and financial support. Here are some ideas for putting faith into action to help a local family in need of simple, decent and affordable housing.



Prayer support

- Lift the Faith Builds up in prayer; pray for all persons in need of shelter.
- Put a brief article in the church newsletter and bulletin about the ministry of Habitat for Humanity and Faith Builds.



Volunteer off-site

In addition to volunteering on the build site, there are many nonconstruction activities adults and older children can participate in. For example:

- Create a display in your church as a visual reminder of the Faith Builds project. Update it frequently to show progress and photos of activities.
- Plan an educational workshop or social event. Work with the local Habitat office to invite members of a Habitat homeowner family to speak during the event to share how owning a home has made a difference in their lives.
- Organize children's activities:
 - Make a welcome basket or other housewarming gifts for the homeowner family.
 - Sing a song at the dedication ceremony.
 - Tour the work site and learn about sweat equity from a homeowner.
 - Decorate blocks or bricks that can be used as fundraising items.



Fundraising ideas

Funds for the Faith Builds Generosity Challenge can come from church funds, individual contributions and special fundraising events and activities. Projects like these can help keep members of the church excited and involved in the Faith Builds:

- Take a special offering or have a special pledge Sunday. (Use construction hats as offering plates.)
- Plan a social and spice it up with a Faith Builds speaker and entertainment.
- Trade treasures at a garage sale.
- Get creative with a craft show with a portion of the sales donated to the Faith Builds projects.
- “Buy a brick” event: Create a grid on a poster with a drawing of a house. Sell sections of the grid, or “bricks” and write donors’ names in the spaces.
- Hold a “2x4 Sunday”: Sell the two-by-fours that you will use for construction to members of the congregation. Invite purchasers to sign the two-by-four and write encouraging messages on it.
- Organize a concert by inviting church members or other local artists to perform.
- Collect aluminum cans.
- Host a bake sale.
- Organize a group in your church to make a dinner and sell meal tickets.
- Thrivent clients with membership can apply for Thrivent Action Teams to organize fundraisers, including any of the above suggestions as well as other fundraising ideas they may have.



Virtual engagement activities

When partnering with multiple churches and organizations within the community, leveraging virtual engagement activities may help keep everyone involved and enhance the Faith Builds experience.

- Meet and greet with homeowner family.
- Virtual build site progress “tour.”
- Online fundraising events and auctions.
- Volunteer and supporter appreciation.
- Virtual prayer circle.
- Construction milestone celebrations.

