

# Circle of Faith - Information Package

## What is Habitat for Humanity Halton?

Habitat for Humanity Halton is a local, non-profit, faith-based organization working for a world where everyone has a safe and decent place to live. Our mission is to mobilize volunteers and community partners in building affordable housing and promoting homeownership as a means to breaking the cycle of poverty.

The organization was founded in 1999, is a member of Habitat for Humanity Canada, and part of a worldwide network that spans 100 countries, has built over 200,000 homes, and is now building a new home every 10 minutes.

Habitat offers a concrete way to put your faith into action. With an open-door policy we invite all who desire to be part of this work, regardless of religious preference or background, to partner with Habitat for Humanity Halton in a Circle of Faith Build.

## What is the Circle of Faith?

It is an opportunity for faith groups and organizations to partner together with Habitat for Humanity Halton in a special project designed to build fellowship and community while building a home for a deserving family in need. This special Circle of Faith Build is intended to include enthusiastic partners who wish to help sponsor and build a home.

With guidance from Habitat staff, partners will be involved by providing volunteer labour, volunteer coordination, site coordination, and food for volunteers during the build. This is an opportunity to not only provide a home for two Oakville families in need of decent housing but it will also enhance inter-faith fellowship in Halton and serve as a concrete opportunity to put faith into action.

Habitat for Humanity Halton's first Circle of Faith build was in 2007 and raised over \$50,000! This year our goal is to raise \$100,000 to build 2 homes in Oakville on Elmwood road in the summer of 2010.

## What is a Circle of Faith Partner?

A Circle of Faith Partner is a faith group that chooses to participate in Habitat for Humanity Halton's Circle of Faith build.

A Circle of Faith partner:

- **Raises funds** to support Habitat for Humanity Halton's build in Oakville
- **Builds** Habitat for Humanity Halton's homes in Oakville for 2 deserving families in our community.
- **Provide lunches** to Habitat for Humanity Halton volunteers on the build site.

## Benefits of becoming a Circle of Faith partner

- Make a permanent, tangible and positive *impact* on your community
- Provide a unique opportunity for your *entire* congregation to be involved
- Develop *inter-faith fellowship* in our community
- Build alongside Habitat *partner* families
- Gain positive exposure in your *community* and in the media
- Participate in the *dedication* of a new home
- Live out your principles and put your *faith in action!*

## Steps to becoming a Circle of Faith partner

### 1. **Make the Decision**

- Invite a member of Habitat for Humanity Halton's Speakers Bureau to come out and speak to your group about the important and exciting work that Habitat Halton does. Then consider the following:
  - Does your group understand the mission of Habitat and how they can benefit from becoming a sponsor?
  - Will the members of your organization support the project with their time, skills and money?
  - Does your group have the approval of the necessary leadership?
  - Can your group raise their portion of the sponsorship?

### 2. **Submit the Sponsorship Agreement and Register**

Once a decision has been made to proceed with becoming a Circle of Faith partner, contact the Habitat for Humanity Halton staff to receive a Sponsorship Agreement and learn how you can register your team online!

### 3. **Organize a Project Team**

It is the responsibility of the project team to guide the project through to completion and to act as liaisons between Habitat for Humanity Halton and your faith organization. This includes attendance at meetings, publicizing in-house information, recruiting in-house volunteers, and promoting donations and fundraising initiatives.

### 4. **Raise the Funds**

Once the group is committed, you will have to determine how you will raise the funds. Habitat for Humanity Halton is pleased to offer an online fundraising system to help your group raise the funds needed. Furthermore, Habitat staff can help you with ideas for fundraisers and provide you with resources to make your fundraising initiatives a breeze!

### 5. **Build the House**

Together with Habitat's skilled construction team and partner families, your volunteers will be responsible for activities such as framing, roofing, hanging drywall and siding, trimming, installing hardware, as well as painting and landscaping. Habitat's team provides guidance and direction to your building team.

**6. Dedicate the House**

Once the house is complete, a celebration is held and the families are presented the keys to their new home. Volunteers, homeowners and sponsors join together to commemorate and thank all involved for their hard work and dedication to the project.