

# Working Together to Build a Better Future

One of my favorite quotes is from Millard Fuller, the founder of Habitat for Humanity, who said, "What the poor need is capital not charity; coworkers not case workers."

At Columbia County Habitat for Humanity we are always using phrases like "partner family" and telling people we are providing "a hand up, not a hand out." These are not just catchy phrases, but a reflection of our philosophy of giving people an opportunity to better their own living situations.

The families we choose work alongside volunteers to build their own houses. Families contribute 300 hours of Sweat Equity. It is not easy. It's a lot of hard work. When the house is complete, the homeowners are not only familiar with the materials and construction of their homes, they have made connections with people in the community. Connections with people that have treated them with respect by working alongside them.

Something amazing happens when people are given a chance to build and purchase a house with an affordable mortgage. Families are empowered and they gain confidence. One of the core principles of Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI) is to promote dignity and hope. This statement from HFHI explains the reason for acting in

partnership with those in need, "We believe that every person has something to contribute and something to gain from creating communities in which all people have decent, affordable places to live. We believe that dignity and hope are best achieved through equitable, accountable partnerships."

Because shelter is such a basic need, replacing substandard housing can have a transformative effect. Reduced housing costs means families are less reliant on state assistance for their basics needs. Children do better in school because they have stability at home. People moving from moldy or drafty housing can enjoy improved health. I am thankful that many businesses, churches and individuals in our community have caught the vision and already partnered with us and our selected families to build affordable homes.

We will begin building our next house soon in St. Helens. If you can donate funds or material to help another family achieve the dream of homeownership please contact us at [habitat@opusnet.com](mailto:habitat@opusnet.com) or call 503-366-1400 Ext. 2. The homeowner application deadline is Monday, April 10.

By Jennifer Anderson  
*Executive Director*  
Columbia County  
Habitat for Humanity



**Shandi and David Hobizal receive the keys to their house after months of hard work.**

 **Habitat for Humanity®**  
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**CIRCLE NEXT STEP!**

			
<p><b>OK as is!</b></p>	<p><b>New PDF</b></p>	<p><b>OK w/Changes</b></p>	<p><b>NOT OK NEED NEW PROOF</b></p>

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