



Community Building Works!

providing green, affordable housing locally and internationally using volunteer labor

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Questions Frequently Asked By Volunteers:

1. Why should I volunteer my time?

Your time will have impact locally, nationally, internationally, and globally. Locally, you will help a deserving graduate of Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services' first-time homebuyer process to realize the American dream of safe, affordable, green, and financially sustainable homeownership. Nationally, you will be helping promote this new way of approaching affordable housing —supporting financially self-sufficient non-profits with mission-driven projects. Internationally, you will be helping toward building a home in an emerging country for a desperately poor family in desperate need of decent housing. And globally, you will be contributing to our very green approach to development.

2. How do I sign up?

Contact Sandy Haaf (CommunityBuildingWorks@gmail.com)

3. Do I need construction skills?

No. Any able-bodied person with a positive attitude can be a valuable contributor. We will determine construction skill levels on the job site, and will try to match assigned tasks with each volunteer's current abilities and interests. Some informal instruction will be provided as well. We will try to show how to get the job done right, and safety will be stressed and stressed and stressed again.

4. How do we ensure high-quality affordable housing is built?

We provide quality designs, knowledgeable staff, and appropriate materials and supplies, and you provide essential labor. All of us provide a personal commitment to quality work – keeping in mind that what we are building will be someone's home that should be built with the best craftsmanship possible. We all will be able to take pride in that.

5. What if I can only work for an hour or two?

Fine! That will bring us an hour or two closer to our goals.

6. What if I can work for a day or two, or more?

Please do! Our goal is to develop a team of seasoned volunteers that will continue to build their skills and provide quality work to numerous CBW projects.

7. Are there age or other limits on who can participate?

Volunteers under sixteen need to be accompanied by an adult – please ask us if you have a question about younger volunteers. There is no upper age limit. All volunteers must have the physical fitness to perform the work they plan to do, as determined by the

volunteer, perhaps in consultation with a physician. We plan to have opportunities for younger people and persons with physical limitations to plant trees and do other landscaping work, perhaps as early as the spring of 2009.

8. What do I need to bring?

- Work clothes – that you don't mind getting dirty or damaged.
- Work shoes – good support and tough soles are important, and steel toes are best, but not required. Volunteers wearing only sneakers, sandals, flip-flops, etc. may be limited in what they can do, or be asked to come back with appropriate footwear.
- Food and a water bottle. Bring what you think you'll need for the time you plan to spend. We intend to have clean water on site at all times to refill your water bottle, but that can't always be guaranteed. We will make every attempt to keep the worksite green; by eliminating bottled water generated waste, we take one step in that direction.
- Enthusiasm, and a cooperative spirit.

9. What should I wear?

- See above regarding work shoes.
- It is always a good idea to layer regardless of the season. We do our best to coordinate volunteer work with weather conditions, however there will be times when you are subject to the weather regardless of our best efforts. We advise that you dress in layers in order to be responsive to temperature fluctuations and to remain comfortable – particularly on rainy days and during the winter season. Frequently our job sites will not be heated, so even when working inside, layers will help you to remain warm in the winter. Remember a hat!

10. How do I volunteer for an international building project?

Let us know of your interest. We work with JourneyWays to arrange trips for home building projects in other countries, and we'll advise you about how to make the necessary arrangements. Information about JourneyWays is available through their web site, www.journeyways.org.

11. What safety equipment is being provided?

Hardhats, work gloves, ear muffs, dust masks, and safety glasses will be available for each volunteer who needs such equipment to perform an assigned task.

12. What if there's an injury on site?

We will not have trained medical or emergency personnel on site. First aid will be provided for minor injuries, but otherwise we'll rely upon 911 and other emergency service providers.

13. Are we insured?

Community Building Works! has insurance only for its employees, as it is required to by law, and does not have any insurance that covers injury or other damages of volunteers. We require that all volunteers understand and sign a waiver and release that acknowledges and assumes the risks of working on a construction jobsite, and acknowledges that volunteers are unpaid and uninsured.