



New Orleans Area
Habitat
for Humanity®

www.habitat-nola.org
504-861-2077



IMPACT REPORT 2017

DEAR FRIENDS,

We build through partnership.

Every NOAHH home is built in partnership with families earning sweat equity, with volunteers taking time out of their lives to give back, with donors helping to fund our affiliate's programs, and with community partners supporting our mission. As we build together, communities grow not just from the homes built but also from those building them. Through these partnerships—with you and thousands of others—we continue to find ways to expand your impact in New Orleans.

To expand your impact, we seek out new ways to meet the need for affordable housing. In a rental market where 39% of tenants pay more than half of their income for housing, there is an urgent need for better housing opportunities. Imagine paying \$1,200 a month for a modest 3-bedroom home on top of childcare, utility bills, medical needs, and food—in a city where families earn less than \$30,000 a year working jobs in food service, hospitality, transportation, or security. Through partnership, NOAHH has begun to include affordable rentals in our programs. Over the last decade, NOAHH has built rentals in partnership with elder musicians in Musicians' Village, with Covenant House

and CASA for our transitional housing rentals, and with future homeowners through our incubator program. NOAHH has begun a new partnership with the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority to build both rentals and single-family homes in the Lower Ninth Ward that have already begun bringing residents back to the neighborhood where they grew up. Through these partnerships, we make it possible for more hard-working New Orleanians to find the stability needed to change their lives through financial independence and homeownership.

Our most important partnership, however, is with you. The support of thousands of donors and volunteers every year is critical to our building efforts and to keeping our homes affordable. In 2017, your partnership helped NOAHH complete 30 new homes, including eight rental doubles. We celebrated the completion of our 600th new home. We repaired 33 homes through our A Brush With Kindness program, empowering long-time residents to remain in their homes as stakeholders in the community, and we helped clear blight and overgrowth in the Lower Ninth Ward with an

Attack the Block event. We hosted our first Women Build, where over 300 women came together to build a home for and with Monica Grandpre, a local single mother, in just 12 days. In October, Unity Build brought together 11 congregations of all faiths to build a house in one month for and with Nicole Pujol. NOAHH also started new volunteer partnerships with local job training centers and non-traditional schools, and in total, we hosted nearly 9,000 volunteers, including 2,700 students on their spring breaks and nearly 6,000 volunteers from around Louisiana.

NOAHH has started construction on our second ReStore, which will connect us to new partnerships in the Kenner area, helping with partner family outreach, new sponsorship opportunities, and expanded volunteer opportunities. Every partnership we have built in the past year—and throughout our history—is possible as a result of your commitment to our mission of affordable housing.

Your support touches thousands of lives every year, and in 2018, your support will double last year's efforts and build two homes at our second Women Build, expand our presence with the grand opening of our second ReStore, and continue building and repairing homes around New Orleans, from New Orleans East to Hollygrove, from Central City to the Lower Ninth Ward. NOAHH's work is only as strong as the partnerships that make it possible; our effectiveness is a result of your support and commitment. NOAHH is thankful for every partnership, and we look forward to another year of partnership with you.

Thank you,
Jim Pate
Executive Director, NOAHH




Jim Pate, Arne Sorenson (CEO of Marriott International), NOAHH homeowner Shanell Davis and family, and Drew Brees on site for the Marriott Spirit to Serve day of service.

2017 VOLUNTEERS

TOTAL VOLUNTEERS

8,954

VOLUNTEERS

16,031

TIMES VOLUNTEERED

126,088

HOURS

LOCAL VOLUNTEERS

5,648

VOLUNTEERS

8,302

TIMES VOLUNTEERED

64,256

HOURS

SPRING BREAK VOLUNTEERS

2,723

VOLUNTEERS

4,085

TIMES VOLUNTEERED

32,676

HOURS

The incredible support New Orleans received from our neighbors following Hurricane Katrina has not been forgotten.

People from around the world gave us shelter or came to New Orleans to help rebuild when it looked like all was lost, and our neighbors in Baton Rouge opened their arms and took in thousands of New Orleanians in need. When heavy rains turned into catastrophic flooding in the Baton Rouge area in August 2016, NOAHH—and all New Orleanians—knew we had to step up and help our friends to the west.

Immediately after the floods, NOAHH reached out to our sister affiliate in the area. We sent teams to help gut flooded homes and engage in mold remediation, collected and delivered donations to the affected areas, and connected those in need with resources. Volunteers from Sheraton Hotels helped gut homes, and our friends at Honey Baked Ham provided lunches for the hard working teams. As many who have participated in relief efforts or had to face the task of gutting their own home know, it's heartbreaking but essential work. Yet there are moments of joy amidst the pain, such as when NOAHH volunteers recovered a homeowner's wedding ring.

In February 2017 a category three tornado struck New Orleans East, a part of the city where NOAHH has built over 100 homes. Thankfully all of our partner families were safe, but many others suffered devastating losses. NOAHH volunteers answered the call and spent days tarping roofs, clearing out homes and yards, and providing necessities like bottled water and even emotional support to affected homeowners. One homeowner, a New Orleans firefighter, worked alongside NOAHH



SUPPORTING OUR NEIGHBORS: DISASTER RELIEF

volunteers on his one day off. Spending the day clearing out and gutting his home brought a sense of community for him and our locals who wanted to support each other.

In August 2017, a hurricane brought major flooding to the Gulf Coast, this time in Texas and southwest Louisiana. Repaying the kindness that our neighbors showed us in 2005, NOAHH reached out and coordinated with affiliates in the impacted communities, working with them

on the best ways to offer support and providing advice based on our experiences during our own time of need.

Through the support of volunteers and donors—who were immediately calling the affiliate to see how they could help—NOAHH was able to help our neighbors when they needed it most. Once more, the coordination throughout the local community inspired us in its ability to lift each other up when it was most needed, and once more, we say thank you!



BUILDING VALUE IN NEW ORLEANS EAST



Plum Orchard sits between I-10 and Wilson Avenue, and between Chef Menteur Highway and Dwyer Road. In the middle of it is America Street, where NOAHH has focused much of our building efforts in the last six years. In the spring of 2015, 10 homes were completed in just 10 days on and near America Street in the Habitat AmeriCorps Build-A-Thon. In the spring of 2016 we dedicated another ten homes on America Street. In less than a decade, NOAHH has completed 85 new homes, 39 home repair projects, and two neighborhood clean-up events in this neighborhood.

According to real estate site Zillow, between August of 2010 and March of 2017, Plum Orchard saw a 48% increase in median home value!

Plum Orchard is unique both for the volume of building we've done there and the lack of other construction activity. In many neighborhoods where we build, there's enough construction beyond our own that changes in home value can't be entirely attributed to our efforts.

By way of comparison, the median home value for the city as a whole increased by 17% during the same time.

Why is this exciting? When we sell a home to a first-time homebuyer, they gain all of the stability that comes with homeownership—a predictable and steady mortgage payment amount, no worries about not having a lease renewed, no fighting with a landlord over deferred maintenance and repairs... the list goes on. But they also gain something equally important: a vehicle for building wealth. Increased home value has a real impact on a homeowner family's net worth.

In the last two years, over 80% of the families we've served have been African American. According to What It's Worth, "as of 2013, the median net worth of white households was approximately 13 times higher than that of black households. Median household net worth of African American renters in 2010 was \$2,100." In a city where 59% of residents are African American, these numbers have very real impacts on the

community as a whole. Families of color who become homeowners are empowered to rewrite this narrative not only for themselves, but for many generations to follow.

This shift in home value is also exciting for what it says about the transformation of a neighborhood. The bright new Habitat homes all lined up along America Street are a landscape of hope. These homeowners all worked together on each other's houses, building their own community in both tangible and intangible ways. That kind of renewal draws in other homebuyers who recognize the new energy in the area.

That energy showed up when Whitney Jett began researching the lots available to her as a Habitat partner family. Whitney grew up in New Orleans East, so she was sur-



prised when she realized where she wanted to live: "I narrowed down the lot to America Street before I even went to that street," she said. "The street had a reputation, apparently. 'Dale Street, America Street? Oh, that neighborhood's rough.' I thought, 'Well, not according to the crime map.' You go up America Street, and then you get towards Dwyer, and it's all Habitat houses—and, whoa! I'm among friends."



UNITY BUILD

This October, 11 local congregations came together for Unity Build 2017. From October 5th to October 28th, believers of different faiths and traditions demonstrated their unity through common service, building a home with first-time homebuyer Nicole Pujol in just 13 work days. Unity Build participants raised funds, organized snacks and meals, and built the home.

Like so many Habitat homebuyers, Nicole's drive to own a home came from her two children. "I wanted my kids to have a good strong foundation. To be able to say, 'this is mine.'"



"Working together, as different churches and congregations not only helps our beloved community, but strengthens our bond as people of faith"

- Rev. Dr. Donald R. Frampton,
Senior Pastor, St. Charles Ave.
Presbyterian Church

And I wanted to work for something where I could say, 'this is mine.' When she initially heard of the First Time Homebuyers program from one of her mom's friends, she was skeptical. It sounded too good to be true. Once she met with NOAHH's Family Services staff and learned more about how the partnership works, though, she knew it was the right fit for her family.

Even before the build began, Nicole's daughter had made up her mind on the color of her new room (mint green), and Nicole had big plans for her new backyard: "I'm sure my son is going to want one of those little swing sets with the slide, so I'll probably have to look into one of those."

Some of the faith groups who helped build Nicole's home have long had a relationship with

NOAHH. Until 2013, including before Hurricane Katrina, St. Charles Avenue Baptist Church was where NOAHH's offices were located. Reverend Elizabeth Lott said of the relationship, "We were grateful to house Habitat for many years and witness first-hand their impact on the city of New Orleans. How exciting to bring that history and heartbeat together through the great work of Habitat, and joining together to invest in the life of the Pujol family and the neighborhood they will now call home."

The Rev. Rob Courtney of St. Paul's Episcopal Church and School said of the church's motive to get involved, "As a congregation that experienced what it was like to be homeless for a time after Hurricane Katrina, we have felt a call to work with those who have been displaced. To help provide someone



with a home that they could call their own and to work with them directly through Habitat is right up our alley.”

Nicole jokes that she was excited when she heard her home would be built through the Unity Build because she knew it would be extra-blessed. Not only is her home blessed by the many hands that touched each board and shingle and nail, the home also became a source of blessing for those who were brought together to build.

There are so many amazing congregations of all faiths working every day to build hope in New Orleans. Coming together through Unity Build allowed them to lift one another up and amplify their impact. Those who worked side by side to build Nicole’s home know that the house may be finished, but there’s still work to be done. Reverend Courtney said, “Our experiences have taught us that we’re not an island, that God’s work is already going on in the world around us, and that it’s our job to step outside our doors and join in. Unity Build allows us to know more of our neighbors in faith from around the city, make new friends, and gain new partners in mission.”

UNITY BUILD PARTNERS

Household of Faith Family Worship Church

Trinity Episcopal Church

St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church

St. Charles Avenue Baptist Church

First Baptist New Orleans

Lakeview Presbyterian Church

John Calvin Presbyterian Church

Temple Sinai

St. Paul’s Episcopal Church

The Sixth Baptist Church

Rayne Memorial United Methodist Church

MEASURED IN CITY BLOCKS: ORGILL GIVES BACK

Most ReStore donations are measured in relatively small increments—linear feet of lumber, pallets of tile, pounds of nails—but when independent hardware store supplier Orgill holds their trade show in New Orleans, their donations are measured in city blocks.

First in August 2015, on the tenth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, and again this past February, shortly before Mardi Gras (and during the NBA All-Star Game, which was being played a few blocks away!), Orgill hosted their vendor show at the Ernest Morial Convention Center, using all ten halls, each one as long as a city block.

With everything from patio furniture and lawn equipment to brand new tools and furniture, the 2017 donation required 30 volunteers, partner families, AmeriCorps NCCCs, and NOAHH staff coordinating with staff from Orgill, the Convention Center, and the convention logistics company GES. Together, it took NOAHH and our partners three days to palletize, wrap, and ship 14 trailers full of donated materials, and thanks to the incredible staff at GES, two more trailers of material were loaded and shipped after the ReStore team left.

“We showed up—it was bad enough with the Carnival traffic getting there because of all the parades going on,” said NOAHH homeowner Whitney Jett, who worked some

of her sweat equity helping with the donation. “And then they told us, ‘Oh we got the whole convention center, all the way down there.’ Because we were at one end and were thinking, ‘All the way down there?!’ You go booth to booth. It’s like somebody took down about four Walmarts and gave everything to Habitat. Just going aisle to aisle, making pallets. It was just so much stuff. It was exhausting, but exciting at the same time, because we were looking at all this stuff.”

Once the donations were delivered, the NOAHH ReStore staff and volunteers began processing, pricing, and placing them on the sales floor. With so much donated, it took an entire month to fully process. With just the first few truckloads delivered, the ReStore was bursting with amazing



material—and between the two donations, enough was raised through sales to fund three homes. Through partnerships with companies like Orgill, the Convention Center, and GES, NOAHH is able to support our mission through home-building, as well as by providing affordable materials to local families and companies for repair projects and home maintenance. Both the environment and the companies benefit by reducing the amount of material going to the landfill.

Any gift to the ReStore has an impact that extends far beyond the transaction. NOAHH thanks everyone at Orgill, GES, and the Morial Convention Center for their support and continuing dedication to affordable housing in New Orleans!

If your organization has a donation for the ReStore, call Kieran at 504-609-3331 to schedule a free pickup!



WHY WE BUILD

Single mothers in New Orleans who live below the poverty line.

58%

48%

Children in New Orleans are living in single-mother homes.

Children under age 18 in New Orleans living in poverty (double the national average).

43.8%

Respondents in domestic violence programs who reported that they needed help with finding affordable housing.

84%

55%

Rental households in New Orleans.

The median income of renters in New Orleans is \$24,000.

\$

The annual income needed to rent a 2-bedroom home at fair market rent in New Orleans is over \$38,000.

38% of renters in New Orleans pay more than half of their income on rent.

\$

Over 12,000 rental households live in units with moderate to severe physical problems.

The New Orleans waiting list for Section 8 vouchers is 28,000 people long and only opens every 7 years.

\$

The annual income needed to own a median-priced home in New Orleans is over \$54,000.

WOMEN BUILD

*"I don't put anything past women. I feel like you can do anything anybody else can do."
- Monica Grandpre, Habitat Women Build Homeowner*

After almost 35 years of building, NOAHH has seen thousands of women build hundreds of homes. From our founding board members to our current homeowners, women have made up a majority of our supporters and partners. Yet in the midst of our first annual Women Build, there was no shortage of men who stopped to stare, and there were many women who left the build site with newfound confidence in their construction skills: "It was wonderful to get out and be able to provide a service that helps to better our community, and a family in need," said Women Build volunteer Courtney Davis-Hebert. "Even though we operate daily in a male-dominated industry, it was fun to get our hands dirty and take on another role that is usually male-dominated."

Over 300 women volunteered to fund and build a home for Monica Grandpre and her two children. In total, over 500 volunteers and supporters were involved in the event, from the donors to the partner families who joined us on site to the women on staff who led the build. In just 12 days, the women of New Orleans came together with Monica to build a home that will be a legacy that will endure for generations.

Having children of her own is what drove Monica to pursue her long-cherished dream of homeownership. She began looking many years ago, but she hesitated to apply to Habitat's program until the situation in her neighborhood became too dangerous for her to

remain there with her children. In the summer of 2016, she made a call that would change her life. Not long after applying, she was accepted into the First Time Homebuyer's Program, and a few months later, her home was selected for NOAHH's first annual Women Build.

Working nights at Royal House, she was able to devote her days to working her sweat equity. Monica worked diligently, completing almost all of her hours before the build. She made time to meet with as many volunteers as she could, not just to thank them, but because she understood—as someone who had helped build other people's homes—how much a difference it made to meet the future homeowner.

Monica did not miss a day of the build, and her presence always brought renewed excitement from the volunteers. Her commitment also shone through in her work: she would see every task she undertook to the finish. No matter what she was doing—installing spin-dles on her porch or blowing



in insulation—she kept working until the task was done.

"It was awesome meeting Monica," said Kelly Theard, Women Build team leader. "I was so impressed with her eagerness to get down and do the work, and her excitement was infectious. It was amazing that she spent most of the day with us working on her home, and then went to work her shift that night. I am so excited for her and her family. Her kids have a great mom."

"I was out there every day because it was *my house*," Monica said. "I felt like this project was a big, big deal, and I wanted to be there. These women who were coming out each day to help, I wanted to know them and to thank them. It was inspiring to see women leading and doing all of the work."

While women did all of the construction, some supplies were delivered to the site by men. One such supplier hesitated when he saw an entire site full of women there to take his delivery: "He is a very sweet man, but he doesn't like a woman to have to carry heavy materials," said Colleen Gately, NOAHH AmeriCorps. "He always yells out to a man on site to come carry the load. Countless

times he has told me not to carry a box because 'it's too heavy for you,' and every time I've jokingly responded and shown him otherwise. On this day we had 20 women lined up to move his delivery, and he was very hesitant. He could not find a single man to call out to to help us. Of course, we got it done. This moment made me truly aware of how important this Women Build was for all of us. **I realized it was not only to empower women to believe they can do anything, but also to empower men to believe it, too.**

Many of NOAHH's longtime partners joined us on site for the build, including Women Build presenting sponsor GE Digital Women's Network. Other partners, including Marriott International and Fidelity Bank and newer partners from Woodward Design+Build, brought teams to site and brought men from their offices to serve lunch to the volunteers.



"Monica worked side-by-side with all of us. The day we put in the living room floor Monica wanted the best outcome—we chose pattern and boards together to her design eye. The pride and joy she was experiencing was something I will always cherish!"

- Jane Scott Hodges, Women Build, Team Leader, Designing Women

"There was the feeling that I think each of us experienced, when we realized that we were a part of something bigger. We realized we were not just hammering the weatherboards of a house, but building a home for a family."

- Judy Perry Martinez, Women Build Team Leader, Hammer on Krewe

"I felt inspired and empowered every day that I arrived to the Women Build site. Each person that was involved in the experience put all of her heart into the project, which resulted in an extremely successful blitz build. By working as a cohesive team, the women of Women Build blew my expectations out of the water."

- Amanda Smith, Women Build House Leader

"My favorite moment from the Women Build was being able to work on the porch railing with Monica. I love that we were a team of strong, wonderful women working on a house for an inspiring, hardworking single mother, who was there working right alongside us."

- Rebecca Maisel, Women Build Volunteer, the Brick Freedias

THANK YOU TO OUR WOMEN
BUILD TEAM LEADERS:

Kappa Horn and Amy Reimer
The Fancy Nailers

Jessica Malecki
Hammers and Heels

Allison Durant and Caroline Calhoun
Motherless Daughters

Elizabeth Selasky
New Orleans Women's Realtors

Denise Puentes
Swingin' Ladies (Hammers, That Is)

Tracy Thomas
GE Digital Women's Network

Judy Perry Martinez
Hammer On Krewe

Lila Heymann and Alice McGillicuddy
Glitter Box

Jane Scott Hodges
Designing Women

Ann Clayton Chamberlain
grEIGHTIES

Ashley Haspel
The Drill Sergeants

Kelly Theard
Chicks With Bricks

Ellie Rand
The SheetRockers

Riley Kennedy and Emily Shaya
The Brick Freedias

Liz Broekman
Fidelity Bank

Terri Dreyer
Lipstick and Lumber

Nancy Valobra and Erica Schroeder
The BuildHers

Lunch and Fun:
Big Freedia
Marriott
Dr. Patti Farris
Willa Jean
Five Happiness
Sammy's
Imperial Woodpecker Snoballs
Sarah's Pet Care Revolution
Microsoft
Domino's
Zea's Rotisserie & Grill
Trinity Loaves and Fishes
Juan's Flying Burrito
Woodward Design+Build
Fidelity Bank
Marty Peters
ScrubsNLuv
Glitterbox
Lululemon
Saks Fifth Avenue
Nola Media Group
Salire Fitness
Athleta
Dave & Buster's

Not all of the women knew each other before the build, but by the end of the day, all had bonded: "A lot of people I worked with, we didn't know each other from a can of paint," said Monica, "and then we start on this project and got into the swing of things with each other."

"My most inspired moments were working side by side with other women and learning a skill myself," said team leader Jane Scott Hodges. "I can lay a floor. I can operate an electric saw. I especially enjoyed working with my daughter and learning that we both could learn from each other."

Women Build was a celebration of Monica's accomplishments, a response to the needs of women in New Orleans, and an empowering collaboration that brought women together. It impacted everyone who was a part of it. The dedication ceremony was the culmination of a long journey. For the volunteers, it was a chance to see the impact of their work. For the staff, it was the successful end of a major project that took over a year of planning. And for Monica, it was the achievement of her lifelong dream.

"That last day was overwhelming for me," said Monica. "I was trying to hold back little tears of excitement, thinking 'This is the end of it. My home's complete.' It's a feeling you really can't describe. It's one of my dreams coming true, something I had in the back of my mind for years. It's something that, when you also didn't have that as a child, it became not just for my kids, but a dream for myself, too. Now I have my own house, you know? It's really indescribable."

We will be building two homes for Women Build 2018. Contact Avery at 504-609-3339 to get involved.

LEARNING ON SITE:
PARTNERING WITH
JOB CORPS

A Habitat build site is an excellent place to learn. Through NOAHH's partnership with Job Corps of New Orleans, the affiliate provides training opportunities to local students. Job Corps of New Orleans empowers eligible young adults by teaching them job skills and independence, placing them in meaningful employment or further education, including apprenticeships and advanced training programs. Many of their carpentry students train on Habitat sites.

The partnership began in 2006 and has continued to grow since. NOAHH's volunteer experience allows Job Corps carpentry students to gain valuable work experience and allows them to apply the skills they learned in the classroom. Habitat staff are there to guide and assist them on site, providing the students with professional training.

In fall 2016, this local partnership emphasized how one person's work could impact their own community. Job Corps students had the opportunity to help NOAHH in our flood relief efforts as well as with our home-building work. To Job Corps, this made the partnership unique.

"New Orleans Job Corps students are always reinvigorated following a day working with New Orleans Habitat for Humanity," said Randy Savoie, the Business and Community Liaison at New Orleans Job Corps Center. "They speak of the confidence gained by the practical application of skills learned in the classroom, new skills learned from Habitat mentors, and of the sense

of gratification derived from helping improve neighborhoods where they themselves reside."

Working with volunteers on site allows students to learn more than construction skills. Working together with others outside of their classes helps them learn teamwork and how to adapt in a new environment.

"It gives us the sense that our students have come to appreciate the value of teamwork on deadline and have had the opportunity to learn about other cultures while working with Habitat volunteers from across the country," said Randy.



Michael Connerly
HOME FOR THE
ROAD AHEAD

Michael Conerly has the kind of smile that takes over his whole face, particularly when he's talking about his four children. He worked 14 years for Hotard Motor Coaches as a motor coach operator, and he entertained as a DJ on the side. That life was interrupted in 2012, though, when he was diagnosed with Chronic Eosinophilic Leukemia. Ever since then, planning for his children's future has taken on a new urgency. There is no cure for Michael's illness, and over time his mobility will become increasingly limited. Because Michael knows that the best recipe for a strong future is the stability of homeownership, he decided to join our FirstTimeHomebuyers program to buy a Habitat home.

We adapt our sweat equity requirement for partner families who

aren't physically capable of working on a build site. Michael earned all of his sweat equity hours in the ReStore, coming in for shorter days a few times a week. The partnership experience ended up having its own benefits for him. Shorter days in the ReStore helped him regain some of the stamina and strength he has lost through his illness, and he learned a few things along the way, too. He says, "The knowledge that I accumulated through Habitat's classes and doing volunteer work in the Restore was overwhelming. I've never met a group of people so loving and caring as the Habitat for Humanity Family."

We also adapt the homes we build when partner families have mobility challenges. Since Michael will eventually need a wheelchair to get around, his home was built with accessibility features that will meet his needs both now and in the years to come. It includes a wheelchair ramp, wider hallways, larger interior and exterior doors, a wider bathroom, a wheelchair-accessible vanity, and grab bars in the bathroom. We were able to avoid add-



ing these extra costs to Michael's mortgage because of the generosity of donors who stepped up to cover these expenses.

For Michael, owning his own home means stability. He won't ever have to worry about rent increases or not having his lease renewed. Michael feels a new level of security in knowing that his home is equipped to meet his physical needs as they change over time. Most importantly, this home gives Michael peace of mind in knowing that he has a solid asset to leave behind for his children. When asked what he would do the day he was handed the key to his home, this is what Michael had to say: "I think the first thing I'm going to do is stand in the living room and jump for joy. I think after that I'm going to go somewhere nice and quiet, and pray. Thank God for that blessing."



AMERICORPS

AmeriCorps Direct members serve as the backbone of our construction capacity and support for our office, working alongside our staff every day as they guide volunteers and future homeowners on the build site or behind the scenes. In dedicating a year of their lives to serving the City of New Orleans, these young leaders have an amazing impact on the lives of hundreds of families and thousands of volunteers.



191 AmeriCorps who have served with us.

16 NOAHH AmeriCorps alumni still in New Orleans.

580 National Civilian Community Corps Members who have served with NOAHH.

12 NOAHH's staff who are AmeriCorps alumni.



"The best thing the US government sent after Hurricane Katrina arrived in a gray t-shirt with the AmeriCorps logo."

— Jim Pate, Executive Director, New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity



RICHARD ROTH'S LEGACY

Through the years, Richard Roth gave generously to NOAHH. He strongly supported NOAHH's mission to build safe, affordable homes for hard working families in the New Orleans area. By including NOAHH in his will planning, he ensured that his generosity would have a deep impact on the families we serve for years to come.

An iconic movie producer and writer, Richard was known for everything from science fiction to nostalgic dramas to Gene Wilder comedies. He lived most of his life in California, getting his start in Hollywood after he finished law school at Stanford. His life was quite ordinary until one day, while at work, he read the *Summer of '42* screenplay from a slush pile. He borrowed money to buy the rights and pitched the screenplay to *To Kill A Mockingbird* director Robert Mulligan. The film would become a major hit and earn five Oscar nominations. From there, he continued working on films until moving to work for CBS Entertainment in New York in the 1980s.

In March of 2017, Richard passed away at the age of 76. Shortly after his passing, NOAHH was informed that the affiliate had been included in his will. The

generous legacy gift from Richard will fund construction of the homes of three NOAHH partner families, helping them achieve their dreams of safe, affordable homeownership that will last them for generations. His legacy will endure not just in the films he helped create, but in the communities his support helped build.

We are deeply honored to be a part of Richard's legacy. By partnering with NOAHH through annual and planned giving, he has empowered families to create their own amazing stories. His gift will continue to provide critical housing solutions to our partner families as they begin their journey to envision and create a stronger future.

To discuss a legacy gift, please call Marguerite at 504-609-3349.

GIVING BACK WITH COUPONS

Bryan and Peggy Cooley have found a way to give to New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity by doing what they do every day: couponing!



The Cooleys had been looking for a way to connect with New Orleansians in need. Bryan acquired an inventory of tools purchased at discounted prices using buy-one-get-one-free coupons. In February 2017, they realized that new Habitat homeowners need tools to do work around their homes—and those tools are expensive. The Cooleys put together homeowner toolboxes containing the basics, from hammers to screwdrivers, from measuring tape to levels.

Toolboxes are one of the six traditional gifts given during Habitat home dedications, along with bread, flowers, a Bible, wine, and keys. Now, with each new home dedication, the homeowner is presented with one of the Cooleys' toolboxes. Bryan said, "Helping others gives us great joy and satisfaction."

For a new homeowner these tools mean being equipped to succeed in homeownership by using all the skills they've learned during sweat equity. The Cooleys understand that their gifts not only give hope and support, but also makes them feel more aware and connected to the families who benefit. The tools will be useful around the house for years to come and will always serve as a reminder of Bryan and Peggy's generosity.

HOMEOWNERS GIVING BACK



One of the most remarkable aspects of NOAHH’s partnerships with our homeowners is that they often continue long after a partner family closes on their home. Though they have contributed to our mission through sweat equity, many continue giving back through volunteering, outreach, or raising awareness.

Melvin Thompson never stopped volunteering. Unable to volunteer on the build site, he worked all of his sweat equity in the ReStore. He formed such a strong bond with the staff that when his hours were over, he chose to remain as a core volunteer, coming almost every day to help in the store.

“At first when I came in, [the staff] used to help me do things like move things around,” said Melvin. “Now I help people bring things to their truck, and I help unload the truck and put it on the carts. I like to come around and help.”

The ReStore staff now considers Melvin part of their family. He works with them every week, assisting customers and moving donations to the sales floor, but what brings him back is the chance

to spend time with those he befriended during his partnership. The most effective testimonials for Habitat’s homeownership program come from our partner families. They can speak personal experience about the need for housing. For educator Scott Morsen, it’s a chance to teach his students about their city and the impact they can have, taking what he learned in the program and passing it on to a new generation. After moving into his new home, he brought out a group of students to help build homes for others.

For Andrea Meier, knowing what others face trying to find a home is what has motivated her to keep giving back: “I became aware of how hard it



was to find housing once I had children,” she said. “When you’re a single person, you can get away with different kinds of living arrangements. When you have kids, you realize you’re going to need more bedrooms, and the rent is only getting higher. Then you start to look around, and you see that everyone is struggling. Before Habitat, the house I lived in was a one-bedroom shotgun that was getting sold for short-term rentals. Because of that, I became very passionate about affordable housing, not just for my family, but for everyone.”

A year after settling into her own Habitat home, Andrea joined NOAHH on site for Women Build. There she met Shawna Beasley, a future homeowner volunteering her first day on the build site. Since then, she began working with Shawna on her sweat equity hours.

“I enjoy working outside and learning new skills,” Andrea said. “It sets a good example for my kids, to go out and make an effort doing something you don’t have to do. It’s good to be involved in something that you believe in. Not only the actual work I do is helping, but getting the word out is helping.”



PRESERVING COMMUNITIES



Izara and James Andrews bought their home in New Orleans East over 40 years ago. They raised their seven children there, and now they are helping to raise two of their grandchildren there. They have seen their community grow and change. In recent years, the Andrews have seen many Habitat homes being built in their neighborhood: “We always say, ‘there’s another pretty house going up,’” Izara said. “It’s eye-catching. We had all run-down houses, and now there’s all these bright colored houses. It’s brightening up the neighborhood.”

Hurricane Katrina left their home almost unlivable and forced them to move into a single room. The Andrews love their quiet neighborhood and were determined to fix up their home. “We are so used to this street,” she said. “We would be lost in another area.”

For some of the projects, they needed a little help. One day, as James was walking down his street, he passed a Habitat build site. He met one of NOAHH’s staff who told him about the A Brush With Kindness home repair program: “They were down the street building a house,” Izara said. “A lady there talked to him. She told us to give Habitat a call, and we did.”

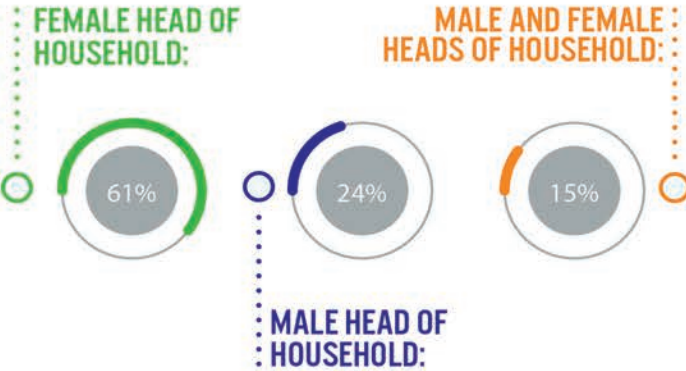
The Andrews were accepted into NOAHH’s home repair program. A Brush With Kindness helps homeowners whose homes are in need of work, with projects ranging from painting or fencing to roof and cabinet repairs. NOAHH fixed their driveway and floors and painted the exterior of their home. Volunteers from Leidos, a long-time partner of the affiliate, joined NOAHH at their home, meeting with the Andrews: “I took my grandson for basketball practice,” she said. “When I came back, there were 12 people there. They all shook our hands. They told us they were proud to do the work.”

In less than a month, the floors were restored, the driveway was fixed, and the home was painted, helping their family remain in the community they love.

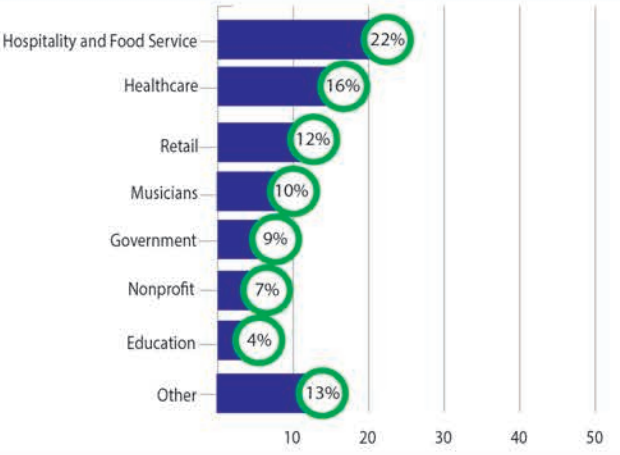
PARTNER FAMILY DEMOGRAPHICS

EVERYONE DESERVES A HOME. AS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY HOUSING LENDER, NOAHH IS DEDICATED TO MAKING HOMEOWNERSHIP ACCESSIBLE TO ALL WHO NEED IT. HERE’S A LOOK AT THE FAMILIES WHO STARTED THEIR 0% INTEREST HABITAT MORTGAGES BETWEEN 2013 AND THE PRESENT:

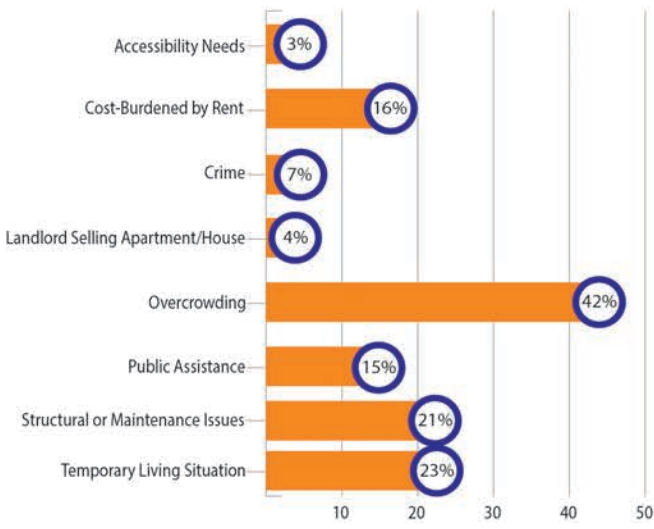
GENDER



OCCUPATION



WHY THEY CAME TO HABITAT



A REUNION OF FRIENDS

Camaraderie is common on the build site. Working with someone, whether lifting trusses or painting walls, brings people closer together. For old friends who volunteer together, it's a chance to renew bonds and enjoy each other's company once again. Some groups, like the Aloha Spa Boys, have made reuniting on a Habitat site an annual tradition. They have come to New Orleans Habitat for ten years now.

For the Spa Boys, their reunion is about reconnecting with each other and with those they helped before. On their visit in September 2017, they stopped in with two of the homeowners whose homes they worked on in previous years.

"We had a great week," said Brian Greenbaum of the Spa Boys. "It was amazing and so rewarding having the ability to get a first-hand look at the work we have done over the last ten years. It was especially great to meet Lakisha and Andrea and see how they have made the house we built their actual homes!"



To schedule your group or reunion activity, please contact Michelle at 504-609-3349.

RESTORE CONSTRUCTION UNDER WAY!



We're thrilled to announce that we have begun construction on our second ReStore! With your support, NOAHH has seen years of preparation turn into a source for future sustainability. We will be posting updates on our website, so check back often for news of our progress. With this new location in Kenner, NOAHH will be building new partnerships in a new community, broadening our donor base and clientele. The funds generated by this new store will directly support our programs and operations, allowing the affiliate to plan for the future with confidence. Visit us at www.nola-restore.org to learn more.