



Dear Work Group,

The world is experiencing a global housing crisis. About 1.6 billion people live in substandard housing and 100 million are homeless.¹ In the United States alone, 95 million people, one third of the nation, have housing problems including payments not in proportion with their income, overcrowding, poor quality shelter and homelessness.²

Habitat for Humanity is dedicated to providing decent, affordable homes for those in need. Habitat for Humanity has shown that building homes does more than put a roof over someone's head. In clean, decent, stable housing:

- Families can provide stability for their children.
- A family's sense of dignity and pride grow.
- Health, physical safety, and security improve
- Educational and job prospects increase.

Sea Island Habitat for Humanity is located on Johns Island, SC. Johns Island is an island with an interesting mix of shacks passed down for generations among the Gullah people, who were originally brought to the area as slaves, and resort homes inhabited by those who have moved to the area more recently. We have built over 240 homes on and around Johns Island in an effort to eliminate poverty housing. We are building 30 Habitat homes in 2008 in celebration of our 30th anniversary. It takes over 2,000 volunteer hours to build just ONE house. Volunteers are the backbone of our ministry, and we would love your help!

Why you should volunteer:

- You can make dreams come true. Every individual volunteer makes a difference.
- You'll make friends. This means that a lot of networking happens at the site.
- You are needed. We'll give you purpose.
- You'll feel good about doing something to help others.
- You can learn new skills and how to use difference tools.
- There is no long term commitment necessary. You can volunteer for a half-day, a whole day, a week, or every week. You decide.
- Volunteering generates a good image for your group.
- If you're with a group, volunteering together will make you feel like a team. If you're volunteering as an individual, we'll make you feel like you're part of a group.
- You can be a part of the solution.

We are usually working on several houses at various stages of construction at any given time. Just a few of the tasks you might work on when you come to volunteer are:

- digging foundations and laying rebar
- framing
- roofing, shingling
- installing windows, doors, appliances, fixtures
- vinyl siding
- insulation
- sheetrock

¹ Miloon Kothari , *UN Press Briefing by Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing*, November, 2005. <http://www.un.org/News/briefings/docs/2005/kotharibrf050511.doc.htm>

² *America's Neighbors: The Affordable Housing Crisis and the People it Affects*, National Low Income Housing Coalition, Washington, DC (2004) www.nlihc.org

- painting
- landscaping

We welcome many local groups for a morning, afternoon, whole day, or group of days. We also welcome many out-of-town work groups for several days or whole weeks, who are able to stay in our volunteer houses. Below is a "what to do" list for your day of volunteering, but attached you will find a more detailed list for out of town groups:

1. Confirm your worksite location and work times with the Volunteer Coordinator.
2. Read the Release form, fill it out in advance, and bring it with you to the worksite the day you volunteer. Be sure to turn it in to a construction supervisor. Minors must have their Release form signed by a parent or guardian.
3. The workday begins at 8am (7am during the summer) with introductions, the work plan for the day, a safety talk, and a devotion. On any given day we may have as many as 70 volunteers from different groups. We need your help to keep everything organized, so please be on time.
(Please note, it takes about 35 mins to get to our worksites from downtown, 45 mins from N. Charleston, and 1 hr from Summerville or Goose Creek.)
4. The day will end at 4pm (3pm during the summer).
5. Please abide by our dress code: close-toed shoes, shorts and sleeveless shirts should be modest, and wear clothes you can get dirty.
6. Remember to bring a water bottle and a lunch or lunch money. (Check which site you will be at to find out if there is anywhere to eat nearby.) Lunch is from 12-1 (11-12 during the summer).

Please see the below forms for more information, and feel free to contact me with any questions that may arise. We understand that there is a lot that goes into planning a trip of this nature, and we are here to assist you and make your job easier. Thank you and God Bless!

Anne Randall
Volunteer Coordinator
volunteer@seaislandhabitat.org
843.768.0998 x109

Encl: Age Requirements, Quick Facts, and Work Group Packet



VOLUNTEER AGE & SAFETY GUIDELINES

ALL VOLUNTEERS MUST COMPLETE AND SIGN A LIABILITY WAIVER. ANY VOLUNTEER UNDER AGE 18 MUST HAVE A LIABILITY WAIVER SIGNED BY A PARENT.

- **The minimum age for a construction volunteer is 14 years old.** Anyone under age 14 is not allowed on any Habitat construction site when construction is going on. *From time to time, we are able to set up non-construction projects for volunteers under age 14, such as landscaping or cleaning houses that are ready for move-in. We have also been blessed by having groups of young volunteers take the initiative to set up their own fundraising events for Sea Island Habitat for Humanity. Please contact us if this is of interest to your group.*
- **Volunteers ages 14 or 15** can do general construction duties at the Worksite if they have a parent or other adult with them providing one-on-one supervision. **They cannot use power tools and may not work at heights above six feet.**
- At the ReStore and for non-construction projects as described above, 14 and 15 year olds are not required to have one-on-one adult supervision. We do, however, strongly suggest keeping a low adult-teenager ratio. Please contact the volunteer coordinator for further detail.
- **Volunteers ages 16 or 17** can do general construction work but **cannot use power tools or be at heights 6' or over.**
- Volunteers age **18 and over** can do any of the various construction-related jobs on the site. Safety glasses must be worn by anyone operating power tools.
- **Any volunteer that has special needs** will need **one-on-one supervision** provided by an adult guardian.
- Any individual who does not abide by the Age & Safety Guidelines will not be allowed to volunteer at the site and will be asked to leave the premises.



QUICK FACTS ABOUT SEA ISLAND HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Habitat for Humanity International:

Was founded in 1976 by Millard and Linda Fuller to help those in need of decent shelter.

Is an international organization, with more than 2,400 international affiliates in 100 countries.

Has built over 250,000 homes worldwide, providing more than 1 million people in more than 3,000 communities with safe, decent, affordable shelter.

Continues to gain support through the help of many people, including former President Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalynn.

Sea Island Habitat for Humanity is:

An ecumenical, Christian housing ministry on Johns Island, South Carolina, an independent affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International.

A non-profit 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, with at least a 15 member working Board of Directors and over 1000 volunteers yearly with a goal of constructing 20 homes in 2001.

The first Habitat for Humanity affiliate established in South Carolina (in 1978), and the third oldest affiliate in the U.S.

One of over 2,000 active affiliates worldwide, which together build more than 15,000 homes each year.

How does it work?

Sea Island Habitat for Humanity constructs simple decent new homes for low income families, seeking to extend a "hand up" to working families living in substandard housing and caught in the cycle of poverty.

Families are selected upon the basis of need, willingness to partner with Habitat, and the ability to pay back the cost of the home at no profit and no interest over a 20 year period.

Habitat partner families contribute 500 hours of sweat equity towards the construction of Habitat homes. Under the direct supervision of a construction supervisor, partner families work alongside volunteers.

Interest-free mortgages are held by Sea Island Habitat, and homeowners monthly payments (about \$400/per month) help replenish construction funds which are then used to build more simple, decent homes for other deserving families

What about the ReStore?

The ReStore opened in 1998.

The mission of the ReStore is to recycle donated items by selling them to raise money to fund houses.

Donated items range from appliances, housewares, furniture, antiques, and electronics to building materials to vehicles and boats.

The ReStore is also starting a new venture called deconstruction where our "D-Team" assists in the removal of unwanted items during the remodel of a home. These items are then sold at the ReStore or used in construction.

The ReStore is an important part of Sea Island Habitat for Humanity. Proceeds from the store build about 8 houses each year!

Some background on Johns Island and the area:

Johns Island was originally inhabited by Native Americans, who were relocated by colonists.

Early farmers moved slaves from West Africa to the area to grow rice and, later, cotton. Diseases caused plantation owners to move away from the Islands leaving slaves along to develop their own language and culture called Gullah in which they kept their traditions alive.

After the Civil War, there was continued isolation. Taxes were too high on the land for plantation owners to buy it back, so it was often divided among the slaves who had worked the land. In addition, there was a lack of good transportation to the main land.

In the 1950s concrete and steel bridges were built to the Islands.

In the 1960s Mennonite missionaries came to Johns Island to try to improve the quality of life. They worked with Rural Mission to help those who needed it.

In the 1970s Kiawah and Seabrook Islands were developed as resort areas, providing many new jobs in the area.

In 1978 Sea Island Habitat for Humanity was formed.

Sea Island Habitat for Humanity has:

Built over 250 homes on Johns Island and the surrounding area to date, including three volunteer housing units.

Helped to provide simple, decent, affordable homes in decent neighborhoods for more than 1100 individuals.

With your help, Sea Island Habitat for Humanity will:

Build 30 houses in 2008 to celebrate our 30th anniversary.

Help promote a better quality of life on Johns Island and the surrounding area by making decent housing a matter of conscience and action.

SIHH WORK GROUP PACKET

DEPOSIT:

A deposit of **\$200** is due within two weeks of scheduling your dates with us. This will secure your scheduled week and **will be returned to you** at the end of your stay if volunteer housing is left clean and in good condition. (Please do not deduct the \$200 from the cost discussed above.)

COST:

There is a **\$135 per person** suggested donation to cover the cost of housing and help pay for building materials. If you are not staying in our housing, we suggest a donation of **\$100 per person** to go towards building materials. We would appreciate it ahead of time. If you do not, it will be due on your first day with us at orientation.

HOUSING:

Sea Island Habitat has 3 houses for out-of-town volunteers. During busier times of the year (spring and summer), we have more groups per week than we do volunteer houses so some groups may stay in alternative housing such as a church or school. We will let you know your housing assignment and necessary details and directions a few weeks prior to your scheduled trip.

SECURITY:

For those of you staying in our provided housing, there is a lock box on the front door of each volunteer house. You will need to use the code we will provide you with to access the key inside the lock box. Please do not share the code with just anyone. Use the alarm system, to which we will also provide you with the code. Many groups find it helps to assign a security person in charge of making sure the doors and windows are locked, setting the alarm, and placing the key back in the lock box each time you leave. We also recommend taking items such as iPods, cell phones, laptops, and cash to the worksite with you and locking them in a vehicle.

MEALS:

You are responsible for food and preparation of all meals. This includes lunch at the worksite. Remember to bring a sack lunch, plan to go back to your lodging, or bring lunch money. Confirm with the Volunteer Coordinator how far fast food options are to your worksite if you plan to do the latter. Many work groups will assign meal duties (meal prep, serving, and cleanup) to those in their group and rotate them each day.

SCHEDULE:

The construction site operates Mon-Sat from 8am-4pm (7am-3pm during the summer). Please be on time. During the week, we often host as many as 70 volunteers and up to 40 on the weekends. Being on time is crucial to keep things running smoothly. Each morning starts off with a safety talk and devotion at the worksite that your group may be asked to lead. Lunch is from 12-1 (11-12 during the summer). Most work groups work Mon-Fri. If you want to take a half or whole day off or work at the ReStore for a half or whole day, this is fine. Simply let the Volunteer Coordinator know ahead of time.

ORIENTATION:

Work groups have orientation at our office at **8am Monday (7am during the summer)**. This orientation goes over some history of Johns Island and the area, an introduction to Habitat for Humanity and SIHH, issues concerning volunteer housing, and what to expect at the worksite. Please turn in your release forms at orientation. Also at orientation, each volunteer in your group will pick out a Sea Island Habitat for Humanity

t-shirt. Additional t-shirts can be purchased. We also have hats, visors, and water bottles for sale. In addition Sea Island Habitat for Humanity has its own coffee-table book full of pictures and stories of our homeowners and volunteers. We sell them for \$10.

BUILD PLAN:

Our build plan on the work site varies depending on permitting, weather, & what has been completed before your arrival. On any given week you may be digging foundations, roofing, painting, or anything in between. During the week we may also have deconstruction projects that take place off site. If there is a deconstruction project we will need volunteers one or two days during the week. All materials we deconstruct are donated to us through the ReStore to help build more homes. Please remember that ALL tasks you work on are important to help us complete our build plan!

MEET YOUR FAMILY/FAMILIES:

If you are interested in meeting the family or families, whom you are helping build for, we love to encourage this. A great way of doing this is to invite them for dinner. Perhaps you have other ideas. Just let us know ahead of time that you'd like to do this, and we'll get in contact with the family or families for you. (In addition, our staff (myself included) and AmeriCorps love to spend time with and get to know our volunteer groups. Feel free to invite us to meals as well!)

RESTORE:

The ReStore sells donated goods (furniture, appliances, building materials, electronics, books, cars, boats, antiques, etc.) and the proceeds go to build about 8 Habitat homes each year. In addition, it is part of the Green Movement by keeping the items it sells out of landfills. Our ReStore is open Mon – Sat and your help would be a blessing to them!

WEATHER:

You know that old saying, “If you don't like the weather, wait twenty minutes. It'll change?” It's true in Charleston. The average highs in the summer are in the mid 80s, and the lows are around 70°F. During the winter months, the highs are around 60°F, and the lows are in the 40s. Be careful though. It can get much hotter than that in the summer and much cooler than that in winter. And watch out for the humidity. It's bad.

QUICK NUMBERS:

Hospitals/Clinics:

Roper Kiawah-Seabrook Medical Care (in Freshfields Village)

768.4800

Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital (off Paul Cantrell Blvd, 2095 Henry Tecklenburg Drive)

402.1037 – emergency, 402.1000 – non-emergency

Post Office:

Johns Island (off Maybank Highway)

559.0622

James Island (579 Folly Road)

795.5006

Groceries:

Piggly Wiggly (at Maybank and Bohicket about 6 ½ miles from volunteer housing)

559.5542

Newton Farms (in Freshfields Village about 4 ½ miles from volunteer housing)

243.3276

OTHER PLANS:

Please see "Work Group Tourist Info" if you are interested in seeing or doing anything in the area while you are here. We are happy to help come up with ideas or search for more information on anything you are interested in doing while you are here.

SIHH WORK GROUP CHECKLIST

- Send \$200 deposit check to secure you spot.** Make the check out to Sea Island Habitat for Humanity, and address the envelope "Attn: Anne Randall." (Tell your accountant we won't cash it. We'll hold it as a security deposit for housing.)
- Prepare your group for the trip, discussing details and expectations with them:
 - packing list
 - how meals will work
 - attitude to bring with them
 - expectations on the worksite
 - housing arrangements
- Have your group fill out front/back copies of the Release form.
- Write a check to Sea Island Habitat for Humanity for a \$135 per person donation for housing and to help with building materials and mail along with a list of group members **at least 2 weeks prior to your trip.**
- Remember bedding!
- Be sure you have the code to the lock box and security system!
- Bring Release forms and check (if you did not already send it) with you to orientation.

SIHH WORK GROUP PACK LIST

(We will provide tools, water, building materials, and supervision.)

Work clothes (old clothes that you do not care about getting messed up, please keep shirts and shorts modest, layering in the winter works best, light colors are good)

Plastic bag (for dirty clothes)

Hat

Sunglasses

Closed-toed shoes

Lucky tape measure or favorite hammer (not necessary and must be responsible for not losing them)

Sheets and blankets or sleeping bag

Pillows

Toiletries

First aid needs

Snacks

Bug repellent

Sunscreen

Bathing suit (if your group is going to the beach)

Water bottle (for the worksite)

Money and a big roomy truck if you want to shop at the (All the money goes towards building homes!)

A good attitude and flexibility

Directions and Details for Sea Island Habitat Office

2545 Bohicket Rd, Johns Island, SC 29455
843.768.0998

From I-526 West:

Quick directions:

Hwy 17 S. to Main. **L** on Main. **L** into parking lot.

Detailed directions:

Right on Hwy. 17 S (towards Savannah)

Continue about 4.5 miles until Main Road (Burger King is on the corner).

Left onto Main Road.

Continue about 10 miles until you see the sign for "Sea Island Habitat for Humanity" on the left.
It's a yellow building with a small chapel. The Johns Island Presbyterian Church is across the street.

From Downtown/James Island:

Quick directions:

From the James Island connector [30], **R** on Folly Rd. **L** on Central Park. **R** on Riverland Dr. **L** on Maybank.

L on Bohicket Rd. **L** into parking lot.

Detailed directions:

From the connector take a Right on Folly Road.

From the James Island connector [30] take a Right on Folly Rd.

Get in the farthest left lane.

Left at first traffic light onto Central Park (Post Office and cinema are on the corner)

Continue to the end.

Right on Riverland Dr.

Left at traffic light onto Maybank Hwy.

Cross the bridge onto Johns Island

Continue about 6 miles until Main Rd / Bohicket Rd

Left onto Bohicket Rd

Continue about 3 miles until you see the sign for "Sea Island Habitat for Humanity" on the left.
It's a yellow building with a small chapel. The Johns Island Presbyterian Church is across the street.

From I-26 and 17 North:

Quick directions:

Hwy 17 S over the Ashley River. **L** fork for 171 / 700. **R** on Maybank Hwy. **L** on Bohicket Rd.
L into parking lot.

Detailed directions:

Take 17 South over the Ashley River

After crossing the Ashley River Bridge, take the left fork for 171 / 700

Cross the bridge onto James Island

Right onto Maybank Hwy (700)

Cross the bridge onto Johns Island

Continue about 6 miles until Main Rd / Bohicket Rd

Left onto Bohicket Rd

Continue about 3 miles until you see the sign for "Sea Island Habitat for Humanity" on the left.
It's a yellow building with a small chapel. The Johns Island Presbyterian Church is across the street.

From Kiawah/ Seabrook Island (and volunteer housing):

Take Betsy Kerrison Pkwy / Bohicket Rd through the intersection at River Rd

Continue about 4 miles until you see the sign for "Sea Island Habitat for Humanity" on the right.

It's a yellow building with a small chapel. The Johns Island Presbyterian Church is across the street.

Directions and Details for ReStore

3304 Maybank Hwy, Johns Island, SC 29455
843.559.4009

From I-526:

Quick directions:

Hwy 17 S (towards Savannah) to Main Rd. Left on Main Rd. Left on Maybank Hwy.
Store on Left after yellow blinker.

Detailed directions:

Right on Hwy. 17 S (towards Savannah).
Continue about 4.5 miles until Main Road (Burger King is on the corner).
Left on Main Road.
Continue about 7 miles until Maybank Hwy.
Left on Maybank Hwy.
Continue about 2 miles on Maybank Hwy.
The store will be on your Left, at the corner of Southwick, after the yellow blinker.

From Downtown/James Island:

Quick directions:

James Island connector [30] to Right on Folly Rd. Left on Central Park. Right on Riverland Dr. Left on Maybank. Store on Right before yellow blinker.

Detailed directions:

From the James Island connector [30] take a Right on Folly Rd.
Get in the farthest left lane.
Left at first traffic light onto Central Park. (Post Office and cinema are on the corner.)
Follow to the end.
Right on Riverland Dr.
Left at traffic light onto Maybank Hwy.
Cross the bridge onto Johns Island.
Continue about 4 miles on Maybank Hwy.
The store will be on your Right, at the corner of Southwick, before the yellow blinker.

From I-26 and 17 North:

Quick directions:

Hwy 17 S over the Ashley River. Left fork for 171 / 700. Right on Maybank Hwy.
Store on Right before yellow blinker.

Detailed directions:

Take 17 South over the Ashley River.
After crossing the Ashley River Bridge, take the Left fork for 171/700.
Cross the bridge onto James Island.
Right onto Maybank Hwy (700).
Cross the bridge onto Johns Island.
Continue about 4 miles on Maybank Hwy.
The store will be on your Right, at the corner of Southwick, before the yellow blinker.

From Kiawah & Seabrook Islands (and volunteer housing):

Take Bohicket/ Main Rd. to the intersection with Maybank Hwy.
Right onto Maybank Hwy.
Continue about 2 miles on Maybank Hwy.
The store will be on your Left, at the corner of Southwick, after the yellow blinker.