



Habitat for Humanity®

Niagara

Building stronger futures together

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a red and black patterned shirt and black leggings, is on a grassy lawn. She is looking down at a young boy who is wearing a blue and white striped shirt and colorful shorts. The boy is about to kick a black and white soccer ball. In the background, there are trees, a street, and a house.

Who we are

We bring our community together to help families build strength, stability and independence through safe and affordable homeownership.

Habitat provides people with the tools to take care of themselves and build their own futures, through affordable homeownership.



Poverty statistics in Niagara

Over 14% of Niagara residents live in poverty.

1 in 7 children in Niagara live in poverty.

1 in every 5 rental households pays more than 50% of their income on shelter costs.

Over 4,900 households are on the wait list for affordable housing.

Wait time is up to 18 years for a family to obtain an affordable home through Niagara Regional Housing.

Negative impact of poor housing

Children have a greater likelihood of poor health.

Stress and poor nutrition often result in chronic health issues.

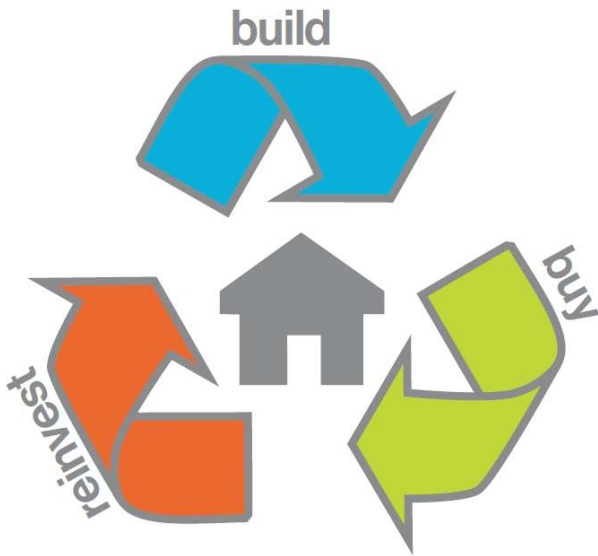
Parents work long hours, often 2 or 3 jobs, leaving little time with their children, help with school or participate in community activities.

Teens often work several jobs to help, with poor school attendance and performance often as a result.

Frequent moves to find affordable rent means children must change schools causing further stress.

How we work

We partner with families from application through construction, extending to after the keys have been handed over.



- **build:** Families selected for Habitat homeownership help build their homes assisted by volunteers and community support.
- **buy:** Habitat homeowners pay an affordable mortgage geared to their income.
- **reinvest:** Mortgage payments are invested into a revolving fund, referred to as the Fund for Humanity, which is used by the local Habitat to build more homes for families in their community.

Impact on homeowners

The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation conducted a Canada-wide survey of Habitat families in 2013. The majority reported improved health, happiness and overall wellbeing.

86%

of Habitat homeowners report being happier since moving into their Habitat home.

89%

said their family life had improved.

70%

of homeowners reported improved health, including reduced colds and flu, allergies, asthma symptoms, and stress.

65%

reported an increase in their children's confidence. Children's participation in extracurricular activities also increased.

58%

reported they were better off financially.

Our Plans

In 2023 Habitat will be building 5 homes in Thorold on Mary & Taylor Streets, with construction well underway.

This is just part of our 5-year plan to construct 30 homes in Niagara.





Becoming homeowners

We asked our future homeowner families what having a safe, stable and affordable home means to them . . . and here is what they said.

<https://youtu.be/4xXn0iTfrMY>

2023 future homeowner families



Habitat for Humanity ReStore (social enterprise)

Habitat for Humanity ReStores are nonprofit home improvement stores and donation centres operated by local Habitats that sell new and gently used furniture, appliances, home accessories and building materials.

Proceeds are cycled back into local Habitat for Humanity homebuilding projects and operations.



Thorold



Grimsby



St. Catharines

What can you do to help?

Volunteer

There are many ways to get involved with Habitat in your community, ReStores, construction, kitchen salvage, events . . .

Habitat Build Days

Habitat offers opportunities to invest in your employees and build your community.

Hold an event

You can hold a fundraiser to help bring awareness to affordable homeownership and raise funds for Habitat's home building program.

ReStore donations/purchases

Whether you donate to the ReStore or shop the ReStore (in-store or online), all of this supports Habitat's mission.

Raise your voice

Become an advocate for affordable housing in our community.

How can Thorold City Council help?

Everyone can help by spreading the word through the community about what Habitat is trying to achieve.

Let us know if you are aware of any businesses or organizations that would like to support us through helping us build, offering Gifts-in-kind or donations to our Build sites or our ReStores.

You can support Habitat's projects with any incentives that the city has available to help reduce development and permit fees.

Let us know if you are aware of any land that we could potentially purchase for future builds.