

Habitat for Humanity: A Call to Action

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:10)

For nearly two decades, Habitat for Humanity and Thrivent have partnered with millions of families around the world in need of safe, affordable housing. During the covid era, all volunteer-assisted building projects were put on hold, which left these displaced families without homes. In 2023, Habitat for Humanity and Thrivent have been able to resume their volunteer building projects. First Lutheran Church has an opportunity to respond to these efforts.

Volunteering on a Habitat for Humanity mission trip is described as a life-changing experience. In the past, First Lutheran Church has provided teams to work on local building projects. This is an opportunity to support families who are still displaced from natural disasters in the southern US.

In August of 2021, 16 years to the day after Hurricane Katrina hit, Category 4 Hurricane Ida made landfall in the historic city of New Orleans and the surrounding low-lying areas. The historic town of Jean Lafitte was severely impacted by the hurricane with 8-foot flood waters, weeks without power, lives lost, and an estimated \$55 million in damages. Habitat for Humanity and Thrivent are partnering to rebuild 40-60 affordable homes across that region. This fall, we hope to send a team of 10 -12 adult volunteers (18 years of age and older) to a fishing village 30 miles south of New Orleans City, Louisiana, to assist with their hurricane recovery rebuild.

The on-site building team meets each and every volunteer where they are, providing tools and instructions to contribute as each person is able. No special skills are required. There are no expectations and no quotas of the work to be completed. The only requirement is that each volunteer brings a generous heart and a desire to make a difference.

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace. (1 Peter 4:10)

Thrivent members with benefits receive discount trip pricing through that organization. A portion of all participant expenses are donated back to the Habitat build. Our team will be met upon arrival in New Orleans by a seasoned, experienced Habitat for Humanity leader who will lead our group throughout the week. The agenda includes a detailed orientation, 4 days of participation with the build, a day of respite and engagement with the local culture, and daily team time for reflection.

Please prayerfully consider participating in this domestic mission trip as a volunteer or by supporting the team financially.

A table will be located in the Gathering Space beginning on Sunday, August 26, with informational resources specific to this mission trip.

IMPORTANT Deadlines*

Registration and Payment in Full Deadline: September 28, 2023

*Because Habitat for Humanity trips have just reopened post-covid, we are on a short timeline for registration and payment deadlines to participate in this building project. It is important to register SOON!

General Mission Trip Information

Travel Dates: November 12 – 18, 2023 (Sunday to Saturday)

Location: New Orleans, LA

FLC Staff Leader: Polly Kloster, Director of Mission

Habitat for Humanity Team Leader: Willie Nemeth, Seasoned Leader

Mission Trip Costs

Habitat for Humanity/Thrivent Program Fee

Thrivent's contributions help offset overall costs. These include the required \$850.00 Habitat host donation made on behalf of each Thrivent client benefit member's participant and a \$400.00 donation for all other participants, which are included in their program fee. Qualifying Thrivent members pay a reduced rate. Confirm your membership status here: <https://service.thrivent.com/webapps/v/thriventbuildsworldwide/QualifyInit>
The program fee covers all expenses in New Orleans (i.e., food, hotel, transportation).

- **Thrivent benefits member:** \$820.00
- **Non-Thrivent benefits member:** \$1270.00
- **Addition of single supplement, if desired:** \$492.00

Airfare & FLC Fee

This fee includes roundtrip airfare from Fargo (FAR) to Louis Armstrong International Airport (MSY) on Delta Airlines. The cost is the same for Thrivent benefit and non-benefit members and includes flight cancellation insurance. This fee is payable to First Lutheran Church [Note: Habitat Trip] at the time of registration.

- \$776.00

Total Cost [Add single supplement of \$492.00 if desired]

- **Non-Thrivent benefits member:** \$1596.00
- **Thrivent benefits member:** \$2046.00

Registration Process

Habitat for Humanity/Thrivent Trip Registration: Create an account in the Habitat Trips Community and register for the trip at: <https://trips.habitat.org/events/item/57/364>
Refer to *Registering for the Habitat Volunteer Community* information sheet for detailed instructions on how to register.

Next steps

After you register for the trip, you will be sent a confirmation message asking you to complete the following steps within one week of registering:

- Create your fundraising page at:
http://helpbuild.habitat.org/site/TR?fr_id=2551&pg=entry
- To hold your spot on the team, submit a \$250 deposit within one week of your registration. The nonrefundable/nontransferable deposit, included in the program donation, is made through your fundraising page.

See the uploaded Itinerary and Volunteer Handbook for more information or contact Polly Kloster at 701-414-6716.