



### Canisius College Chapter of Habitat for Humanity Quick Facts

**Definition:** Habitat for Humanity Buffalo, founded 1985, is a non-profit charitable organization seeking to alleviate the shortage of quality affordable housing in Buffalo, NY. Habitat for Humanity Buffalo is an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International which is a world-wide organization.

- **Mission:** Habitat for Humanity Buffalo establishes partnerships to provide a hand-up and not a hand-out to families who otherwise would be unable to achieve their dream of ownership of a simple decent house in a safe environment.
- Largely through volunteer labor, Habitat Buffalo builds new homes or rehabilitates donated older homes for these families. Habitat is financed by private donations from multiple groups and Habitat does not accept Government funds for new construction or renovation of existing houses.
- Each family has to go through an application process to qualify for homeownership and contribute 500 sweat equity hours. Sweat Equity is the labor put in by the family members to the building of their home and other Habitat programs. The future homeowner must either have a full time job or be disabled to qualify.
- Many people who work full time and even more than full time still do not have enough to buy a home. In fact many who work full time have trouble providing for basic necessities such as food clothing and shelter!
- Habitat Buffalo holds the mortgages of these homes for the families and provides zero interest on the mortgages. The money they collect from the mortgages then is used to buy more homes.
- There are also multiple Habitat Campus Chapters among the local colleges and there is one here at Canisius. (talk about joining club if anyone is interested) About Every other week or about
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- Another service Habitat provides, other than affordable housing, is the operation of the Habitat ReStore. The Habitat ReStore sells quality new and used furniture, appliances, building materials, and household items at

a fraction of normal retail prices. In addition to raising funds, the ReStore helps the environment by diverting thousands of tons of usable materials away from landfills.

Habitat is a Christian organization and one of their mottos is *All of God's children deserve a simple, decent place to live a home that is warm, dry, and safe.*

Habitat talking points prepared by Will Siegner '15 and JVV  
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