



Fayette County Habitat for Humanity
P.O. Box 1127
La Grange, Texas 78945
Phone: 979-639-1599



Program Summary:

Fayette County Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian ministry founded on the conviction that every man, woman and child should have a decent, safe and affordable place to live. We build with people in need regardless of race or religion. We welcome volunteers and supporters from all backgrounds.

Nearly 2 billion people around the world live in slum housing and over 100 million are homeless. Habitat for Humanity is needed to help eliminate poverty by providing simple, decent shelter to those in need.

FCHfH builds houses that are simple, decent, and affordable to low-income families in Fayette County. Whenever possible, we build sustainable, energy-efficient and healthy housing. FCHfH has been successful in constructing a new home every two years with the first year dedicated toward fundraising and the second year towards family selection and construction.

FCHfH depends on the benevolence of local volunteers, churches, businesses and service organizations. We are locally controlled by a Board of Directors and have no paid staff.

Section I: Contact Information

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Section II: Organizational Description

Our mission is to “Eliminate poverty housing and homelessness from the world”.

Our purpose is to “Witness to and implement the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Texas and throughout the United States and world by supporting and benefiting the work of affiliate projects of Habitat for Humanity International, Inc. These affiliate projects are working with economically disadvantaged people to help them to create a better human habitat in which to live and work.”

In June 2002, a small group of youth and adults from Fayette County went on a servant trip to McAllen, Texas. They spent two days hanging sheet rock and painting in two Habitat for Humanity houses. In their group discussions, several participants asked, “Can we do this at home?”

This question was taken to the La Grange Area Ministerial Alliance who followed up by inviting a representative from Habitat for Humanity to their next meeting to talk about what it takes to develop a Habitat for Humanity affiliate. The decision was then made to form a steering committee to assess the potential for beginning an affiliate in Fayette County. The invitation was made to the general public to

serve on the steering committee, and those who responded began to explore the options. The steering committee found that support from Fayette County residents and organizations for a potential Habitat for Humanity affiliate was strong. The committee also determined that sufficient need to start an affiliate could be found in Fayette County.

With these initial indicators and with reasonable requirements from Habitat for Humanity, the steering committee submitted an application to form an affiliate. Approval for use of the Habitat for Humanity name was received in August 2003. Through hours of hard work by a number of board members and committee members, Fayette County Habitat for Humanity completed the application process and was officially established on March 1, 2005.

FCHfH has constructed three homes since 2007, two being in La Grange and one in Schulenburg. Our fourth home is currently under construction in La Grange and shall be completed by March 2014.

Section III: Program Description

A. FCHfH was established to aid the low-income population of Fayette County that are willing to be homeowners but are unable to get conventional home loans. The steering committee researched the demographics of Fayette County and concluded that there was and still is a need for quality homes for low-income families.

B. FCHfH's goal is to construct quality homes in Fayette County for disadvantaged people through the hard work and dedication of volunteers and local businesses. The Family Selection Committee receives applications for potential homeowners and goes through extensive review and verification of the applications to select the most qualified family. The home construction is done with "partner family" and volunteer labor, contract services, and donations of money and materials.

C. We select "partner families" to become Habitat homeowners. FCHfH follows a nondiscriminatory policy of family selection. Neither race nor religion is a factor in choosing partner families. Partner families are always selected based on their level of need, ability to pay and willingness to partner. Habitat is not a "hand-out" but a "hand-up" to families that need help in achieving a better means of living. We have been able to help three families better their lives and the lives of their children by giving them decent, safe, and affordable homes. Our relationship with the "partner family" does not stop after the home is constructed. We continue to help the families succeed in their new homes by offering financial and home ownership classes and other resources to help them achieve better lives.

D. Not applicable

E. FCHfH is requesting the recognition grant. Any amount would be greatly appreciated if the below budget is not attainable.

TRC funds would go toward the following budget for fundraising, volunteers and education:

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| Printing of Family & Volunteer Brochures: | \$600.00 |
| Fundraising costs (advertisement, printing, flyers) | \$400.00 |
| Tools for Volunteer workers: | \$3000.00 |
| <u>Educational material for homeowners:</u> | <u>\$1000.00</u> |
| Total | \$5000.00 |

F. FCHfH has measured its continued success by the four families we have already impacted and the potential number of families we have yet to meet and help. We are helping Fayette County succeed in overcoming poverty one family at a time.

G. Funds for printing of brochures and fundraising will be utilized immediately as we have started the fundraising process for the next home. The funds for the homeowner education material will be utilized throughout the year to continue to educate the homeowners. The funds for the tools will be utilized at the end of the year to prepare for the next home build.

H. Not applicable