



Habitat
for Humanity®
Choptank

Volunteer Orientation

February 2025



Through shelter we empower.

Welcome and thank you!

Thank you for your interest in volunteering with Habitat for Humanity Choptank! We are delighted that you have taken this opportunity to learn more about how you can support us as we partner with qualifying families to provide simple, decent, and affordable housing.

In this orientation, we hope to provide information about Habitat Choptank and our mission and values, share volunteer opportunities, and review volunteer requirements.



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First we thought we'd share this short video that illustrates why we do what we do! Just click on the picture!



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Our Mission



We work in partnership with God and all people to build, rehab and repair homes, improve the quality of life in communities and help to restore hope in the lives of those we serve.

We were founded and incorporated in 1992, merging with Dorchester County in 2009 to become Habitat for Humanity Choptank.

We rely on volunteers, financial donations, and material contributions; each Habitat home is the result of a unique partnership among a deserving family, dedicated volunteers, community partners, and inspired donors.

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Our Values

- Demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ through word and action.
- Deliver high quality services and demonstrate respect at all levels of partnership.
- Empower clients through education, support services and access to resources.
- Ensure that the principles of sweat equity, repayment, and education leading to financial independence are incorporated into all aspects of service delivery.
- Promote dignity and hope through strategies that lead to decent and affordable housing.
- Support sustainable and transformational community development through partnerships with other public and private organizations.



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Habitat Facts

- Habitat Choptank offers affordable homeownership opportunities to qualifying families who meet income guidelines that are updated annually to reflect official numbers from Housing and Urban Development.
- Habitat Choptank follows equal housing opportunity laws and builds houses in partnership with those in need regardless of race, religion or any other characteristic.
- Local Habitat for Humanity affiliates are independent, nonprofit organizations that operate in a specific service area within the framework of the Habitat Affiliate Covenant.



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Our Record



Habitat Choptank strives to not only build homes but also to collaborate with all people interested in the quality of life in the region through the creation of affordable housing opportunities.

In Talbot and Dorchester counties, Habitat Choptank works in partnership with many low to moderate income working families who are unable to buy a house with conventional mortgage financing.

We have an impressive track record:

- Over 120 homes in Dorchester and Talbot Counties
- Foreclosure rate that rivals the market
- Over 300 critical home repairs

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Volunteering with Habitat

Habitat for Humanity Choptank is a volunteer-driven organization and relies on volunteers to operate.

From working on construction and repair sites, in the office, at the ReStore, or serving on committees, our volunteers greatly impact every aspect of our organization.

Please note that certain volunteer positions require a criminal background check and all volunteer positions require a review against the sexual offender registry (our Volunteer Handbook provides more detail).

Whatever your skill or interest, there is a place for you in our volunteer program.



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Safeguarding & Code of Conduct

Volunteers like you are representatives of Habitat Choptank and its ministry. When you accept a volunteer role, you are committing to act in a way that promotes Habitat's mission, respects the local community, and ensures the safety of all participants.

Please always remember to:

1. Promote a respectful community
2. Respect the human rights of all people and protect beneficiaries and community members from exploitation and abuse
3. Prioritize site safety
4. Uphold a zero-tolerance policy for alcohol, drugs and weapons
5. Follow the gift giving policy
6. Protect ministry assets
7. Maintain confidentiality
8. Speak up!

**** More details can be found in the Volunteer Handbook.**



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Volunteer Opportunities

- New home construction
- Home repair
- Office tasks
- Event planning
- Financial coaching
- Homebuyer and homeowner selection
- ReStore sales or merchandising
- Video or photography

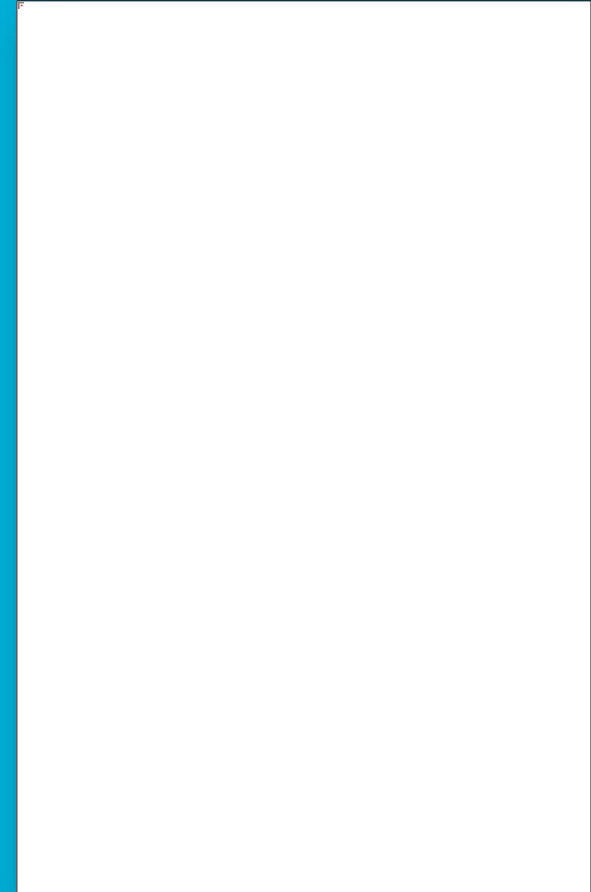
Details on each opportunity along with sample duties can be found in the Volunteer Handbook.



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Volunteer Orientation

- Must complete volunteer orientation, as well as an application and annual waiver.
- Provide and keep current personal contact information and emergency contacts.
- Read and agree to the following Habitat Choptank policies as outlined in the **Volunteer Handbook**:
 - Code of Conduct
 - Discrimination and Harassment
 - Conflict Resolution
 - Personal Health and Drug and Alcohol Abuse
 - Sexual Offender and Criminal Background Check
 - Media Release



Volunteer Requirements



- Age requirements:
 - Youths age 15 and younger are prohibited from active construction sites due to liability concerns.
 - Youths age 16-17 may perform general construction work, but may not use power tools, motor vehicles, participate in excavation, roofing, or work from a height of six feet or more.
 - Adults age 18 and older may participate in all tasks available.
- Proper attire is **required** for construction, home repair, and ReStore sites - closed-toed, solid-soled shoes; comfortable, breathable clothing that can get dirty.

Volunteer Requirements (cont.)

- Schedule yourself for shifts using our online registration system (link will be provided by the Volunteer Coordinator).
- Sign in and out at the volunteer site with our online registration.
- Provide your own transportation.
- Be punctual when volunteering and at least ten minutes early when on a construction site.
- Additional hands-on training will be provided at each location, as necessary.



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Next Steps

- Now that you have completed this Volunteer Orientation, you have these final steps:
 - Review the Habitat Choptank Volunteer Handbook.
 - Complete your application and waiver.
 - Watch the Safety Videos and complete the assessment.
- Instructions and links to complete these steps are on our website at: <https://habitchoptank.org/volunteer/volunteer-orientation/>



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Questions?

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