

TRANSFORMING LIVES

Interfaith Unity Initiative



Interfaith
community
giving, building, learning together



Habitat
for Humanity®
Metro Maryland

Interfaith Unity Initiative

All faiths have strong calls to care for the poor and have long traditions of supporting decent shelter. Through the Interfaith Unity Initiative, we will demonstrate the power of good that unites all faiths.

Background Information

Since 2004, Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church, Bethesda Jewish Congregation, and the Idara-e-Jaferia Mosque have been holding joint worship services and discussion sessions, celebrating holidays together and working together on community service projects. Several years ago, they partnered with Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland to establish an Interfaith Unity Build with a goal of bringing multiple faith groups together to work on a Habitat project and promote interfaith unity. Twenty-three congregations successfully came together to raise \$50,000 and volunteer hundreds of hours towards the construction of a home at the Maple Hill community in Gaithersburg MD.



“Whoever saves a life of one human being, it would be as if he saved the life of all mankind.”
- *Qur’an, Chapter 5, Verse 32*

8380 Colesville Road, Suite 700 | Silver Spring, MD 2910
Ph: 301-990-0014 | www.HabitatMM.org

About HFHMM

Who We Are

Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland (HFHMM) was founded in 1982 as a private, ecumenical Christian, nonprofit organization by a small group of dedicated volunteers looking to create homeownership opportunities for low-income families and break the cycle of poverty for future generations. We are called by our faith in God to serve families in need with generosity, humility and love. God's love extends to all, which is why we welcome people of all races, faith backgrounds and beliefs to join us in the common goal of providing and preserving affordable

What We Do

Through the homeownership model, we partner with low-income families to give them a hand up and not a hand out in their quest for simple, decent and affordable housing. First, we build new homes and rehab foreclosed properties throughout Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. Secondly, we work with current homeowners to weatherize or repair their homes, removing blight and alleviating critical health, life and safety issues. At HFHMM, we are not only committed to meeting the housing needs of our community, we are also committed to providing residents with the full range of supportive services to help them maintain their homes and thrive.

What We Have Done

Since our founding, we have provided innovative affordable housing solutions for over 600 men, women, and children through a combination of new construction, rehabilitation of foreclosed properties, weatherization, and minor or critical home repairs and by the end of 2016 we will have issued over \$11 million in zero interest mortgages to qualified partner families. Additionally, we engage approximately 4,000 volunteers annually to help fulfill our mission, whether through service on the board, work on our construction projects, serving at the ReStore, or participation on a committee.

Serving those in need.
A universal call.

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**“Speak out for those
who cannot speak, for
the rights of all the
destitute. Speak out,
judge righteously,
defend the rights of the
poor and needy.”**

- Proverbs 31:8-9



Interfaith Unity Initiative

What We'll Be Doing

- On an on-going basis members of different faith congregations will come together to volunteer with Habitat.
- Churches, synagogues, mosques, other houses of worship and interfaith organizations will partner with HFHMM to promote interfaith unity across Montgomery and Prince George's Counties.
- Our goal is to raise \$7,500 through donations and events as part of our Interfaith Unity Initiative.

How Can I Help?

Donate

- Complete the commitment form and provide financial support to the project as part of your mission outreach.
- Having your congregation sponsor a volunteer day with Habitat.
- Asking other congregations to join the Interfaith Unity Initiative.

Advocate

- Participate with HFHMM in organized meetings to hold elected officials accountable for their promises to support affordable housing
- Attend County Council meetings with HFHMM to showcase community support for affordable housing
- Organize signature drives to help compel elected representatives to prioritize affordable housing

Volunteer

- Participating in an Interfaith volunteer day at a Habitat ReStore or construction site.
- Participating in our Interfaith Steering Committee.

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Interfaith Unity Initiative Commitment Form *

Our congregation is committed to partnering with Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland (HFHMM) and other congregations from all over Montgomery and Prince George's Counties to help create simple, decent, and affordable house for low-income families in need of a stable place to call home. We will provide both financial and volunteer support for the Interfaith Unity Initiative.

Our congregation agrees to:

- Promote and embrace interfaith unity, partnership, and understanding with various houses of worship across Montgomery and Prince George's County.
- Work side by side with the future homeowners as they put in their "sweat equity" towards their new, decent, affordable house.
- Secure volunteers to work on Habitat projects and volunteer in Habitat's ReStore.
- Promote and/or host fundraiser events raising funds as part of our Interfaith Unity Initiative .
- Make our best effort to secure donations to Habitat through congregational or individual giving of at least:
 - \$250.00
 - \$500.00
 - \$1,000.00
 - Other

Congregation

Signature

Thank you for your commitment to HFHMM and the Interfaith Unity Initiative.

*This is a not a legally binding contract

“That gift which is made to the needy at the right place and at the right time, without aspiring for any return but as one’s duty of care of every being, is the most auspicious gift of all.”
- Bhagavad Gita 17.20

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Linda & Millard Fuller
Founders of Habitat for Humanity International

“Theology of the Hammer”

“The ‘theology of the hammer’ is about bringing a wide diversity of people, churches, and other organizations together to build houses and establish viable and dynamic communities.”