

The 24th Annual Jimmy Carter Work Project



Habitat for Humanity's Jimmy Carter Work Project 2007 brings together thousands of volunteers in Los Angeles, California, to build houses with local families in need. The awareness raising event which launches in March 2007 and culminates in a week-long blitz build, led by former US President Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalynn, shines a light on poverty housing in Los Angeles and around the world and illustrates what can be accomplished when families, communities and nations come together to build a future where every man, woman and child has a decent place to live.

Background

As president of the United States, Jimmy Carter was deeply committed to social justice and basic human rights. He and his wife Rosalynn left the White House in search of meaningful ways to contribute in these areas. In addition to promoting peace and human rights through the nonprofit Carter Center in Atlanta, they lead the Jimmy Carter Work Project (JCWP) for Habitat for Humanity International each year.

Jimmy Carter's involvement with Habitat for Humanity International began in 1984 when the former president led a work group to New York City to help renovate a six-story building with 19 families in need of decent, affordable shelter. That experience planted the seed, and the Jimmy Carter Work Project has been the preeminent internationally recognized awareness event for affordable housing ever since.



"God blesses us beyond our expectations. It's difficult for people like you and me who have been fortunate to know how to share it. Habitat, above any other organization I know on earth, gives us a chance to break through that shell."

— Jimmy Carter, former U.S. President

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles (HFH-GLA) will host the annual Jimmy Carter Work project in 2007. The overwhelming need for housing in Los Angeles County has provided HFH-GLA a unique

opportunity to change lives and neighborhoods. Cost burden, overcrowding, and compromised health are some of the serious problems experienced by families living in substandard housing. In partnership with volunteers, families, corporations, congregations, and donors Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles is able to address this important housing issue.



The ability to understand market trends and respond strategically has helped HFH-GLA maintain its production goals despite the areas rapidly increasing real estate costs. In Los Angeles, Habitat for Humanity is now seen as the only organization that is able to provide homeownership opportunities to families earning 30-80% of the median family income.

Jimmy Carter Work Project 2007

The 2007 Jimmy Carter Work Project will be a model of community collaboration to end the housing crisis in Los Angeles. The Jimmy Carter Work Project will bring together leaders from every sector to leverage resources, spotlight the housing crisis, create solution-oriented dialogue, and encourage community action.

The launch of the Jimmy Carter Work Project will take place in the Spring of 2007 at a **Gala dinner** which will highlight the work of Habitat for Humanity and honor the humanitarian achievements of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and Rosalynn Carter.

Habitat for Humanity's **Ambassador Program** will be launched at the Gala dinner. This program will commission celebrities and influential personalities to advocate on behalf of families in need of decent shelter around the globe.

Leading up to the build event, Habitat will increase efforts to educate the public about the substandard housing crisis by hosting a **symposium** on affordable housing which focuses on solutions. We will also engage public and private school students who will learn about housing issues around the world while saving their change to help a family in need through our **Nickels for Nails** program.

During the Jimmy Carter Work Project **Blitz Build Week**, a spectacular Olympic-type event which includes opening and closing ceremonies, Habitat for Humanity volunteers will build and repair 100 homes throughout the Los Angeles area in communities including San Pedro, South Los Angeles and Santa Monica. Additional JCWP homes will be funded for building in 2008 and 2009 in support of Habitat for Humanity's ongoing efforts to eliminate substandard housing in Los Angeles.

Project Specs

- **Location:** Los Angeles County, California
- **Date:** October 28 – November 2, 2007
- **Total houses planned:** 250 (100 during JCWP and the rest in 2008 & 2009)
- **Design:** duplex, attached two-story, three and four bedroom homes
- **Volunteers:** more than 2,000 volunteers from Los Angeles and around the globe

Contact information:

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