



Together, we build community

The Volunteer Welcome Guide



Welcome

Thank you for choosing to volunteer with Habitat for Humanity Manitoba. Whether you're joining us for the first time or returning, we are truly grateful. Your time, skills and generosity make a real and lasting difference.

Each year, more than 2,200 volunteers help us build safe, energy efficient homes and support families on their journey toward stability and independence. We couldn't do this work without people like you.

We're committed to making your volunteer experience meaningful, enjoyable, and safe. This guide gives a brief overview of what we do and what to expect in your role. Please take a moment to review it and complete the required safety training before arriving on site.

You are in excellent hands with Michele Happy, Partnership Development Manager, Kelley Shuster, Volunteer Manager, Sara Tereck, Safety Coordinator and our dedicated construction staff and crew leaders on the build site. They are looking forward to hosting you and creating a meaningful experience for you.

Thank you for standing with us. Together, we are building more than homes, we are building strength, stability and hope for families across our community.



Jamie Hall
Chief Executive Officer
Habitat for Humanity Manitoba



Our vision

Our vision is a world where everyone has a decent place to live.

Who we are

Habitat for Humanity is a movement of people in our local area and around the world, working together to build more prosperous and vibrant communities by making sure everyone has a decent, safe, affordable place to call home.

Where we're building

Pandora Avenue West Development

We are proud to share the progress of our largest development to date, a 55-home community on Pandora Avenue West in Transcona. When complete in 2026, this vibrant neighborhood will provide safe, affordable housing for approximately 275 people, including 175 children.

This project is more than homes; it's a beacon of hope for families caught in the housing crisis. To date, 34 families have moved into their new homes. We expect to complete another 11 homes by the summer and the final 10 homes by the end of 2026, bringing to completion our 55 unit project.

Together, we are building a future where every family has a place to call home.



Next up: Panet Road Development

As we wrap up the Pandora Avenue West Development in late 2026, we look forward to focusing our resources and Team Builds on the Panet Road Development.

In 2024, Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation (MHRC) sold a parcel of land to Habitat for Humanity Manitoba for a nominal fee. The property included 10 vacant, uninhabitable, and rundown Manitoba Housing units. As part of the agreement, Habitat committed to increasing the number of housing units on the land and ensuring that all homes remain affordable for families.

The old buildings were demolished, and we began the development of 10 duplexes for families in need. The first duplex was completed in the summer of 2025, and two families now call this development home. Construction on the second duplex is underway and is projected for completion in spring 2026. The remaining eight units will be built over time as funding allows.

When complete, this development will provide homes for 20 families with 40 to 60 children. The project will transform a long-neglected property that was previously an eyesore vulnerable to vandalism into a thriving, family-friendly community in the neighbourhood of Transcona.

Become a Habitat for Humanity Construction Volunteer

Who can volunteer?

To get started as a construction volunteer, you will need to:

- Be 16 years of age or older
- Commit to a minimum one full day of building
- Complete required safety training
- Be able to follow instructions
- Have good mobility and be able to navigate a construction site, which includes uneven ground, climbing stairs, bending, lifting, etc.
- Be able to use and understand conversational English

What will you be doing while volunteering?

Tasks vary based on stage of our build. Volunteers will be using basic hand tools to complete different tasks such as framing.

Do I need construction experience?

Construction experience is not required. Many volunteer roles are entry-level and supervised by experienced staff. We provide task-specific instructions before work begins.

Do I need to bring my own tools and personal protective equipment (PPE)?

All required tools and equipment are provided. Habitat for Humanity will provide you with all the necessary PPE, but if you have your own CSA safety shoes, you are welcome to wear them.



Habitat Manitoba Volunteer Code of Conduct

Please follow the guidelines below to provide a respectful workplace for everyone.

- No smoking or vaping on the work site at any time
- Any person(s) found on any Habitat premises under the influence of alcohol or any drug, (prescription, OTC, legal or illegal) that impairs or could impair the worker's ability to perform work safely will be asked to leave.
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) is mandatory on a Habitat build site
 - Hard hats must be worn at all times and fit securely in accordance with manufacturer instructions. Hats, caps, or head coverings may not be worn underneath unless they are tight-fitting (e.g., a thin beanie/toque) that does not compromise the hard hat's suspension or fit
 - Long hair should be tied back for safety.
 - CSA approved safety shoes must be worn at all times
 - Hearing protection and safety glasses must be worn as directed
- Volunteers should be prepared to work outdoors in all kinds of weather. Layers work best.
Acceptable: T-shirts or long sleeve shirts. Pants are preferred, however if shorts are worn, they must be no higher than 5 inches above the knee.
Not acceptable: Tank tops, excessively baggy pants, skirts or short shorts.
Don't forget your socks!
- It is expected that all behavior will be considerate and respectful and that all individuals will refrain from any demeaning, discriminatory or harassing behavior and speech of any kind.

If you fail to comply with the above, you may be asked to leave the build site.





Things to know

Water and Snacks

Please bring your own refillable water bottles as we have a water cooler on site. We provide light snacks for breaks. If you have allergies, please bring your own snacks.

Lunch

Please see event confirmation email for information regarding lunch.

Breaks

Breaks will be provided throughout the day. Additional breaks may be provided during extreme weather conditions.

Parking / Electronics / Valuables

Headphones and Bluetooth headsets are not allowed on our build site. If you need to use your cellphone for emails, calls, or photos, please ensure you do so only when it is safe. We also ask that you avoid bringing valuables, as we do not have a secure place to store them.

Weather

Habitat for Humanity Manitoba has safe work procedures in place for dealing with extreme weather conditions including; heat, cold, rain, lightning and wildfire smoke. If any of these conditions occur during the build day, work may be modified, delayed or even cancelled. This decision will be made on site by the site supervisor and safety coordinator.

We build outdoors in all weather conditions. Each individual is responsible for determining their own level of comfort and ability to participate in outdoor work. If you have any concerns prior to the build day, please contact the Manager, Volunteer Services.

What if I don't feel comfortable doing a task?

Our staff and leaders are there to make sure you are adequately trained and feel comfortable with your task. If you don't feel comfortable, please speak to your leader and we will do our best to reassign you to another task.

Build day expectations

Volunteers build days are from 8:15 am to 4:00 pm. It is important that everyone arrives on time to attend the mandatory safety orientation at the beginning of the day.

Volunteers are required to commit to a full day on the build site. **If you are unable to make your volunteer day, please go into your confirmation email and select “Click here to cancel your registration”.**

Daily Schedule

8:15 AM	Meet at site, sign-in, receive PPE, morning safety orientation
10:00 AM - 10:15 AM	Morning break
12:00 PM - 12:45 PM	Lunch break
2:15 PM - 2:30 PM	Afternoon break
3:45 PM	Site clean-up and head home by 4:00 PM



Site safety

All volunteers are required to complete the annual online safety training prior to arriving on site. (Link is in your confirmation email)

Once on site, all volunteers will receive a site-specific orientation which includes, but is not limited to:

- General site rules
- Hazard awareness and assessment
- Emergency procedures
- Required personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Task specific training

Legislative Rights and Responsibilities:

Volunteers have the right to:

- The right to know about hazards
- The right to participate in workplace health and safety
- The right to refuse dangerous work
- The right to be free from reprisal

Volunteers have the responsibility to:

Only do a job for which you are trained or **authorized** to do.

Report hazards, near misses and accidents to the site supervisor immediately.

Know where the **first aid kit** is located and how to get emergency help.

Do not remove safety guards or disable safety devices.

A **clean** work site is a **safe** work site.

Don't alter or make repairs to tools yourself. **Report defects** to Site Supervisor.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is mandatory on site.

Inspect all power tools, hand tools, ladders and scaffolding before use.

Keep your work station and pathways **clear**.

See you on the build site!



Please reach out if you have any questions.

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