



TOOLKIT

Will you help us **LAY A FOUNDATION, BUILD A STURDY STRUCTURE,** and *fill the walls* with **HOPE AND LOVE** for a low-income *family who is deserving of our support?*

Included in this toolkit is everything you need to get your business involved in Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity's Room for All Build:

- Family Story-a glimpse into the life of the family your efforts will be helping
- Save the Dates-a list of important dates for your business to support the build
- Volunteer Opportunities- a complete schedule (weather permitting) of the volunteer building opportunities
- Ways for All Ages- a list of ways for your employees and their families to support Oumar and Fatou into a home of their own



Two of the children your support will help put into a home of their own

Please consider your involvement with Iowa Valley Habitat's Room for All Build and look to this toolkit to help you in securing volunteer opportunities and providing support the first-ever Room for All Build. Thank you for assisting us in building a new home and a new life for the Diallo family.



FAMILY STORY

For the Oumar and Fatou, the difficulties and struggles they have faced over the past years are insignificant compared to the joy and hopeful days they have ahead. One day soon, the family will have a brand new home with enough space for their two young boys to run and to play. And one day soon, the couple will be reunited with their two older sons who remained living in Africa when they moved to America.

Years ago, Oumar and Fatou — refugees of Guinea, Africa and parents of four strikingly handsome boys — were granted asylum to leave their dangerous and unstable surroundings in Guinea and move to the United State. They sought a safer and better life for

their children, and they knew America would provide them with the best opportunities for their sons to succeed in life. Sadly however, their sons were not granted Visas to move with them, and since have lived with their grandparents in Mali — a much safer alternative to Guinea.

When speaking to the family, you cannot help but see the loneliness and anguish this separation has caused them. But despite that, the family remains hopeful. Oumar and Fatou talk to their sons multiple times each week, keeping up with their boys' school activities and their growing lives.

It's evident the parents miss their 13- and 15-year-old sons, but instead of focusing on those feelings they choose to look towards the future. They look towards the one day when the entire family will be reunited all under one roof. Oumar said his two sons are in the queue to receive Visas and move to America; now the family waits.

"It's very hard," Fatou said when speaking about her sons still living in Africa. "But if we bring them here they'll have a better life," Oumar added.

The teenagers will be rejoined with their mother and father, whom they haven't seen in over five years. They'll meet their two younger brothers for the very first time. And they'll become one family again, living under one roof – in a safe and decent four-bedroom home that will be built by Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity volunteers and supporters this summer.

About the Diallo family

In 2002, Oumar Diallo moved from his home country of Guinea to New York City. His country was unsafe with constant fighting, riots, arrests and murders. Oumar wanted to better his wife and children's lives and knew moving to America would provide them with abundant opportunities.

"My country is very tough," he said. "You think, 'Maybe someday they'll kill you. Maybe someday they'll rob you. You don't know.'"

Within six months of coming to the United State, Oumar moved to Iowa City to seek job opportunities while living with an acquaintance. His wife, Fatou, joined him just a year later to plant their household in the Iowa City area. The couple currently lives in the Bon-Aire Mobile Home Lodge with their two youngest sons, six-year-old Amadou and three-year-old Esoumaila.

The ALPLA employee said he's looking forward to a new home to call their own. He wants his children to have more room to play and to be safe and comfortable. He wants his children to be warm at night and safe during storms and high winds. Their current mobile home lacks the sturdy structure that it needs, and he'll finally be able to sleep peacefully at night knowing his family is safe and out of harm's way.

SAVE THE DATES

*All events, unless otherwise noted, will be held at the Room for All construction site, 2512 Aster Avenue in Iowa City.

GIVetoBUILD Week

Monday, May 17 to Sunday, May 23

Join us in supporting area businesses to kick off the Room for All Build. GIVetoBUILD Week is a community-wide fundraising event that will bring businesses throughout our area together to support Habitat for Humanity during Monday, May 17 to Sunday, May 23. Each business will be holding an activity to raise funding, support and awareness for the upcoming Room for All Build. We encourage you to visit www.IowaValleyHabitat.org in the days before GIVetoBUILD Week to view a list of businesses you can support while they support IVHFH!

*[Learn more](#) about GIVetoBUILD Week or if you'd like more information, please contact Kasie at (319) 337-8949.

Groundbreaking Ceremony

Friday, May 28 at 5:30 p.m.

Meet the family your efforts will be helping and join Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity as we bless the home that is about to be built and every volunteer and supporter involved.

Wall-Raising Ceremony

Wednesday, June 23 at 5:30 p.m.

Join us for a brief program as we raise the first wall of the Room for All Build and symbolically celebrate the three-month-long journey ahead of helping the Oumar & Fatou Diallo family into a better home environment where their family can thrive.

Dedication Ceremony

Friday, September 17 at 5:30 p.m.*

Tour the completed house and join together with Room for All Build volunteers and supporters to provide your prayers and blessings to the Diallo family before they move into the home you helped to build. We guarantee this will be a party to celebrate the ending of a joyous adventure!

*Tentative date, please check www.IowaValleyHabitat.org closer to event date for confirmation.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

Your business and employees can get out on a build site and work together to help build the Room for All Build! We rely on community involvement to help us build Habitat homes and help us fund them along the way. The Room for All Build will cost IVHFH around \$110,000 to build (including the lot purchase, building materials and professional labor we are required to hire in). We highly encourage participating groups to bring with them a suggested donation of \$10 per employee volunteer to support the house they will have a hand in building. To help you in this process, we've included a list of in-house fundraising ideas on the following page.

There is currently an overwhelming response from groups and individuals in the community wanting to volunteer on the Room for All Build, so please contact us today (kasie@iowavalleyhabitat.org or 319.337.8949) to secure your business' spot. All opportunities are on a first-come, first-served basis.

How to read the Volunteer Schedule:

- Volunteer days are held most Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays starting in late June.
- All build days have two shifts: 8 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1-5 p.m. Your group can reserve a morning shift, afternoon shift or both for any of the given Volunteer Dates listed below.
- All volunteers must be 16 or older to work on the construction site. Construction shifts that can accommodate younger volunteers are marked with a cross (†).
Tasks are subject to change depending on weather and work pace.

VOLUNTEER DATES

MAX # VOLUNTEERS/SHIFT

JUNE 24-26 (2 open shifts)

Framing..... 15-20 volunteers

*June 24th morning & afternoon shifts reserved for Waterfront Hy-Vee

*June 26th morning & afternoon shifts reserved for St. Andrew Presbyterian

Walls are raised into place to form the "skeleton" of the house. Other tasks include raising the trusses and decking the roof. This is one of the most exciting volunteer experiences, because you get to see the house take form. Tools you will be using include hammers, nails, saws, levels, and ladders.

JULY 1-2 (4 open shifts)

Framing (roofing)..... 15-20 volunteers

Tasks include hanging the trusses, installing rakes and sub fascia, building bird boxes for the home, and sheathing the roof, doors, and windows. Tools you will be using include hammers, nails, saws, levels, and ladders.

JULY 15-17 (4 open shifts)

Finish Framing (roofing/porch/blocking)..... 15-20 volunteers

*July 17 morning shift reserved for Precision Revenue

*July 17 afternoon shift reserved for Vineyard Church

Tasks will include shingling the roof, installing Hurricane straps, insulation backing, and installing rigid foam.

JULY 22-24 (6 open shifts)

Wrap house (Porch).....15-20 volunteers

Tasks will include interior framing, installing the porch, installing the windows & door bucks, and wrapping the house. Wrapping the house consists of stapling Ty-Vek to the walls of the home and is a very important step because it helps keep water out and it protects the OSB board, extending the life of the house.

JULY 29-31 (6 open shifts)

Set Windows & Doors.....6-14 volunteers

Volunteers will install windows, doors, trim backers at gable ends, and Azek trim.

†AUGUST 5-7 (6 open shifts)

Siding, Soffit, Facia.....15-20 volunteers

Volunteers can be as young as 15 to participate in siding.

Siding is installed by nailing individual pieces of vinyl siding to the exterior of the house. This will include installing the various channels, soffit and facia. Tools used are hammers, utility knives, siding nails, saws, ladders, and gloves. This activity is great because you are completing the outside look of the home.

†AUGUST 12-14 (6 open shifts)

Siding, Soffit, Facia15-20 volunteers

Volunteers can be as young as 15 to participate in siding.

See description above.

†AUGUST 26-28 (6 open shifts)

Paint/Stain..... 10-15 volunteers

**Volunteers as young as 14 can help paint and stain.*

This is the most visible aspect of volunteer work. Tasks include priming and painting the interior of the home, and painting/staining the doors and trim. Tools include paint brushes, rollers, pans, drop clothes, and ladders.

SEPTEMBER 2-4 (6 open shifts)

Cabinet/Closet installation/Trim..... 8-12 volunteers

Volunteers will install cabinets, counter tops, interior doors, window stools, bath vanity, and towel bars.

†SEPTEMBER 9-11 (6 open shifts)

Landscaping/Trim Carpentry..... 15-20 volunteers

- **†Volunteers as young as 10 can help landscape.** Landscaping consists of either laying sod or planting grass. Volunteers may also assist in digging holes for trees, planting flowers, and watering the yard. Tools include rakes and gloves.
- Trim is measuring the walls, using power tools to cut trim to size and gluing or stapling the trim to the wall. Volunteers must be 18 or older to participate in this activity.

†SEPTEMBER 16 (2 open shifts)

Clean & Final Punch..... 5-10 volunteers

**Volunteers as young as 10 can help clean and prepare the house for dedication.*

Includes all of the last minute tasks necessary to complete a home, including but not limited to tool pick-up and cleaning, window cleaning, paint spot removal, touch-up painting, and setting up for dedication.

Ways for All Ages

Room for All Build is designed to involve a range of ages, skill levels, backgrounds, talents and beliefs by bringing people together from all spectrums of life. To this end, we are making it as easy as possible to get your employees involved in volunteering and supporting the Diallo's into a safe and secure home.

Thank you in advance for partnering with our affiliate to help us build a home for Oumar & Fatou Diallo and their four children. We appreciate your assistance and thank you for understanding that it takes many hands, many hearts, and many gifts to build a Habitat home.

Ways for families to get involved in supporting the build

Although children are not allowed on the construction site, there are still many ways to get your employees' families involved to support the Room for All Build.

- Write messages or blessings on 2 X 4s before the house framing at Wall-Raising Ceremony.
- Plant environmentally friendly trees and garden plants at the site.
- Make a welcome basket for the homeowner family or sing a song at the dedication.
- Help clear the construction site of debris before or after construction.
- Register volunteers at the construction site information table.
- Provide babysitting for children of volunteers working on the build.
- Help clean a Habitat House before the dedication.
- Organize and serve snacks or meals to volunteers.
- Create a design to be used on t-shirts or other material and sell to employees.
- Set up a jar in their home and title it, "Spare Change to Change Lives." with all change going to support the Room for All Build.
- Donate their redeemable aluminum cans and plastic bottles to the IVHFH [Cans for Habitat program](#).
- Reflect upon their own living situation using the [monthly Habitat calendar](#).

Ways for your business to support the Room for All Build

You can hold a fundraiser to bring employees together to do good while helping to build a Habitat for Humanity home.

- **GIVEtoBUILD Week:** [Participate in the week-long event](#) from May 17-23.
- **Bake sale:** Have employees bring baked goodies to sell at work and donate sales.
- **Hold a chili/grill cook-off or cake-baking/cookie-decorating competition:** Charge a small entry fee at the door to receive all the samples the attendee's heart desires!
- **Change Drive:** Collect change from your pockets and purses. Place a can to your customer service area to gather change from customers.
- **"Go Without" day:** Encourage employees to go without something they wouldn't normally go without for an entire day: coffee, pop, movie, dinner out, night out on the town, etc. Give a prize for best "Go Without" idea.
- **Give a Dollar:** Ask each employee and each person they encounter on a declared day to give \$1.
- **Jeans Day:** If you have a formal dress-code policy, offer employees the chance to wear jeans on a declared day in exchange for a donation.



We hope you are **EXCITED & READY** to **GET YOUR BUSINESS INVOLVED** in the **ROOMforALL Build**. We look forward to building this *safe, decent house* for a *FAMILY* that *DESERVES A HAND UP* into a better life.

For questions and to reserve your spot to get involved, contact:

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