



Dear Work Group,

The world is experiencing a global housing crisis. About 1.6 billion people live in substandard housing and 100 million are homeless.¹ In the United States alone, 95 million people, one third of the nation, have housing problems including payments not in proportion with their income, overcrowding, poor quality shelter and homelessness.²

Habitat for Humanity is dedicated to providing decent, affordable homes for those in need. Habitat for Humanity has shown that building homes does more than put a roof over someone's head. In clean, decent, stable housing:

- Families can provide stability for their children.
- A family's sense of dignity and pride grow.
- Health, physical safety, and security improve
- Educational and job prospects increase.

Sea Island Habitat for Humanity is located on Johns Island, SC. It was not until the 1950s and 1960s that steel bridges were built going out to Johns Island and several of the other barrier islands. This construction led to an influx of people moving to the Islands and the surrounding areas. In the 1970s two islands were developed on the end of Johns Island. As a result of the development of the area, the prices of homes and land on and around Johns Island has increased dramatically, making affordable housing a rarity. We have built over 265 homes on and around Johns Island in an effort to eliminate poverty housing. It takes over 2,000 volunteer hours to build just ONE house. Volunteers are the backbone of our ministry, and we would love your help!

Why your group should volunteer:

- You can make dreams come true. Every individual volunteer makes a difference.
- You'll make friends.
- You are needed. We'll give you purpose.
- You'll feel good about doing something to help others.
- You can learn new skills and how to use difference tools.
- Volunteering generates a good image for your group.
- Volunteering together will make you feel like a team.
- You can be a part of the solution.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions that may arise. We understand that there is a lot that goes into planning a trip of this nature, and we are here to assist you and make your job easier. Thank you and God Bless!

Josephine Rex
Volunteer Coordinator
volunteer@seaislandhabitat.org
843.768.0998 x109

¹ Miloon Kothari , *UN Press Briefing by Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing*, November, 2005. <http://www.un.org/News/briefings/docs/2005/kotharibrf050511.doc.htm>

² *America's Neighbors: The Affordable Housing Crisis and the People it Affects*, National Low Income Housing Coalition, Washington, DC (2004) www.nlihc.org

SIHH WORK GROUP PACKET

DEPOSIT:

A deposit of **\$200** is due within two weeks of scheduling your dates with us. This will secure your scheduled week and **will be returned to you** at the end of your stay if volunteer housing is left clean and in good condition. (Please do not deduct the \$200 from the cost discussed below.)

COST:

There is a **\$150 per person** per week suggested donation to cover the cost of housing and help pay for building materials. If you are not staying in our housing, we suggest a donation of **\$100 per person** to go towards building materials. We would appreciate it ahead of time. If you do not, it will be due on your first day with us at orientation.

HOUSING:

Sea Island Habitat has 2 houses for out-of-town volunteers. These homes are in a Habitat neighborhood on Johns Island. They are close to our office and ReStore and about 5 minutes away from the beach! They have full kitchens and bunk beds for sleeping plus additional mattresses. They are stocked with appliances, cookware, dishes, and utensils. You will need to provide your own bed linens and personal supplies. During busier times of the year (spring and summer), we have more groups per week than we do volunteer houses so some groups may stay in alternative housing such as a church or school. We will let you know your housing assignment and necessary details and directions a few weeks prior to your scheduled trip.

SECURITY:

For those of you staying in our provided housing, there is a code for the lock on the front door of each volunteer house. You will need to use the code we will provide you with to unlock the door. Please do not share the code with just anyone. Use the alarm system, to which we will also provide you with the code. Many groups find it helps to assign a security person in charge of making sure the doors and windows are locked, setting the alarm, and placing the key back in the lock box each time you leave. We also recommend taking items such as iPods, cell phones, laptops, and cash to the worksite with you and locking them in a vehicle.

MEALS:

You are responsible for food and preparation of all meals. This includes lunch at the worksite. Remember to bring a sack lunch, plan to go back to your lodging, or bring lunch money. Confirm with the Volunteer Coordinator how far fast food options are to your worksite if you plan to do the latter. Many work groups will assign meal duties (meal prep, serving, and cleanup) to those in their group and rotate them each day.

TRANSPORTATION:

You are responsible for your own transportation. There is no public transportation available and none of our sites are within walking distance.

SCHEDULE:

The construction site operates Tuesday-Sat from 8am-4pm (7am-3pm on weekdays during the summer). Most out-of-town groups work Tuesday-Friday, but we are flexible. Please be on time. We often host as many as 50 volunteers. Being on time is crucial to keep things running smoothly. Each morning starts off with a safety talk and devotion at the worksite that your group may be asked to lead. Lunch is from 12-1 (11-12 on

weekdays during the summer). Most work groups work Mon-Fri. If you want to take a half or whole day off, work at the ReStore for a half or whole day or work part of a week or come in the middle of a week, this is fine. Simply let the Volunteer Coordinator know ahead of time.

ORIENTATION:

Work groups have orientation at our office at **8am Monday morning**. This orientation goes over some history of Johns Island and the area, an introduction to Habitat for Humanity and SIHH, issues concerning volunteer housing, and what to expect at the worksite. Please turn in your release forms at orientation. Also at orientation, each volunteer in your group will pick out a Sea Island Habitat for Humanity t-shirt. Additional t-shirts can be purchased. We also have hats, visors, and water bottles for sale. In addition Sea Island Habitat for Humanity has its own coffee-table book full of pictures and stories of our homeowners and volunteers. We sell them for \$10.

BUILD PLAN:

Our build plan on the work site varies depending on permitting, weather, & what has been completed before your arrival. On any given week you may be digging foundations, roofing, painting, or anything in between. During the week we may also have deconstruction projects that take place off site. If there is a deconstruction project we will need volunteers one or two days during the week. All materials we deconstruct are donated to us through the ReStore to help build more homes. Please remember that ALL tasks you work on are important to help us complete our build plan!

MEET YOUR FAMILY/FAMILIES:

If you are interested in meeting the family or families, whom you are helping build for, we love to encourage this. A great way of doing this is to invite them for dinner. Perhaps you have other ideas. Just let us know ahead of time that you'd like to do this, and we'll get in contact with the family or families for you. (In addition, our staff (myself included) and AmeriCorps love to spend time with and get to know our volunteer groups. Feel free to invite us to meals as well!)

RESTORE:

The ReStore sells donated goods (furniture, appliances, building materials, electronics, books, cars, boats, antiques, etc.) and the proceeds go to build about 8 Habitat homes each year. In addition, it is part of the Green Movement by keeping the items it sells out of landfills. Our ReStore is open Mon – Sat and your help would be a blessing to them!

WEATHER:

You know that old saying, "If you don't like the weather, wait twenty minutes. It'll change?" It's true in Charleston. The average highs in the summer are in the low 90s, and the lows are around 70°F. During the winter months, the highs are around 60°F, and the lows are in the 40s. Be careful though. It can get much hotter than that in the summer and much cooler than that in winter. And watch out for the humidity. It's bad.

QUICK NUMBERS:

Hospitals/Clinics:

Roper Kiawah-Seabrook Medical and Urgent Care (in Freshfields Village)

768.4800

Roper St. Francis Hospital (off Paul Cantrell Blvd, 2095 Henry Tecklenburg Drive)

402.1037 – emergency, 402.1000 – non-emergency

Post Office:

Johns Island (off Maybank Highway)

559.0622

James Island (579 Folly Road)

795.5006

Groceries:

Piggly Wiggly (at Maybank and Bohicket about 6 ½ miles from volunteer housing)

559.5542

Newton Farms (in Freshfields Village about 4 ½ miles from volunteer housing)

243.3276

OTHER PLANS:

We encourage groups to make use of our facilities (including an on-site chapel) as well as those of the surrounding area (including many parks, restaurants, beaches, shopping, etc.) Please see "Work Group Tourist Info" if you are interested in seeing or doing anything in the area while you are here. We are happy to help come up with ideas or search for more information on anything you are interested in doing while you are here.

SIHH WORK GROUP CHECKLIST

- Send \$200 deposit check to secure you spot.** Make the check out to Sea Island Habitat for Humanity, and address the envelope "Attn: Josephine Rex."
(Tell your accountant we will have to cash it but will refund the money if there are no issues at the end of your stay.)

- Prepare your group for the trip, discussing details and expectations with them:
 - packing list
 - how meals will work
 - attitude to bring with them
 - expectations on the worksite
 - housing arrangements

- Have your group fill out front/back copies of the Release form.

- Write a check to Sea Island Habitat for Humanity for a \$150 per person donation for housing and to help with building materials and mail along with a list of group members **at least 2 weeks prior to your trip.**

- Be sure you have directions and the code to the lock box and security system!

- Bring Release forms and check (if you did not already send it) with you to orientation.

SIHH WORK GROUP PACK LIST

(We will provide tools, water, building materials, and supervision.)

Work clothes (old clothes that you do not care about getting messed up, please keep shirts and shorts modest, layering in the winter works best, light colors are good)

Plastic bag (for dirty clothes)

Hat

Sunglasses

Safety glasses

Work gloves

Closed-toed shoes (preferably boots)

Lucky tape measure or favorite hammer (not necessary and must be responsible for not losing them)

Sheets and blankets or sleeping bag

Pillows

Toiletries

First aid needs

Snacks

Bug repellent

Sunscreen

Bathing suit (if your group is going to the beach)

Water bottle (for the worksite)

Money and a big roomy truck if you want to shop at the ReStore (All the money goes towards building homes!)

A good attitude and flexibility

Directions and Details for Sea Island Habitat Office

2545 Bohicket Rd, Johns Island, SC 29455
843.768.0998

From I-526 West:

Quick directions:

Hwy 17 S. to Main. **L** on Main. Linto parking lot.

Detailed directions:

Right on Hwy. 17 S (towards Savannah)

Continue about 4.5 miles until Main Road (Burger King is on the corner).

Left onto Main Road.

Continue about 10 miles until you see the sign for "Sea Island Habitat for Humanity" on the left. *It's a yellow building with a small chapel. The Johns Island Presbyterian Church is across the street.*

From Downtown/James Island:

Quick directions:

From the James Island connector [30], **R** on Folly Rd. **L** on Central Park. **R** on Riverland Dr. **L** on Maybank.

L on Bohicket Rd. Linto parking lot.

Detailed directions:

From the connector take a Right on Folly Road.

From the James Island connector [30] take a Right on Folly Rd.

Get in the farthest left lane.

Left at first traffic light onto Central Park (Post Office and cinema are on the corner)

Continue to the end.

Right on Riverland Dr.

Left at traffic light onto Maybank Hwy.

Cross the bridge onto Johns Island

Continue about 6 miles until Main Rd / Bohicket Rd

Left onto Bohicket Rd

Continue about 3 miles until you see the sign for "Sea Island Habitat for Humanity" on the left. *It's a yellow building with a small chapel. The Johns Island Presbyterian Church is across the street.*

From I-26 and 17 North:

Quick directions:

Hwy 17 S over the Ashley River. **L** fork for 171 / 700. **R** on Maybank Hwy. **L** on Bohicket Rd. Linto parking lot.

Detailed directions:

Take 17 South over the Ashley River

After crossing the Ashley River Bridge, take the left fork for 171 / 700

Cross the bridge onto James Island

Right onto Maybank Hwy (700)

Cross the bridge onto Johns Island

Continue about 6 miles until Main Rd / Bohicket Rd

Left onto Bohicket Rd

Continue about 3 miles until you see the sign for "Sea Island Habitat for Humanity" on the left. *It's a yellow building with a small chapel. The Johns Island Presbyterian Church is across the street.*

From Kiawah/ Seabrook Island (and volunteer housing):

Take Betsy Kerrison Pkwy / Bohicket Rd through the intersection at River Rd

Continue about 4 miles until you see the sign for "Sea Island Habitat for Humanity" on the right. *It's a yellow building with a small chapel. The Johns Island Presbyterian Church is across the street*

