



## FACT SHEET

### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY - NEW YORK CITY

**Mission:** *Habitat for Humanity - New York City transforms lives and our city by building quality homes for families in need and by uniting all New Yorkers around the cause of affordable housing.*

- Habitat-NYC has built more than 220 homes throughout the five boroughs of New York City.
- Habitat-NYC builds homes for ownership by hardworking, low-income families and individuals.
- Every year, thousands of volunteers build with Habitat-NYC.
- Habitat-NYC builds in partnership with New York City. Habitat-NYC receives land from the city's Department of Housing Preservation and Development, usually for the nominal fee of \$1.
- Habitat-NYC is a "hand up, not a handout."
  - Families must be willing to work – at least 300 "sweat equity" hours per adult member as a down payment (maximum of 600 hours per family).
  - Families must be living in substandard, overcrowded housing or paying more than 50% of their income in rent.
  - Families must meet income criteria of 50 to 80% of area median income
  - Habitat-NYC housing is not free: Habitat-NYC families pay a monthly low-interest mortgage. Payments provide for the construction of additional homes.

### NEW YORK CITY'S HOUSING CRISIS: *Decent, Affordable Homes for Everyone*

- The homeownership rate in NYC is only 33.3%—far below the national average of almost 70%.
- New York City needs at least 250,000 new housing units.
- NYC has a "housing emergency" with a vacancy rate of 3%.
- One in four New York renters pays more than 50% of household income in rent and utilities. The federal "affordable housing" definition is a maximum of 30% of household income.
- Every night, nearly 36,000 New Yorkers sleep in homeless shelters. This includes about 9,500 families with 15,000 children. An estimated 4,300 homeless adults live on the streets.
- A typical family will currently spend a minimum of eight years on the waiting list for a Section 8 housing voucher or for an apartment in New York City's public housing developments.

**HOPE HAS AN ADDRESS**  
[www.habitatnyc.org](http://www.habitatnyc.org)

**Habitat for Humanity - New York City**  
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