

## Habitat for Humanity:

*Envisioning a world where everyone has a decent place to live*

### **Building Dignity**

Habitat builds houses alongside families who demonstrate need and willingness to partner with the organization. Families invest hundreds of hours of their own “sweat equity” labor into the houses. Their monthly mortgage payments help fund the construction of more houses. Inadequate shelter binds a family in struggle. A Habitat home frees them to enjoy self-reliance and self-respect. Children benefit, neighborhoods are changed and communities are improved.

### **Building Relationships**

Modeled on biblical principles, Habitat’s solution to the blight of substandard housing is popular with people of many political, professional, ethnic, religious and economic backgrounds.

This is the essence of Habitat — inviting diverse individuals to find common ground through using a hammer, sharing a common goal and building relationships as well as houses.

### **Building Community**

Habitat fosters reconciliation as people join together to build houses. In Northern Ireland, Protestants and Catholics work side by side on Habitat building sites. In Jordan and Egypt, Muslims and Christians are building bridges of hope. In South Africa, black and white residents heal wounds and form bond of friendship with their neighbors. And in Cottage Grove, we are working to make a difference in our own backyards.

Together we can build our community into a place that welcomes everyone. Together we can help our neighbors. Together we can make the world a better place, one home at a time.

## Freshen up rooms for spring with a new coat of paint

Today’s paint products offer homeowners the flexibility to easily change the look and “feel” of a room — or a houseful of rooms, including walls, cabinets, furniture, accessories and trim items — by changing the color of a painted surface or adding paint to achieve a decorative effect. Paint options General Finishes Milk Paint is a high-tech, water-based acrylic paint for interior and exterior use that is available in more than two dozen colors, ranging from Dark Chocolate to Tuscan Red. It is easy to apply, durable and simple to repair and can be mixed to create new colors or combined with General Finishes water-based glazes and stains to create custom paints and decorative effects such as distressing, antiquing and color washing. Rust-Oleum® Chalked Paint is a water-based, ultra-matte finish for interior applications that can be used alone as a simple covering paint or to achieve decorative effects such as distressing or dry brushing to give any project a one-of-a-kind look with a vintage feel. It applies easily with brush or roller; spraying is not recommended.

### **Handy helpers for painting:**

- Wagner Home Décor Paint Sprayer. This is a great first-step product for those new to HVLP spraying. It is easy to use and sprays milk paint, stains, sealers and lacquers. Check your paint manufacturer’s directions for use in sprayers.
- The versatile Vika Twofold™ is configured for use as a 21.7"-high scaffold or a workbench that is 47.6" long X 18.7" deep X 31.8" high with a tool tray, drilling hole, protractor and ruler inscribed into the MDF work surface.
- QuikBENCH™ Portable Workbench is a lightweight, easy-to-set-up portable workbench with a 30" x 24" work surface that is 32" high and capable of holding up to 300 lbs. Convert two QuikBENCHES™ to sawhorses, and together they can hold up to 2,000 lbs.
- Painter’s Pyramids, New and Improved 10-pack allows homeowners to paint, flip and paint without having to wait for the first side to dry. Pyramids now include tabs and slots on the bases so they can be screwed down to make permanent finishing platforms or joined together to create more stable temporary applications.

## Dress Up Your Windows

Windows are major players in home design. How they are dressed and framed from the exterior lends to the curb appeal of your home. Keeping them clean and dressed with drapery inside will affect the overall mood of a room and how much natural light a room receives. All of this is to say don’t ignore your windows.

### **Adding or Repairing Shutters**

Shutters add so much to the curb appeal of your home. Making sure yours are in good shape is a worthwhile investment. Each year, inspect your shutters. Do they need a new coat of paint? Are they secured properly with no loose screws? If your home lacks shutters, consider adding them. There are few architectural styles that shutters work against, so be sure to consult with your local window and gutter installation company.

### **Dressing Window Boxes**

If you have window boxes, spring is the ideal time to clean them out and prep them for foliage. Swing by your local hardware store or nursery and choose annuals with lots of color to fill them. If you do not currently have window-

boxes, consider adding them to the mix. Window boxes add texture and flare to the exterior of any home.

### **Introducing New Draperies**

If you recently replaced your drapes or love the ones you currently have, don’t underestimate what a good cleaning will do for them. Check the tags and see if yours are machine washable. If not, you may have to take your drapes to the dry cleaners. This trip will be well worth it when you see how much brighter they look rehung across your windows.

### **a Good Power Wash**

After a winter full of dreary weather and high wind chills, your windows are not at their peak performance when it comes to light. Give them a good scrub inside before heading outside to hit up their exterior panes. If your windows are double-hung, this will be a much easier task. Always follow safety instructions on cleaning equipment, especially when you’re dealing with glass.

