

East Cooper Habitat for Humanity Media Kit: Backgrounder and Fact Sheet

Overview: East Cooper Habitat for Humanity, Inc., is an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International.

Founded: January 31, 1990, as an eleemosynary corporation in the State of South Carolina.

Mission Vision: A community where everyone has a decent place to live.

Mission Statement: Seeking to put God's love into action, East Cooper Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities, and hope.

Areas Served: East Cooper Habitat for Humanity serves communities East of the Cooper, including Mt. Pleasant, Daniel Island, Cainhoy, Huger, McClellanville, Awendaw, Isle of Palms, and Sullivan's Island.

Number of Homes Constructed: Since 1990, East Cooper Habitat for Humanity has constructed 68 homes (as of August 2014). Of those homes, mortgages remain on 55 of them. All of the others have been paid off.

Selection Process: East Cooper Habitat for Humanity selects homeowners by evaluating applications based upon the following criteria: 1) need for housing, 2) ability to pay, and 3) willingness to partner.

Cost of Home: A home typically costs about \$100,000 or more for materials and land. Most labor is donated by volunteers, and funds to build homes are raised from sponsors prior to the home being built. Currently, certain grants and in-kind donations bring net costs down to approximately \$85,000 per house. The home is then sold to a qualified, low-income homeowner utilizing an affordable mortgage. Since the funds for new houses are secured from sponsors and donations prior to the building of a home, the payments received on mortgages are used to "pay it forward" to build additional homes.

Volunteers: East Cooper Habitat for Humanity has an open-door volunteer policy. Anyone desiring to volunteer is welcome, regardless of religious preference, background, or race. East Cooper Habitat for Humanity typically has just under 1,000 individual volunteers each year putting in a total of about 2,000 days of work into home building each year.

Funding: East Cooper Habitat for Humanity's single largest source of funding is from The ReStore, a non-profit, community based retail store located on Long Point Road in Mt. Pleasant. The ReStore, while a separate legal entity, was created to provide funding for home ownership to East Cooper Habitat for Humanity and other community benefits. It specializes in selling gently used furniture, appliances, building materials, and supplies, and donates its net revenue. Other funding comes from area churches, businesses, and community organizations, in addition to support from individuals.

Donation Levels: Whole House Sponsorship is \$65,000. This covers the cost of building materials, permits, impact fees, etc. It does not include land. Partial house donations are also accepted as are donations in any amount. Other levels include:

- Dream Builder \$1,000.00
- Hope Builder: \$500.00
- Roof Raiser \$200.00
- Room Framer \$100.00
- Wall Raiser \$50.00

Percentages: East Cooper Habitat for Humanity has a history of maintaining low administrative costs and works hard to ensure year after year that the majority of donations is spent on charitable efforts. Roughly, 88 to 90 percent of all donations go toward homebuilding. The ten to twelve remaining percent goes toward administrative costs and fundraising efforts.

Outward Support: East Cooper Habitat for Humanity tithes to an international affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International upon completion of each home. Recently, tithes have been designated for home building in the city of La Ceiba, Honduras. In total, East Cooper Habitat for Humanity has tithed an amount supporting the construction of over 61 homes overseas – that’s in addition to the 68 homes constructed in the local area.

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