

meet our Habitat Greater Ottawa volunteers!

Debbie

Family Partners Committee Co-Chair



You can call me a Habitat multi-tasker! I'm currently the Co-Chair for the Family Partners Committee. I also volunteer at the ReStore and Habitat Greater Ottawa office.

Over three years ago, I retired after many years in the property management industry. When I was in the role, I saw what it was like to try and own a home and how difficult it can be. Once retired, I knew volunteering for Habitat for Humanity would be a good fit as I enjoyed my time as a property manager.

As the Co-Chair of the Family Partners Committee, I partner with families and work with them throughout their journey to becoming Habitat homeowners. I meet with the families about once per month where I assist them in completing their volunteer hours and support them with any questions or concerns they may have. I also give updates on build timelines and any news that relates to their home. Our Family Partners Committee meets once a month, and all committee members provide updates on their partner family.

I really enjoy my various volunteer positions with Habitat Greater Ottawa. It's been great to use the skill sets I developed as a property manager and apply them to supporting Habitat homeowners. I find something that I do quite often is dispelling myths about Habitat to the community (for example, one of the main misconceptions is that we give away homes for free, when in fact the families that partner with us invest directly in their home's equity and commit volunteer hours to our organization).





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What I love most about volunteering with Habitat is getting to know the families. You become emotionally invested with them throughout the homeownership process. When you're at the Key Ceremony, there is not a dry eye in the house! In three years, I've had three of my families receive their keys, and each time it's a memorable event. As a Family Partner, you feel the excitement for them because you really are on the ride along with them. There is a sense of pride in the support that you provide and knowing that I've been able to help them towards this process of becoming homeowners – it really makes an impact.