

national volunteer week 2022

Meet Ernie: Global Village & Build Volunteer



"I've been a Habitat volunteer for over 7 years both locally and internationally. In 2015, I travelled to Honduras with Habitat Global Village and subsequently as a volunteer for the Leacross Landing build in Orleans. As an architect by profession, I have been involved in creating and constructing buildings for most of my

life. Habitat has allowed me to continue to do so in my retirement.

On the build site, as is the case with most volunteers, I have been allowed to be involved in all aspects of the construction of the homes; from foundations (shoveling gravel and concrete) to finishing work. While I do have some experience in on-site construction gained through summer work on construction during high school and university as well as numerous home renovation projects, I consider myself a jack-of-all but master of none, as can be attested by the Habitat supervisors that I have worked with.

Volunteering has been a most rewarding experience giving me a sense of accomplishment at the end of each day as well as sense of pride in the work. I can actually see the physical results of my labour. It has also given me the opportunity to develop relationships with your fellow volunteers and get to meet and work beside the future home owners. You get to see their appreciation first-hand. That's what makes me the happiest while volunteering; being able to contribute to such a great cause.

I highly recommend the volunteer experience to anyone regardless of their skill level in construction. Thank you to Habitat for the opportunity to contribute in such a meaningful way to

such a great cause. And in my opinion, carrying through on something that contributes to the greater need is an example of *Empathy in Action* – whether it be physical; like volunteering on the build site or financial support like making a donation.”