Name of organization: HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF RUTLAND COUNTY, VERMONT

Type of organization: non-profit

Mission of Organization:

Habitat for Humanity is a global non-profit organization dedicated to eradicate poverty by providing families in need with safe and affordable housing solutions. Habitat for Humanity’s work is anchored on the conviction that safe and affordable housing provides a critical foundation for breaking the cycle of poverty.

Mission of Organization as it relates to Project Vision:

Increasing the number of residents who own their homes in the Northwest neighborhood was a primary Project Vision goal. We have helped three families that lived in the Northwest neighborhood in Rutland to own their own highly energy efficient single-family homes. Two families live in the Northwest neighborhood and one lives in the Southwest neighborhood. We have also completed several minor repairs making homes safer and more energy efficient.

Person(s) who regularly attend Project Vision meetings:

Contact information

Name: Richard Malley

Email: rutlandhabitat@gmail.com
       rmalley@vermontel.net

Phone: Habitat Bus: 802-747-7440
       Phone: Home: 802-325-6530

Mailing address:

Habitat for Humanity of Rutland County, Vermont
Box 5
67 Merchants Row
Rutland, VT 05701
Optional Questions:

**How does your organization (or you) participate in advancing Project Vision’s mission?**

Owners of Habitat homes are required to contribute a minimum of 200 hours working with volunteers to build their own home. They pay an interest-free mortgage, and build pride through hands-on, tactile, physical accomplishment. Habitat helps its home buyers gain confidence, independence and stability. The neighborhood becomes stronger one household at a time. Volunteers gain as much from the experience as they give. Typically, over 120 different people help to build a house and volunteers are involved off-site, too.

I personally decided to volunteer for the Mentor Connector and will request to work with a child who lives in the Northwest neighborhood.

**What opportunities are there for you or your organization to become more involved?**

Habitat’s capacity to help more households is directly proportional to the generosity of volunteers from the community who contribute time, materials, and money to support Habitat’s mission. It costs us about $150,000 per home. Contact Habitat: 802-747-7440 to explore ways that you or your organization can become involved.

**How would you or your organization like to collaborate with other individuals or organizations?**

Organizations can help us by

- Encouraging people to apply for a Habitat home.
- Helping/mentoring potential applicants to meet Habitat’s criteria for selection.
- Volunteering to build a Habitat home

Serving on a committee (finance, raising awareness, raising funds, homebuyer selection, home buyer support, serving on the board of directors)

**What is the greatest challenge with which you need help?**

Finding people who need safe, sufficient and affordable housing is easy. Finding qualified applicants is a tremendous challenge. Unfortunately, the debt to income ratio is often prohibitive and is the most common reason Habitat cannot select an applicant.

**Additional suggestions/comments:**

If you’re curious about how a house is built and would like hands-on experience and other learning experiences please contact Habitat: 802-747-7440 or rutlandhabitat@gmail.com.