



Habitat for Humanity
of Sonoma County
Celebrating
40 years
Building homes, communities, and hope!



Habitat
for Humanity
of Sonoma County

WE'RE DOING IT TOGETHER!

May 2024

[VOLUNTEER](#) - [RESTORE](#) - [CARS FOR HOMES](#) - [DONATE](#)
[EMAIL](#) - CALL US: 707.578.7707 - [HABITATSO.CO.ORG](#) - [NEWSLETTER SIGN UP](#)



Why Shelter?

Decent, affordable shelter provides families with a place to gather and grow. Owning an affordable home also allows homeowners to lift their entire family by saving for their futures and investing in educational opportunities – bolstering job opportunities and long-term career growth.

Surveys of Habitat homeowners and their families show better financial health, parents who are more confident about meeting the family's needs and even improved grades for their children. Decent, affordable shelter creates long-lasting and life-changing impact on families and communities.

MYTHS AND STEREOTYPES ABOUT AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic millions of Americans lacked safe, stable, and affordable housing. According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, it is now estimated that the United States will need more than 7 million additional affordable housing units to meet the current demand. The housing gap continues to widen due to a severe lack of housing, high cost of housing, and the effects of the global pandemic. Affordable housing is important, now more than ever.



Unfortunately, myths, fears, prejudice, and misunderstanding often overshadow the debate on affordable housing. To clarify and give a little perspective, here are a few affordable myths and realities.

Photo: Habitat Graton homes (Green Valley Village)

MYTH #1: Affordable housing drives down property values.

REALITY: Repeated research shows affordable housing has no negative impact on home prices or on the speed or frequency of sale of neighboring homes. A 2020 University of Wisconsin study concluded that property values surrounding these developments rose, even in relatively affluent areas (National Low Income Housing Coalition, 2021). In addition, mixed-

income buildings can boost the residential real estate market in many areas by replacing the blighted buildings and vacant properties that keep real estate values low.

MYTH #2: Affordable housing hurts the quality of local schools and lowers standardized test scores.

REALITY: The opposite is true. Without affordable housing many families become trapped in a cycle of rising rents and must move frequently to find living space they can afford. That means their children are not able to stay in the same school for long, resulting in lower test scores on standardized tests.

When a child has a stable home and can remain in a single school system, their test scores rise. It also means children can build long term relationships with peers, teachers, and mentors that are key to increasing performance in elementary and secondary schools. When housing disruptions are minimized, everybody wins.

MYTH #3: Affordable housing only benefits the very poor, everyone else pays.

REALITY: Some of the people impacted by a lack of affordable housing include employers, seniors, limited income people, immigrants, low-wage or entry-level workers, firefighters, police officers, military personnel, and teachers. The lack of affordable housing means tax revenues are not in place to improve roads, or schools. It means businesses struggle to retain qualified workers and lowers the amount of money available to spend in those businesses. Affordable housing is not about doing something to help the poor. It is about improving business and raising the standards of working-and middle-class families, and the nation at large.

Your generous support to Habitat for Humanity changes lives—and sometimes saves them.



**Judy, Njeri and Koi-
Habitat Sonoma County Family**

Dear Friends of Habitat,

Your generous support to Habitat for Humanity changes lives—and sometimes saves them.

When my daughters Njeri and Koi were very little, we fled Kenya to seek asylum in the United States. We arrived here with little more than memories of the violence that took away not only our home, but my children's father.

I was willing to do whatever it took to give my girls a life where they could be safe and realize

their full potential. I knew that I was facing some of the hardest work in my life. And I was grateful.

What I didn't know was that people like you – people who support Habitat for Humanity – would join my girls and me in creating a beautiful future of hope.

The first few years we lived in the US, I worked as a nursing assistant. [More than half of my check](#)

Top photo: Judy, Njeri and Koi

Side photo: Njeri finished her residency.



Habitat is getting ready to break ground, build 4 Townhomes in Sebastopol and we are looking for bids from our major subs.

333 N. Main St. Sebastopol, CA

All four of these homes are designated as affordable housing.

Home and lot dimensions and features:

- Four - 3 bedroom/2 bath, 1350 square feet homes.
- The 1st floor bath will be handicap accessible.
- Lot sizes are approximately 1,500 square feet.
- The homes will be attached, with detached single car garages, a covered entry porch and a rear patio.
- All the homes are two stories along the street frontage.

These homes are located within a half mile of the Sebastopol Plaza, business district, parks, outdoor events, and farmers market as well as multiple school locations, public transportation, grocery stores and retail shops. It is an excellent location for families seeking stability, shelter, and the sense of belonging to a community.

To submit bids or for further information –info@habitatsoco.org.

[Design: 24.03.18 – Habitat Sebastopol – Current Set.pdf](#)

Partner Highlights



The work of Habitat for Humanity of Sonoma County would not be possible without the unwavering support of our generous partners. Below are two:

[Safeway Northern California](#) – Safeway operates as a banner of Albertsons Companies, one of the largest food and drug retailers in the United States. Albertsons Companies is committed to helping people across the country live better lives by making a meaningful difference, neighborhood by neighborhood. In 2017 alone, along with the Albertsons Companies Foundation, the company gave nearly \$300 million in food and financial support. These efforts helped millions of people in the areas of hunger relief, education, cancer research and treatment, programs for people with disabilities and veterans' outreach.

[Graton Casino Resort & Spa](#) - Opened in 2013, Graton Resort & Casino is the largest and most elegant casino in Sonoma County. It's presence in the heart of wine country gives its visitors an experience like none other. Owned and operated by the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, Graton Resort & Casino offers incomparable entertainment featuring table games and the latest slot machines, as well as upscale and casual dining.

We are deeply grateful to the many partners who help Habitat for Humanity of Sonoma County build decent and affordable housing for families with limited incomes within Sonoma County.

Corporations, community groups, faith groups, media and private philanthropic organizations join families each year to build strength, stability, and shelter.

Learn how your company or organization can join Habitat for Humanity to make a positive impact [click here..](#)

Meet a Habitat of Sonoma County Board Member

Steve Kent,
Board member for five years-

I studied mechanical and nuclear engineering at Cornell. After the nuclear plant I was working on was headed for cancellation I changed direction and went to Vanderbilt for an MBA in operations research. After 8 years consulting, I found my passion, leading 3 different manufacturing operations, focusing on The Toyota Production System, continuously improving all aspects of the businesses.

I spent 10 years as the VP of Operations and later as the Senior VP of Operations and Design for a company in New England that designed custom modern homes and manufactured the parts which were shipped to be assembled into homes on sites across the US. This experience led me to volunteer with Habitat for Humanity after the Tubbs fire to help quickly develop housing. I joined the Board in April 2019. I am currently on the Executive Committee, the Chair of the Construction Committee, and the Secretary for Habitat for Humanity of Sonoma County.

I enjoy spending time with our 8-month-old grandson who lives nearby, hiking, working in the yard, traveling, and working on electrifying our home.





Downsizing? Let us help!

Donate your gently used furniture, home decor, appliances and more! The Habitat Sonoma County ReStore will pick up the items you cannot take with you to your new home, saving you the time and hassle of selling or taking to the landfill. And you will receive a tax receipt. Plus, your gift will help build homes with families across Sonoma County.

[To donate, click here.](#)

habitatsoco.org/restore/

1201 Piner Road, Suite 500
(Piner & Industrial Drive)
Santa Rosa— (707) 568-3228

Hours of Operation:

Monday – Friday: 10:00 am – 6:00 pm

Saturday: 9am-5pm

Sunday: Closed

Donations:

Monday – Saturday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm



THANK YOU
FOR
VOTING US
AS THE

*best resale store (4)
years in a row*



Make A Difference Today!



Stock Donation

While time, money and housing supplies are the most common donations to Habitat, there are several other ways to give as well, including donating your stocks.

This is a fast and simple process which can be done through an electronic transfer, or certificates can be donated through the mail.



Donate Land or a House

Do you have land or a home you want to donate? Do you believe that hard-working families deserve affordable, stable housing? Even in Sonoma County, where the views are as breathtaking as housing costs?

If you want to donate your land or house to charity, Habitat for Humanity can maximize your

Donations of stocks allows us to ensure that even more families have a safe, affordable place to call home. The housing crisis presents an ever-growing need, and we use everything at our disposal to respond.

[Learn more.](#)

generosity by turning your donation into affordable housing for a deserving family. We screen our applicants to ensure they have the income and employment stability to be successful homeowners. To make sure they are fully invested,

[Learn more.](#)



Charity Navigator
4 Star Non-Profit



GuideStar Candid
Gold Transparency
Non-Profit

Make A Difference!
**DONATE
NOW**

IMAGINE

**WHAT MORE
WE CAN BUILD**

SONOMA COUNTY
1201 Piner Rd, Ste 500
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Habitatsoco.org
(707) 578-7707
[@habitatsoco](https://www.instagram.com/habitatsoco)



Habitat for Humanity of Sonoma County | 1201 Piner Rd. #500, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

[Unsubscribe j.salyer@habitatsoco.org](mailto:j.salyer@habitatsoco.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data
Notice](#)

Sent by j.salyer@habitatsoco.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!