

Building with Heart was founded in 1986 with the goal of eradicating homelessness and inadequate housing. Building with Heart enables volunteers to help families in need help themselves. Homeowners, working with the help of volunteers, construct their own homes, essentially building sweat equity in the process. Costs are kept low by using volunteer labor and obtaining property and building materials through the donations from generous community members. Building with Heart provides homeowners with a long-term, no interest mortgage.

Our Mission

Building with Heart was founded with the following goals:

Provide homeless and inadequately housed citizens with affordable, safe, and healthy homes

Provide hope, stability, and improved quality of life

Create strong neighborhoods in which new homeowners are stakeholders

Advise city planners, government agencies on policies to promote positive change and improvement in quality of life in distressed neighborhoods

Who Qualifies for a BWH Home

We select homebuyers based on the family's need for decent affordable shelter, ability to pay the no-profit mortgage, and a willingness to assist in the construction process. Target homebuyers typically earn 30-60% below the median wage for the Greene City demographic area. Families must contribute at least 300 hours of sweat equity, which may include hours on their own home, as well as other BWH projects. Hours spent in approved community service and classes may also count toward homebuyers' contributed hours.

The Need

The need for housing has increased dramatically over the past five years.

Region	Increase in Need	Increase in Funding	
Downtown and 12th Ward	3.32%	0.005%	
Western King County	2.6%	1.12%	
Eastern King County	12.45%	2.2%	
Northern King County and 4th Ward	6.7%	3.2%	

Who can volunteer

Building with Heart welcomes volunteers and supporters from all backgrounds and serves people in need of decent housing, regardless of race, religion, or political affiliation. Contact one of our chapter offices for more information on volunteering.

While we certainly welcome volunteers with construction experience, you don't have to know anything about construction to be a volunteer. We provide training, and have numerous positions that don't involve construction, such as:

Administration

HouSalvage store clerks

Laborers

Drivers

Please contact your local chapter office for more information.

HouSalvage Recycling Centers

HouSalvage Recycling Centers operate as a fundraising enterprise for Building with Heart. Each HouSalvage location serves as a salvage facility and storefront. Volunteers clean up, sort, and price construction materials left over from Building with Heart construction projects and donated by companies and individuals. This operation not only helps to raise funds for BWH projects, it helps to keep home improvement waste out of landfills.

Below is a list of acceptable items. If you have any questions, please call your local HouSalvage center before making a delivery.

Appliances: Items in good working condition, including ranges and range tops, ovens, range hoods, washers and dryers, gas or electric water heaters, and refrigerators.

Cabinets: Must have all doors, drawers, and matching hardware. No damage beyond simple repair. May include individual cabinets or full sets.

Doors: Must be free of rot and cracks, with all panes and seals intact.

Flooring: New only, and minimum of 25 square feet. No asbestos.

Furniture: Must be in good condition, with no broken or missing parts, no rips, tears, or visible stains and pet hair.

Hardware: Hinges, lock sets, knobs, pulls, knockers and cabinet hardware, in new or in useable condition and free from rust. Complete sets only. Keys must be included.

Lighting and Fans: Complete and in good working order with no frayed cords.

Lumber: Free of rot and insects, water damage, bowing, splitting, nails, and screws.

Paint: New and unopened, less than four years old.

Plumbing: Complete, clean, and undamaged sinks, tubs, and toilets. New piping and fixtures.

More Ways to Support Building with Heart

In addition to volunteering and donating materials, there are several other ways you can help support Building with Heart. Consider donations of cash, vehicles, stocks and bonds, and becoming a corporate sponsor.

Chapters

Four chapters of Building with Heart operate in and around Greene City. Contact information is provided below.

Downtown and 12th Ward 349 Main Street
Greene City, RL 12340
(555) 555-1212

Western King County 12580 County House Highway
Olinger, RL 12343
(555) 121-1000

Eastern King County 1951 Salinger Road
Agerstown, RL 12355
(555) 637-0618

Northern King County and 4th Ward 127 Old Mine Road
Carbon Creek, RL 12341
(555) 427-9933