



Support local families by doing
what you do best:
build homes

Home Builders Blitz





John Mcleay (left) of Mcleay Construction helped Habitat homeowners Tint Tun and his wife, Har Dee, build a new home during a Home Builders Blitz in Omaha, Nebraska. The nationwide event brings professional homebuilders across the U.S. to Habitat work sites to donate their time, labor and expertise.

WHAT BUILDERS SAY ABOUT HOME BUILDERS BLITZ

"Finding out about Habitat – and the fact that the homes aren't given to the folks getting them and that they actually pay for them, and that it's an interest-free loan – just made it real easy for me to get involved because they're not competing with [our company]."

"I think that that's what makes it very important for our company, is that we are doing something that is allowing somebody to better themselves and their family for a long period of time. It's not something that's going to evaporate in 30 days."

"The family is earning the home. Habitat's not just giving it away for free. They have to put in sweat equity. They get a nice loan to pay for it. It's what you would do for your neighbor. I think that's really what makes it great is it's a tremendous sense of community."

"I've been in this business for 31 years, and this is our first year to do a Habitat house. It's been a really exciting experience, and it's ended up being a lot of fun."

"I think it's really a part of who I am now. I mean, the first year I did it I brought my company with me. I went to the boss and said, 'Hey I want to do this. I want to lead this.' We made it happen."

"[Home] is something that we take for granted. I wake up in my own home every morning. Most of our employees do, as well. As daunting a task as it may be to build a house in a five-day period of time, it's not that big of a deal when you can embrace it and then get the participation from your subs and vendors."

"Because we're a local company, we feel like there is some responsibility on our part to participate in the community. And Home Builders Blitz is an easy way for us to do that because it's something that we know how to do, and it also allows us to reach out to our larger partnerships with our vendors and our subcontractors, and some of our other builders."

"I look forward to it every year; it's almost like my second vacation. It's so much fun. It's always hot; it's always hard work. There's always the frustrating moments throughout the week, but it comes together every year."

"I think it says a lot about your company when you're willing to volunteer a week or two of your time to help out the community. I really think that our business partners and our clients will see and recognize and respect that."

"Everybody always asks, 'Why do you do it?' You know, I do it for the dedication day. I do it for the kids. I do it because it's fulfilling and it's good for our community."

“The idea of the one-week blitz is that if you asked me as a builder to build a house in a month for Habitat, I couldn’t do it, because I have other obligations. But if you can compress the time and enable a builder to do it in one week, it makes it a very manageable amount of time to build the home.”

– Tom Gipson, founder and national chairman of Home Builders Blitz

Homebuilder Tom Gipson and his wife, Pat, work on site at Habitat for Humanity’s 2017 Home Builders Blitz in Raleigh, North Carolina.



HOW THE BLITZ BEGAN

In 2002, Habitat and 12 professional homebuilders teamed up to complete 12 homes in North Carolina in just five days. Habitat paid for the land; generous builders took care of the rest of the expense. Nothing like this had been done before. The “blitz build” was the result of a collaboration between Habitat for Humanity of Wake County and local custom homebuilder Tom Gipson, who mobilized local contractors. The builders provided free labor and worked with subcontractors and suppliers, who also donated their time and materials.

The results were so impressive that in 2006, Home Builders Blitz became a national initiative, partnering Habitat for Humanity with local builders to help people in need of housing. The goal was to deliver homes at no cost to Habitat. That year, Home Builders Blitz became the largest homebuilding effort in Habitat’s history, with more than 1,000 builders working with Habitat in 130 areas on about 450 homes across the United States.

After successful national events in 2008, 2012 and 2014, Home Builders Blitz became an annual event. It has added a total of more than 2,000 homes to communities by mobilizing builders and volunteers as hearts, hands and voices for the cause of safe, decent, affordable housing. To date, more than 350 local Habitats have participated.

Since the first local event in 2002, Home Builders Blitz has racked up some impressive numbers:

2,200+

Participating builders.

350+

Participating communities.

2,000+

Homes built/repaired/rehabbed.

5,000+

People housed (estimated).

Through this event, builders are able to help local Habitats serve more families in their communities by drastically reducing the time and resources typically required for them to do so.