

From the Prez

Invitation to Build a Home

The Social and Racial Justice Committee invites the UUCSC community to build a home in South County with Habitat for Humanity. Habitat is a global nonprofit housing organization working in local communities across all 50 states in the U.S. and in approximately 70 countries around the world. The South County Habitat has been building homes since 1990! Right now, they are working on a 7-house neighborhood in Hope Valley. In 2025 they plan to break ground on a 22-home project in Westerly. Habitat homes are net zero energy efficient homes.

Habitat for Humanity is a partnership, not a giveaway program—Habitat's homeowner families buy the houses that Habitat volunteers and crews build. Habitat homeowners pay an affordable mortgage and receive education on such topics as financial literacy and home maintenance in preparation for home ownership. Homeowners also invest hundreds of hours of their own labor, called sweat equity, working alongside volunteers. When a family helps build a place they can call home, not only are they building a better life for themselves, but they are building a better community.

Last week, a group of us met with Kate Anderson, Director of Development, and Emily Passeroni, Volunteer Coordinator of Habitat for Humanity of South County, to learn more about building with Habitat. Here's how it works:

- Between the UU calendar and the Habitat calendar, we decided to build on Saturday September 28, from 8:30am to 12:30pm.
- We'll work on whatever projects Habitat needs help with on that day – that could be painting, interior details, building a deck, siding, landscaping, or whatever else is needed.
- You do not have to know anything about building, have had any experience building, or using any type of tool. You will be trained.
- All tools will be provided, including hard hats, gloves, and so forth. And you will not have to do anything that you are not comfortable doing. Habitat crew leaders will be training and supervising every step of the way.
- 16- and 17-year-olds must have a parent or guardian with them.
- For those who want to participate, but not build, there will be an opportunity to make and bring lunch to the worksite to feed us and join in that way.

People volunteering with Habitat for Humanity build because they believe that everyone, everywhere, should have a healthy, affordable place to call home. Habitat is transforming lives in South County and around the world. And, honestly, it's a blast! I guarantee you will have a fantastic day building a home in our community with our community.

I hope you will join us. More information about registration will be available in early September.

In peace,

Nancy