



Working with TeenServe on Home Preservation

TeenServe has worked with Habitat for Humanity and A Brush With Kindness (ABWK) to serve people and preserve houses since 2011. At a TeenServe Workcamp, hundreds of teen volunteers and adult leaders come together to put God's love into action for one week to paint and repair up 70 homes. Beyond the pride and dignity that homeowners and communities receive by working on an ABWK project with TeenServe, there are numerous other benefits for Habitat for Humanity affiliates.

The ABWK program follows the same model that all Habitat services follow by serving individuals with a demonstrated need, ability to pay, and a willingness to partner. The agreement with Valspar requires that the paint obtained through the ABWK program is used for Habitat for Humanity sponsored activities. Habitat affiliates who receive Valspar paint through the ABWK program need to be responsible for and directly involved in the project.

The TeenServe model also serves individuals with a demonstrated need, and a willingness to partner (help where they can), but does not require that they have the ability to pay for the services. Most of the individuals that TeenServe works with are not good candidates for the typical ABWK program because they simply are unable to come up the funds to pay for the services.

TeenServe always is invited in to a community by a team of local churches and non-profit groups that are called "co-sponsor teams."

Benefits of partnering with TeenServe on an intense one week ABWK project:

- A group of teens showing up to paint a house can completely change a resident's demeanor. Your affiliate will provide a new hopeful outlook to many families who really need it.
- Hundreds of teens (including local teens) will be exposed to the mission of Habitat for Humanity and your affiliate – many for the first time. These teens end up with a positive view of Habitat for Humanity and are more likely to volunteer as adults.
- Dozens of local adult volunteers will be exposed to the mission of Habitat for Humanity and your affiliate. You will be able to develop new relationships in your community and expand your base of volunteers with local adults who love to volunteer and serve.
- Your affiliate will receive extensive local exposure (almost every TeenServe event is covered on multiple television stations and print articles) and goodwill in the community. Many affiliates place banners at the school housing the participants that are used for a backdrop for videos and photos.
- As many as 200 families apply for assistance in every community that we work in. We have a web-based system where we keep track of the families and the type of work that they requested. This system is made available to the affiliates that we work with. It provides an organized list of families who requested help and the type of help they are looking for. This is an excellent way to keep your ABWK program organized and connect with local families after the Workcamp is complete.

- On the last day of a TeenServe workcamp, TeenServe puts on a program at a local High School gymnasium for all the local residents and volunteers. These programs can have upwards of 600 people where the local Habitat Affiliate can address the group -- and include a "call to action."

Options for Habitat for Humanity affiliates who would like to work with TeenServe on the ABWK program:

- 1.) **Full Sponsorship:** A Habitat affiliate can take the lead on organizing an intense one week ABWK program and bring in TeenServe to provide the labor. TeenServe has the expertise to find, organize, house, and feed hundreds of adult and teen participants and organize dozens of local volunteers. In this case, the Habitat affiliate heads up the co-sponsor team, helps procure a local school for housing, and helps find, visit and write up hundreds of homes/residents with real needs. TeenServe has a step-by-step guide on how to make this happen and is involved in every step. Affiliates can count only board-approved families as "Families Served".
- 2.) **Partial Sponsorship:** A Habitat affiliate can work with TeenServe in a less active role. This might include some or all of the following items: a leadership role on the co-sponsor team, publicity, qualifying potential program participants, fundraising, etc.
- 3.) **Minimal Sponsorship:** Help TeenServe procure the paint (about 600 gallons). Valspar may be willing to provide paint for a TeenServe ABWK project where the local Habitat affiliate is not responsible and directly involved. If you would like to help with minimal involvement, please email or call Walter Fields for the approval process.

Please feel free to contact Walter Fields or Jeff LaBelle if you have any questions. Go to <https://vimeo.com/teenserve/abwk> to watch a short video about a TeenServe ABWK project in Norway, MI.



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