

## **Global Village Trips – FAQ**

### **Q. What is a Global Village (GV) trip?**

A. The Global Village (GV) volunteer program consists of short-term house-building trips designed to give concerned people the opportunity to observe and contribute to Habitat for Humanity International's (HFHI) work first-hand. Working alongside homeowners and local volunteers, team members build a true "global village" of love, homes, families, communities, and hope! HFHI is excited to partner with REALTORS® who have committed to build a total of 54 homes.

Teams of REALTORS® from around the country will travel to participate in HFHI builds in the Gulf region that was devastated by hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005. REALTOR® teams will either work on a house they've sponsored as a Home in a Box build or the team will be placed with a Habitat affiliate that is completing other REALTOR® sponsored homes.

### **Q. What type of construction does Habitat for Humanity do?**

A. Habitat affiliates in the Gulf region are working on the construction of new homes. REALTOR® teams will be involved in both completing Home in a Box projects as well as constructing new homes from-the-ground-up, in their permanent location. Every effort will be made to match the REALTOR® team with the Habitat affiliate that accepted the Home in a Box from that team's state association; however it cannot be guaranteed that the team will complete that actual frame during your trip. Habitat affiliates are working to put displaced families into new homes as quickly as possible. So, it is likely that the Home in a Box frame from the team's state will be completed prior to their arrival, but don't worry; there are plenty of houses to be built!

### **Q. How long is each GV trip?**

A. Global Village trips will be conducted for approximately seven days (five work days and two travel days).

### **Q. How many people make up a GV trip team?**

A. Teams will be approximately 20 people, with one Team Leader.

### **Q. What is a Team Leader, how are they chosen and what are his/her responsibilities?**

A. HFHI requires each GV team going to the Gulf to have a REALTOR® Team Leader to coordinate and manage the logistics of the team's trip. NAR is asking that the Team Leader be chosen by the REALTOR® state association executive. HFHI will provide the necessary training so leaders can handle his/her responsibilities. The training covers topics such as planning travel, creating a team budget, fund raising resources, team dynamics – exercises and techniques, wellness and safety, emergency management planning and more.

**Q. When and where will Team Leader training take place?**

A. HFHI has agreed to host two REALTOR® Team Leader training sessions. The dates are being selected and will likely be in January and March, 2007.

**Q. What are some of the characteristics of a good Team Leader?**

- A.
1. ability and willingness to travel for a full week
  2. strong written and oral communication skills for communicating with team members
  3. experience managing groups/teams
  4. problem-solving skills; ability to react quickly
  5. positive attitude; ability to motivate others

**Q. How are GV teams assigned to their build location?**

A. The Team Leader contacts NAR to give the team's preferred travel dates. NAR contacts HFHI to find out what build sites are able to receive volunteers during the preferred dates. HFHI will then assign the location.

**Q. Who pays for the individual team members' expenses?**

A. REALTORS® will pay for their own transportation and lodging. The local Habitat affiliate (for the build site) may be able to assist in identifying lodging. This lodging will be modest, close quarters – such as sleeping on a folding cot in a school gym or church and sharing bathroom facilities with the team. Alternately, REALTORS® may also choose to secure their own lodging at a local hotel that they identify.

**Q. Are there any other fees associated with the GV trip?**

A. NAR will pay the \$100 per person fee for the GV trip. This fee covers items such as travel/emergency evacuation insurance. A GV trip also usually requires a minimum \$350 per person donation to the affiliate that hosts the team of volunteers. This fee is being waived for REALTOR® teams.

**Q. Are meals provided for volunteers during the trip?**

A. Lunch will be provided on-site on build days. Breakfast and dinner may be provided by some host locations that are identified by HFHI. Volunteers who choose to stay at a hotel or other accommodations will be responsible for their own breakfast and dinner.

**Q. Will the entire team build on the same house?**

A. No. Teams will be assigned to build sites that have multiple homes in progress to allow the best use of volunteers' time and skills.

**Q. I have never done any kind of construction work. Can I be a volunteer?**

A. Yes. Volunteers are not expected to have the same skills as professional contractors. The on-site construction supervisor will instruct volunteers in the correct and proper procedure for performing each task and will familiarize them with the potential hazards and how such hazards can be minimized or eliminated.

**Q. Will I be asked to sign a waiver of liability?**

A. Yes. This form will be provided by HFHI.

**Q. Will I receive any registration instructions and orientation materials?**

A. Yes. Once your team and Habitat affiliate have confirmed the date and location of the trip, you will be given instructions for online registration. Once your registration is completed, you will be sent detailed orientation materials.

**Please contact Wendy Penn by *December 8, 2006* with the name and contact information of the person who has been identified as the Team Leader for your state:**

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