



/Open the Door/

Honoring our past and framing our future

2026 Affiliate Conference

Workshop descriptions

Session code key

A: Transform Housing Systems: Advocacy

BMB: Build More and Better

DKC: Develop Key Capabilities

FF: Faith Foundation

HF: Transform Housing Systems: Housing Finance

HR: Fund the Mission: Habitat ReStore

MSHS: Transform Housing Systems: Mortgage Solutions and Homeowner Support

P: Preconference

RD: Fund the Mission: Resource Development

RM: Inspire Action for Housing: Research and MEAL

S: Specialty

V: Inspire Action for Housing: Volunteers

Preconference: Monday, Oct. 5

Road to Americus: A Habitat and Carter Legacy Bus Tour Experience (P)

Sunday and Monday, 7:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Go beyond *Briars in the Cotton Patch* and your history books and experience Habitat's origin story firsthand. You'll travel by bus, hearing stories from Habitat's very first volunteer, Clive Rainey, on Sunday and former Koinonia board member and 25-year Habitat affiliate-turned-Habitat for Humanity International staff member Dawn Daniels-McNear on Monday, to explore our Habitat legacy across Americus, Koinonia Farm and Plains. See Habitat's first partnership home, early headquarters, and the places that shaped the Carters' humanitarian legacy. This full-day journey blends storytelling, site visits, walking excursions and Southern hospitality — peanut butter ice cream included. Lunch will be provided. **Note:** *This tour requires a minimum of 35 participants and is limited to the first 50 registrants. Please wear comfortable attire and shoes, as you will be both traveling by bus for long stretches of time (approximately 2½ hours each way) and exploring our quaint history by foot. If you have severe peanut allergies, please note that this is peanut harvesting season and there is a great deal of peanut dust in the air.*

Tags: Tours, Mission and History, Servant Leadership

Regional Affiliate Events and Trainings: Maximizing Your Ability to Catalyze Learning and Connection (P)

9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Across the U.S., affiliates and affiliate support organizations are working to develop and strengthen key capabilities to ensure operational excellence, mitigate risk, build high-performing cultures, and drive our collective mission and impact forward. This hands-on preconference session for individuals who lead events and trainings at affiliate support organizations, regional groups or affiliates will preview fresh Habitat for Humanity International workshop offerings and explore innovative, collaborative ways to deliver training across the U.S. network. Participants will experience Habitat's new, custom virtual-reality safety training, build skills and confidence in a 90-minute Crucial Conversations® skill lab, and collaborate with network peers to surface and spotlight practical event planning strategies. Through immersive training and tabletop discussions, we'll surface successful practices, tackle challenges, and identify opportunities in training and events, all while creating intentional space for community building across our teams. Leave with a preview of the latest affiliate support organization course catalog, peer-driven insights, new connections, and a stronger network for collaboration.

Tags: Affiliate Support Organizations, Cross-Affiliate Collaboration, Strategy and Planning

Habitat Home Repair Lab: Foundations — Building the Architecture for Sustainable Repair Programs (P)

9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Are you exploring repairs, completing informal repairs, launching a new program or strengthening an existing one? Join this preconference session as we establish a shared baseline for affiliates of any size working in or moving toward repair programming. The session is designed to give attendees a common language and practical starting point for understanding the early decisions and structures that support consistent, sustainable repair programming. We will begin with a short baseline inventory of current repair program conditions, including commitment, feasibility, timing, systems, internal alignment, community need, and lessons from past or current repair work. This exercise will connect participants to a readiness tool that can be used for planning, launching and strengthening programs. We will then dig into those foundational elements of a repair program, including mission and business case, program strategy, governance, program design, board and staff development, resource assignments, contracts and technical standards, and community planning. Participants will leave with shared language for repair program development, a clearer understanding of their affiliate snapshot and readiness, and a draft 90-day action plan for the key decisions and next steps they need to address.

Tags: Construction, Repairs, Capacity Building, Strategy and Planning

Executive Forum: Leading Together (P)

Noon–5 p.m.

Designed for U.S. affiliated network CEOs, executive directors, presidents and their board members, this year's executive forum focuses on leading strong, future-ready affiliates together. Shaped through U.S. Council discussions, we'll explore how executives and boards align on vision, strategy and leadership to meet the current affordable housing moment, acting as true strategic partners amid growing complexity in development, partnerships, funding and community needs. Participants will gain insight into Habitat's evolving work and their unique roles in guiding strategy; fostering innovation; and stewarding mission, resources and risk. Through panels, facilitated discussions and peer exchange, attendees will hear from affiliates testing new approaches and business models on how they've built trust and alignment with their boards, made forward-looking decisions, strengthened relationships, and evolved organizational models to expand impact. Leave better prepared to align leadership; strengthen governance; and position your organization for the future with clarity, confidence and partnership. **Note:** *Executives and board members are strongly encouraged to attend together to build shared context, deepen alignment and lead more effectively as partners.*

Tags: Leadership, Innovations, Board Governance, Management and Operations

U.S. Executive Director Networking Session (P)

9:30 a.m.–noon

This dedicated networking time, hosted by the U.S. Council, is an intentional space for U.S. affiliated network leaders in the executive director, president or CEO role to connect with one another. Participants are invited to engage in open, organic conversation among peers who can relate most closely, sharing challenges, successes, and what it truly takes to lead in this moment. This is an opportunity to expand your peer network, find common ground, and build camaraderie with fellow executives navigating similar pressures and possibilities. Come to exchange ideas, test thinking, learn from one another, and leave with stronger relationships and a deeper sense of community in the work.

Tags: Leadership, Cross-Affiliate Collaboration

Open the Door to ReStore Success: Where Mission Meets Margin (P)

9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Join us for a ReStore preconference session designed to reignite purpose, strengthen store performance and foster meaningful peer connection within the Habitat ReStore community. Through a mix of main-stage insights from expert

keynotes and network leaders, ReStore case studies, and collaborative breakout discussions, participants will explore what it takes for ReStores to thrive in their operations and mission. Together, we'll assess and develop plans to tackle common ReStore challenges (donations, merchandising, performance management and storytelling) and explore what's working across the network today. Participants will actively assess their store's reality, pressure-test ideas with peers, and translate proven practices into their local context. This session will equip ReStore leaders with fresh ideas, renewed hope and actionable strategies to strengthen performance, all alongside peers who understand the work.

Tags: ReStore, Management and Operations, Data-Driven Decision Making, Innovations

Ready for Anything! Volunteer Programs Built for What's Ahead (P)

1–5 p.m.

Effective volunteer engagement requires more than reacting; it demands intentional and adaptive planning. This interactive workshop equips volunteer engagement leaders with the tools to strengthen and sustain their programs. Participants will explore the value of strategic planning as a critical driver of continuity, growth and meaningful volunteer experiences. Through guided assessment, you'll identify key risks, gaps and vulnerabilities in your current approach that could impact engagement, satisfaction and retention. Using practical scenario planning techniques, you'll learn how to anticipate disruptions, test assumptions, and develop flexible, responsive strategies that can adapt to changing conditions. Through hands-on exercises and peer discussion, you'll apply these concepts in real time, leaving with a clearer understanding of your current state and actionable next steps to build a more resilient volunteer engagement strategy that's ready for anything.

Tags: Volunteers, Innovations, Strategy and Planning, Organizational Culture

Movement and Homeownership City Tour: Atlanta's Civil Rights Legacy and the Fight for Affordable Housing (P)

8:30 a.m.–5p.m.

Join us for a curated, immersive civil and human rights tour across Atlanta, grounded in its pivotal role in the Civil Rights Movement. Participants will explore landmarks including the 2026 Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project build site at Sylvan Hills, Martin Luther King Park, The Carter Center and The King Center, alongside neighborhoods shaped by redlining, urban renewal and gentrification. Atlanta-based storytellers will help participants connect historic struggles for racial justice with contemporary efforts to advance affordable housing, fair housing policy and community stability, introducing participants to the nation's first public housing development site, Atlanta's early university housing developments, and historic and modern builds by Atlanta-based affiliates. Lunch will be at Paschal's Restaurant with a curated menu. **Note:** *This tour requires a minimum of 25 participants and is limited to the first 45 registrants.*

Tags: Tours, Equity/Justice, Mission and History, Bridgebuilding

Strengthening Habitat's End-to-End Homebuyer Journey: A Habitat-NeighborWorks One-Day Intensive (P)

9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Are you ready to connect your origination practices to build post-purchase readiness and success? This preconference session will provide a high-level, Habitat-specific look at how strong loan origination practices set the foundation for long term homeowner success, taught by a certified NeighborWorks faculty member. Participants will explore the essential elements of the Habitat loan originator role, key compliance considerations at the front end, and how early spending plan work, documentation and expectation-setting naturally flow into post-purchase education and support. The session concludes with practical strategies for designing mission aligned post-purchase programs that reinforce stability, reduce risk and empower homeowners long after closing.

Tags: Homeowner Services, Mortgage Origination, Affiliate Financial Health

Newcomers, Assemble! Your Habitat and Conference Journey Starts Here on Monday (P)

9:30 a.m.–noon and 1:30–4 p.m.

New to Habitat for Humanity or the Affiliate Conference? Join us for a guide to all things Habitat and our conference! You and other new-to-Habitat peers will join an interactive half-day experience, offered both in the morning and afternoon, designed to help you better navigate your conference experience; build new and lasting connections; and connect more deeply to Habitat's history, mission, strategy, and network of U.S. support. We'll close with an optional walking tour of the conference venue as we set new attendees up for a successful week ahead. **Note:** *If you are new to Habitat and able to join a day early, we encourage you to attend the "Road to Americus: A Habitat and Carter Legacy Bus Tour Experience" tour on Sunday.*

Tags: Mission and History

Habitat Capital Academy, Part 1: Fundamentals of Affordable Housing Finance and Development (P)

9:30 a.m.–noon

Are you actively interested in moving from being known as a builder to a developer? Want to better understand core real estate development concepts, tools for improving financial health at your affiliate, or the risks and benefits of taking out a loan to increase housing production? Join Part 1 of our first Habitat Capital Academy, a two-part preconference learning experience designed to strengthen affiliates' affordable housing finance and development knowledge and capacity to deepen their impact as nonprofit real estate developers. Content will be delivered in focused presentations, facilitated discussions, simulations, and hands-on activities that ask participants to apply concepts to their local context. In our morning session, focus areas will include the basics of housing finance, how to shift from a builder to a developer, and financial strategies to increase organizational impact and efficiency. After Part 1, you'll walk away with a better understanding of your developer readiness and practical, ready-to-use templates and resources.

Tags: Habitat Capital, Real Estate Development, Debt Capital, Capacity Building

Habitat Capital Academy, Part 2: Fundamentals of Multiproject Development and Third-Party Mortgage Lending (P)

1–5 p.m.

Want to better understand multiproject development tactics, approaches and tools and the pros, cons and strategies of third-party mortgage lending? Join Part 2 of our first Habitat Capital Academy, a two-part preconference learning experience designed to strengthen affiliates' affordable housing finance and development knowledge and capacity to deepen their impact as nonprofit real estate developers. Content will be delivered in focused presentations, facilitated discussions, simulations, and hands-on activities that ask participants to apply concepts to their local context. In our afternoon session, we continue to explore moving from builder to developer with multiproject development strategies and third-party mortgage lending. You'll walk away with strategies and tools to manage the development of multiple projects and an understanding of the landscape of third-party mortgage lending. Sign up for just Part 1, just Part 2, or the full-day experience.

Tags: Habitat Capital, Real Estate Development, Debt Capital, Capacity Building

From Inspiration to Impact: Connecting Our Historical Why with Our Modern How (P)

1–5 p.m.

This half-day session offers a deep dive into the faith and housing justice lineage of Habitat for Humanity. We will figuratively journey back to Koinonia Farm in rural Georgia, where Clarence Jordan's vision of "partnership housing" and the "Fund for Humanity" first took root. Participants will explore how these radical foundations in equity, community and faith have evolved into the global housing movement we lead today. By connecting our historical "why" with our modern "how," attendees will gain a renewed sense of purpose and practical strategies to bridge across differences and communicate our unique identity to donors, volunteers, and the communities where we partner. This isn't just a history lesson; it's about using our founding DNA to solve 21st-century challenges and move

participants from self-awareness to actionable skill-building, tailored to drive mission impact in and with Habitat's unique environment of staff members, volunteers, homeowners and communities.

Tags: Bridgebuilding, Mission and History, Equity/Justice, Leadership

DEMO – Design.Make.Build: The Future of HomeBuilding

6:30–7 p.m.

The world population is expected to reach 9.8 billion in 2050. To meet global building demand, we must build the equivalent of New York City every month for the next 40 years. How we build hasn't changed in nearly 200 years, and shortages of skilled labor and increasing material costs have made it unsustainable. Today, the risk-averse construction industry lacks the collaboration, trust, and transparency required to make a significant change. But there is a better way. Join us to learn about MiTek's Design-Make-Build™ methodology and how it increases the viability of off-site construction, unlocking builds with higher quality, increased speed, less waste, fewer resources, and more value.

Time Slot 1: Tuesday, Oct. 6, 8:30 a.m.

Scaling Housing Recovery Through Regional Collaboration (BMB)

As disasters increasingly impact multiple communities and affiliates simultaneously, recovery models built around isolated response efforts are becoming harder to sustain. After Hurricane Helene, Habitat affiliates across 28 South Carolina counties experienced impacts ranging from widespread rural damage to varying levels of affiliate readiness and operational capacity, requiring a coordinated approach spanning affiliates, the affiliate support organization, state agencies, funders and external partners. This session examines how the South Carolina affiliate support organization sparked collaboration across a diverse network of organizations to create a scalable housing recovery strategy that strengthened operational coordination and improved recovery delivery. Panelists will share practical lessons around building trust, aligning partnerships, coordinating regional resources, and supporting affiliates with different levels of disaster readiness and operational capacity. The discussion will highlight how shared technical and construction expertise functioned as a force multiplier, helping affiliates launch repair programs, reduce project costs and scale disaster recovery. They will also explore how affiliate support organizations and affiliates can play a proactive role in establishing permanent partnerships, regional recovery frameworks, and readiness systems before disasters occur. Attendees will leave with practical strategies for strengthening collaborative disaster recovery and resilience efforts within their own states, regions and affiliate networks.

Tags: Disaster Resilience, Cross-Affiliate Collaboration, Leadership, Innovations

Cash with Clarity: Smarter Financial Reporting and Cash Flow Strategies for Affiliates (DKC)

Designed for executive teams and finance professionals from affiliates of any size, this session explores how stronger financial management can sustain and scale affiliate impact. Many teams are navigating complex reporting expectations, evolving accounting guidance, and day-to-day cash flow challenges without clear, consistent approaches. This session provides a practical, affiliate-centered look at how financial reporting and cash flow management can better support strategic decision-making. Hear from experienced finance leaders as they share real-world tools, processes and lessons from complex affiliate environments. Through a combination of case examples and interactive peer discussion, participants will explore innovative approaches to managing cash flow, strengthening reporting practices, and building staff capacity for accurate and consistent financial reporting.

Tags: Finance, Management and Operations, Affiliate Financial Health, Data-Driven Decision Making

That's Just Nuts: Tools to Turn Ideas into Impact (DKC)

Too many ideas. Too many priorities. Not enough alignment. In this hands-on session, you'll learn how to move beyond siloed programs and start thinking like a high-performing team. We'll explore how strategy should connect your people, processes, data and partnerships — and how gaps in that system can quietly limit your impact. Using tools like SWOT,

STEEP and the Eisenhower Matrix, you'll diagnose what's working, what's not and what's ... just nuts. You'll leave with a clear framework to prioritize what actually matters, along with two or three actionable strategies you can implement right away to strengthen alignment, improve effectiveness and deliver greater mission impact.

Tags: Strategy and Planning, Organizational Culture, Management and Operations

Beyond the Build: Real Talk for Implementing PCTI Practices to Improve Homeowner Experience (DKC)

Every interaction has the potential to build trust — or create barriers. Across Habitat affiliates nationwide, staff members engage with individuals and families navigating trauma, crisis, stress and housing instability, often without fully recognizing how these experiences shape communication, engagement and outcomes, particularly for veterans and other households navigating complex, often overwhelming systems. This session is open to anyone but is especially relevant for program managers, repair coordinators and construction team members. Designed to be accessible to entry-level Habitat staff members, it provides a practical introduction for those who are new to person-centered, trauma-informed, or PCTI, approaches and looking for ways to apply them in their day-to-day work. PCTI practices can be applied across all areas of Habitat's work, from homeowner services and family support to volunteer engagement, construction, outreach and community partnerships. Participants will explore how trauma-informed approaches can enhance experiences, strengthen relationships, and lead to more supportive and effective programs. The session will also highlight Habitat Detroit's experience integrating PCTI practices into construction and repair operations, including contractor onboarding, homeowner communication, home visits and repair workflows. Through a hands-on exercise based on Detroit's construction-focused tool, participants will examine how PCTI principles can be embedded throughout the repair process. Using real-world scenarios, self-assessment tools and actionable strategies, attendees will leave with clear, practical steps to integrate PCTI approaches into their daily interactions and operations across their affiliate.

Tags: Construction, Capacity Building, Management and Operations, Homeowner Services

Where Faith and Fundraising Meet: Proven Partnership Models (FF)

This interactive session explores how Habitat affiliates can partner with faith-based communities for tangible fundraising results. Attendees will learn how to co-create fundraising initiatives that mobilize volunteers, donors and advocates as we share both large-scale, affiliate-driven examples of fundraisers and turn-key, faith-community-led examples. Participants will hear from Habitat affiliate staff members and local faith champion volunteers to glean insights from both sides of the faith-fundraising coin as we discuss some of our most impactful strategies and programs. There will be time for attendees to share their successful programs and practices to maximize the tools in the fundraising toolbox.

Tags: Faith Engagement, Community Engagement, Innovations, Capacity Building

Building a Beloved Community Coalition (FF)

After studying Nonviolence365® from the King Center with a portion of our staff, St. Vrain Habitat started dreaming about what we could accomplish in our community. We decided to form a coalition dedicated to building the Beloved Community. We expected — humbly — to gather 10-12 people, thinking that would be enough to spark meaningful conversations and nudge our community toward a more connected, compassionate future. Instead, within just a few months of simply talking about the vision, more than 100 people stepped forward: faith leaders, nonprofit partners, city representatives, business owners, educators, advocates and neighbors from every corner of our community. They weren't just curious; they were eager. They were longing for something actionable, hopeful and unifying — something that would allow them to move beyond polarization and toward shared purpose. This coalition is a natural extension of our mission: bringing people together to build homes, communities and hope. What we discovered is that people weren't only hungry to build houses; they were hungry to build community, and they needed an entity that was both courageous and capable enough to take the lead. Habitat's brand and reputation was that trusted entity. By framing this effort through the lens of Dr. King's principles of nonviolence, which transcend any single faith tradition,

we were able to honor Habitat's Christian roots while opening the doors wide to all who share a commitment to justice, dignity and the well-being of every neighbor. In this session, we will walk through:

- How we built the coalition and how we got people to the table.
- How our faith-rooted identity created a foundation for inclusive engagement.
- How you can adapt this framework and replicate it in your own community.

This is a story about what becomes possible when a Habitat affiliate embraces its full identity.

Maximizing Your ReStore Investment (HR)

The Greater Fox Cities Area Habitat for Humanity ReStores are more aligned than ever with the affiliate's strategic goals, but this only came about because leaders built a culture of clarity, honest dialogue and mission-centered accountability. In this interactive session, participants will learn about how to have courageous conversations to align with affiliate leadership. The presenter will share how he brought his retail experience to the ReStore business and made practical recommendations in a six-month time frame.

Promoting Safety Culture in the ReStore (HR)

This session focuses on best practices for staying safe in three main areas of the store: in the back room/processing center, on the sales floor, and during donation-related activities. Together and in our smaller breakout groups, we will collaborate and build a customized safety matrix for your ReStore that you can use to inspire your team to make intentional investments to keep your ReStore a safe place to donate, shop and volunteer.

Tags: Safety, Merchandising, Donated Product

Understanding Direct Mail and Digital Fundraising in Collaborative Fundraising (RD)

New to collaborative fundraising? Or maybe you've just landed in a fundraising role and are wondering where to even start? Come join us! We'll walk through the basics of Habitat's direct mail and digital fundraising strategies and show how they team up inside the collaborative model. Think of it as your direct marketing fundraising starter kit, minus the confusing jargon and plus a little fun.

Tags: Collaborative Fundraising, Marketing, Resource Development

Doing More with Less: Expanding Fundraising Capacity with AI (RD)

This session demonstrates how fundraising teams can responsibly leverage AI tools to increase capacity, improve donor engagement, and strengthen resource development efforts. Through practical examples and actionable guidance, the Habitat network will be equipped to work smarter, not harder, while staying true to their mission and values in a rapidly evolving fundraising landscape.

Tags: AI, Capacity Building, Resource Development

DEMO - Building the Connected Habitat: Affiliate Peer Insights, Real Examples, and Giveeffect in Action

Want to see how Habitat affiliates are strengthening volunteer and donor engagement while creating more capacity for mission-focused work? Hear directly from your peers and see how they're using Giveeffect's all-in-one platform to bring fundraising, volunteer management, events, communications, and reporting together in one place. Through real affiliate examples and live demonstrations, you'll discover how a connected approach can improve visibility, simplify reporting, and help teams spend more time focused on serving families. *Note that this demo runs from 8:30am – 9:30am.*

Promising and Leading Practices: Learning from Innovation Across the Network (RM)

This interactive session introduces Habitat for Humanity's Promising Practices global pilot initiative and showcases real lessons and innovations from across the U.S. and international network. Through short presentations and a

practitioner panel, participants hear directly from teams about how strong practices emerge, the challenges faced, and the evidence of impact. A hands-on tabletop activity then helps participants reflect on how these practices could be adapted to their own contexts. Designed to be participatory and practical, the session fosters cross-network learning, inspiration and experimentation.

Tags: Organizational Culture, Global, Innovations

Beyond Affordability: Turning Wealth Building Insights into Action (RM)

The data is in, and it's offering a powerful road map to strengthening financial outcomes for the families you serve. Through a multiyear nationwide evaluation project, Habitat and Washington University have found strong evidence of the positive impacts of Habitat programs on families' wealth building and financial health. Now it's time to put that evidence into action. Session participants will engage with fresh findings from the Wealth Building Evaluation to explore how research can directly inform affiliate operations. Joined by the research team and affiliate leaders, we'll examine data on credit gains, the "liquidity gap," and foreclosure prevention to identify the most effective strategies for supporting homeowners' long-term financial health.

Tags: Homeowner Services, Data-Driven Decision Making, Advocacy Tactics, Management and Operations

Bridge Building in Action: Teaming up Across Habitat, the YMCA and Catholic Charities (V)

What if the most powerful pathway to equitable community engagement begins with how we build relationships and partnerships? Through a bridge-building approach, Habitat affiliates are strengthening communication, deepening understanding, building trust and helping communities take equity-focused action toward shared goals. In this session, leaders of local organizations from Habitat for Humanity, the YMCA and Catholic Charities will share how they are advancing bridge-building efforts through The Team Up Project. These initiatives are designed to be less transactional and more transformational by centering dignity; reducing harm; and creating safe, brave spaces for authentic connection across differences. Panelists will share examples of people-centered, bridge-building initiatives; practical strategies for engaging diverse groups; and insights into how long-term relationship building strengthens both community resilience and mission impact. Attendees will gain practical tools, replicable ideas and inspiration to help launch or sustain bridge-building efforts within their own affiliate and community.

Tags: Volunteers, Bridge-Building, Community Engagement, Equity/Justice

Building Belonging: Creating Volunteer Opportunities and Accessible Housing for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (V)

Inclusion doesn't happen by accident. Across the Habitat network, affiliates are rethinking how housing and volunteer opportunities can be intentionally designed to be accessible and inclusive for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, or I/DD. Habitat for Humanity of Orange County, North Carolina, will share how they are embedding accessibility and belonging into their newest mixed-income development, in partnership with HOPE North Carolina. We will share practical program development, lessons learned, and concrete strategies affiliates can apply through the Building Belonging program, an initiative designed to make on-site construction volunteer opportunities accessible to individuals with I/DD. This session will also showcase the inclusive housing model being developed within the neighborhood and partnerships that support it. Creating an I/DD-inclusive community is possible for affiliates of all sizes and capacities, and it has the power to improve outcomes for everyone.

Tags: Volunteers, Bridge-Building, Construction, Community Engagement

Meaningful Tithe: An Innovative Model to Strengthen Affiliate Collaboration and Expand Global Impact (S)

This session will showcase how the Meaningful Tithe initiative created value for both the receiving country and the contributing affiliates, offering a replicable model for global partnership that advances Habitat's mission and strengthens the Habitat brand. Attendees will hear how three New Jersey affiliates, in partnership with Habitat Argentina, reimagined tithing as a relationship-centered strategy that strengthened affiliate collaboration, energized volunteers and expanded

fundraising. Through a two-year initiative that included learning exchanges, staff engagement, collaborative campaigns and an immersive trip to Argentina, the partners generated nearly \$100,000 in tithe contributions and approximately \$50,000 in additional private support. The session will offer a practical, inspiring example of how affiliates can turn a required practice into a catalyst for deeper mission engagement and lasting global partnership.

Tags: Bridge-Building, Capacity Building, Cross-Affiliate Collaboration, Global

Global Peer Exchange: Housing Equity in Practice (S)

All are welcome! Bring your curiosity and be inspired by this interactive session focused on addressing inequity in housing. You will learn from Habitat offices in the U.S. and around the world what challenges they face, who is affected, how they address housing equity in their work, and what they are learning as they go.

Tags: Equity/Justice, Global, Cross-Affiliate Collaboration, Bridge-Building

Fixing Strategic Blind Spots: Bridge-Building for Growth (S)

In today's diverse and dynamic society, self-awareness is a critical skill for effective leadership and collaboration. This session invites participants to explore the concept of personal blind spots — unconscious biases, assumptions and habits that may influence decision-making, communication and relationships.

Tags: Bridge-Building, Community Engagement, Equity/Justice, Organizational Culture

Practical Strategies for Building Consensus on Rural Affordable Housing (A)

This interactive session will equip participants with practical tools to build consensus around affordable homeownership in rural contexts. Using Hanover County, Virginia, as a case study, we'll explore how partnerships with faith communities, service providers and local officials can be leveraged to identify shared goals, navigate tension and move toward collective action. Participants will walk away with strategies to map stakeholders, craft messages that resonate across audiences, and build or strengthen local housing coalitions. The session will include a hands-on opportunity for attendees to apply these tools to real-world scenarios from their own communities.

Tags: Advocacy Tactics, Elected Officials, Community Engagement

Rural Voices, Real Impact: How Small Communities Can Drive Big Housing Reform (A)

Most people think advocacy requires a big team, a big budget and a big city. This session proves otherwise. Over the course of a decade, Habitat for Humanity of the Eastern Bighorns has helped to advance zoning reform and changes to the permitting structure, launched critical housing studies and secured funding for housing. Most recently, we created a community land trust model that expands long-term affordability for the workforce and has been the catalyst for our affiliate's largest project to date, Weston Village, a community of 30 homes. Through case study analysis and interactive peer exchange, participants will identify their own advocacy starting points, build a framework for engaging local officials and allies, and leave with concrete tools for embedding advocacy into their affiliate's culture. No matter your team size or experience level, you'll walk away with a clearer picture of your next step.

Tags: Advocacy Tactics, Elected Officials, Community Engagement

Doing a Deal Live: Understanding a Loan (HF)

This session will offer an interactive live simulation of Habitat Capital's loan decision-making process. We will explore the requirements of a loan to support housing production, including how to structure a deal and the financial analysis. The session will provide affiliates with the opportunity to break into groups and participate in simulated due diligence calls, bringing affiliates through the life cycle of a deal in real time.

Tags: Loans, Habitat Capital, Affiliate Financial Health, Real Estate Development

Powering Affiliate Production Through Third-Party Mortgage Solutions (HF)

This session will include an overview of third-party lending and the impact on affiliate finances and production, highlighting affiliate experience and subject matter experts. A panel discussion will examine the pros and cons of third-party lending, how to identify the right lending partners, and strategies for implementation. This session will include both general and technical knowledge about where to start equipping affiliates with the practical skills to leverage third-party lending.

Tags: Mortgage Origination, Innovations, Habitat Mortgage Solutions, Habitat Capital

Beyond the Front Door: Generational Wealth and Stability Through Housing Counseling (MSHS)

This workshop will equip participants with a deeper understanding of how prepurchase education, post-purchase engagement and ongoing financial empowerment work together to strengthen long-term housing stability and wealth-building for the families they serve. Participants will examine practical, dignity-centered strategies for guiding buyers and homeowners through financial uncertainty, shifting life circumstances and the everyday realities of homeownership. Through real-world examples and peer-driven discussion, attendees will explore innovative service models affiliates are using to expand their impact beyond homebuilding, including group education, one-on-one coaching, online learning and community-based support networks. Case studies will highlight opportunities to increase program participation, improve homeowner outcomes, and build sustainable partnerships and funding approaches that reinforce organizational capacity. Participants will leave with actionable ideas for creating meaningful homeowner connection points after closing and for designing financial empowerment pathways that help families remain stable, confident and supported throughout and beyond their homeownership journey.

Tags: Capacity Building, Homeowner Services, Bridge-Building, Innovations

Unlocking Rural Potential: A Playbook for Affiliate Growth (MSHS)

This course equips leaders of small and rural Habitat affiliates with the knowledge, tools and inspiration to strengthen organizational sustainability and expand their impact. Participants will identify funding and capacity building opportunities tailored to the unique challenges of smaller markets and explore innovative building strategies such as modular construction and the use of USDA RD 502 loans. The session highlights how affiliates can leverage national donor partnerships and in-kind resources to grow capacity while deepening local engagement. It emphasizes strategies that affiliates can adapt immediately, culminating in ideas to strengthen sustainability and growth within their communities.

Tags: Rural, Grants, Management and Operations, Affiliate Financial Health

Time Slot 2: Tuesday, Oct. 6, 10:30 a.m.

Blueprint for Scaling: A Habitat Model for Expanding Home Production (BMB)

How does a midsized Habitat affiliate achieve the largest growth period in its history, increasing production from 12 to 20 homes annually and positioning to double again? This session shares the blueprint that can be applied to affiliates of any size: five interlocking strategies covering strategic planning, mortgage leveraging, staffing model redesign, change management and hybrid volunteer/subcontractor construction. Led by Habitat Orange County's CEO and vice president of construction, the session provides a 360-degree view of what scaling requires across the organization. Through storytelling and data insights, attendees will leave with actionable approaches to accelerate impact within their own affiliates.

Strengthen Household Resilience Through Repairs, Insurance Opportunities and Risk Reduction Investments (BMB)

Increasing the disaster resilience of both the structure and its occupants not only reduces the risk of damage, displacement and injury but also helps preserve the long-term affordability and future value of our housing stock. A multidisciplinary panel of experts in resilient construction, insurance, community disaster recovery and affordable housing preservation will share strategies for improving structural durability, lowering long-term operational and repair

costs, and expanding homeowner access to insurance benefits. Participants will examine how home-hardening strategies, including FORTIFIED construction standards, can reduce vulnerability, repair expenses and risk of displacement. The session will cover how insurance providers assess risk, what incentives are available for mitigation, and how to align construction practices with policy priorities for more holistic program delivery. By the end of the session, participants will be equipped to help households make targeted resilience investments that strengthen recovery capacity and support long-term housing stability.

Tags: Disaster Resilience, Construction, Homeowner Services, Innovations

Homeowners at the Center: Building Trust, Leadership and Stronger Programs Together (DKC)

Strong organizations build power by sharing leadership with the communities at the heart of their mission. Across the Habitat for Humanity network, there is a growing shift from engaging homeowners as participants to elevating them as advisers, advocates and decision-makers. This shift requires moving at a pace of trust, practicing reciprocity, and building durable coalitions that honor lived experience. This session explores how that evolution — from outreach to shared leadership and power-sharing — can strengthen organizational capacity, deepen trust and lead to more effective and equitable programs. Presenters from Habitat for Humanity Portland Region and Habitat for Humanity of Oregon, in partnership with community members, will share complementary case studies highlighting homeowner leadership at both the local and statewide levels. Participants will learn how Portland Region's Homeowner Leadership Council uses a resident-designed model, LAATE — leadership, advocacy, advisory, training and education — to drive peer learning, inform policies such as Advancing Black Homeownership, and lead community-centered initiatives such as Neighborhood Walks and homeowner-led grantmaking. They will also explore how Oregon's statewide Homeowner Advisory Council integrates homeowner voices into governance, program development and legislative advocacy. Together, these examples illustrate practical approaches to building sustainable leadership and advisory structures, fostering collaboration, and embedding lived experience into decision-making. Participants will leave with a flexible framework and actionable strategies to design or strengthen homeowner leadership structures that align with your affiliate's capacity, goals and community context. This session offers value across a range of experience levels, from affiliates who are curious about how to respectfully and meaningfully build local leadership and integrate the voices of homeowners and residents into their work to those with more experience who are looking to deepen their practice and learn alongside peers.

Tags: Community Engagement, Equity/Justice, Organizational Culture, Bridge-Building

Stories That Build Trust: Community-Centered Storytelling in Practice (DKC)

Habitat's story is strongest when it reflects the power of partnership. As affiliates deepen their work within neighborhoods and alongside community organizations, marketing and communications teams play a critical role in reinforcing trust, dignity and shared ownership of impact. This session explores how affiliates can shift from organization-centered storytelling to community-centered narrative strategies that elevate homeowner voice, honor local partnerships and strengthen Habitat's identity as a trusted collaborator. Participants will learn how to ethically capture stories in partnership with homeowners, volunteers and local organizations, along with how to build sustainable systems that turn everyday moments into authentic, multi-use content. Marketing and communications, homeowner services and resource development staff members should attend.

Tags: Community Development, Community Engagement, Capacity Building

Strategic Planning: Beyond the Blueprint (DKC)

Habitat for Humanity affiliates are fueled by compassion but sustained by clear strategy and the capacity to execute it. This session explores how strategic planning empowers affiliates to overcome major hurdles — ReStore closures, mergers or sudden funding shifts — without losing sight of the mission. This session is designed for all leaders and staff members responsible for shaping and executing organizational strategy. Instead of viewing planning as a bureaucratic burden, we will frame it as a tool for agility, allowing your affiliate to pivot without losing sight of its core

values. By building a blueprint, you can ensure that your affiliate's ability to build homes remains steady, even when the ground beneath the housing sector shifts.

Tags: Management and Operations, Leadership, Risk Management, Strategy and Planning

The Inside-Out Effect: Aligning Internal Culture for External Impact and Community Trust (DKC)

Internal culture shapes external impact. If trust is lacking behind the scenes, you cannot build authentic community partnerships. Join our interactive 90-minute workshop to bridge the gap between “who we are” and “how we serve.” What you'll learn:

- The Mirror Effect: How internal habits shape external perceptions.
- 7 Pillars of Inclusion: Universal frameworks to embed inclusion into daily work.
- Trust-Building Toolkit: Actionable steps for psychological safety and credibility.

Transform your cultural footprint!

Tags: Bridge-Building, Organizational Culture, Equity/Justice, Servant Leadership

Mobilizing Faith Partnerships for Housing Impact (FF)

Faith communities have long been catalysts for social change, yet many congregations today are also stewards of underused land, trusted neighborhood relationships and a deep commitment to justice. This session explores how Habitat affiliates can cultivate and strengthen faith-based partnerships that move beyond volunteerism into transformative housing action. Panelists will share real world-examples of YIGBY (“yes in God’s backyard”) projects, land-use partnerships and advocacy collaborations that have advanced affordable housing in their communities. Through a moderated conversation and open Q&A, panelists will explore what makes these partnerships work, how to navigate common challenges, and what both Habitat and faith institutions need to build trust and momentum. Attendees will gain insight into replicable models, hear candid reflections on lessons learned, and leave with practical strategies for initiating or deepening faith-based partnerships that lead to action.

Tags: Faith Engagement, Community Engagement, Real Estate Development, Innovations

The Sacred Work of Liberation (FF)

In this session, we center the sacred work of liberation, focusing on the intersection of faith, inclusion and justice. Drawing from the rich legacy of Koinonia Farm, we'll unpack how these foundational principles continue to shape our work in empowering communities.

GV2.0: Grow Funding and Impact with Global Village (RD)

Global Village is entering a new era with new opportunities, including custom builds, family-friendly builds and shorter resource-development-centered build options, to serve affiliates, volunteers and our national organizations. With 84% of Global Village participants ready to engage in their local affiliates after the build, this is the time to learn the ROI and build a business case for Global Village. In this session, you will explore how Global Village is used by affiliates in donor stewardship and to foster increased engagement locally. We'll walk through the new and improved Global Village program options and benefits for affiliates and explain how to get involved to meet your revenue, community impact and engagement goals. The session will showcase how engaging globally reinforces Habitat's identity as both a local and worldwide organization, strengthening the case for long-term donor and stakeholder investment.

Tags: Resource Development, Volunteers, Corporate Partnership, Donor Engagement

Grants 101: Fundamentals for Grant Writing Success (RD)

This interactive workshop provides a foundational understanding of the grant writing process and the essential tools needed to develop competitive proposals for funding from foundations and state or federal agencies. The session will break down 12 key components to successful grant writing, including building a strong prospect list and developing an engaging narrative with funder-aligned goals that are “SMART” — specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and

time-bound. Whether you are new to grant writing or looking to strengthen your skills, this workshop offers practical guidance and actionable strategies to support grant readiness and long-term funding success.

Tags: Grants, Federal Funding, Resource Development

Keys to Success in Preparing for and Managing Government Funding (RD)

Curious about government funding but not sure if your affiliate is ready? You're not alone. Many affiliates see the opportunity but aren't sure how to take the next step without taking on unnecessary risk or overwhelming their team. Others are already managing government funds and are looking for ways to strengthen their approach and grow with confidence. This session is designed to help you cut through the uncertainty. We'll walk through what it really takes to pursue and manage government-funded programs, from understanding your current readiness to strengthening the systems, roles and processes that support long-term success. We'll also take a practical look at common compliance requirements and risk areas, and how to manage them in a way that feels doable, not daunting. You'll hear directly from affiliate leaders who have navigated this journey themselves. In a candid panel discussion, they'll share real experiences — the wins, the challenges and the lessons they learned along the way. You'll also have the chance to reflect on your own affiliate's position and learn alongside your peers. By the end of the session, you'll walk away with a clearer sense of where you are and what to focus on next, along with practical ideas you can use to move forward with greater confidence.

Tags: Federal Funding, Grants, Management and Operations, Resource Development

Decoding Housing Opportunity: New Global Research Insights for Local Influence (RM)

This session will unlock new local and global research insights that affiliates can use to strengthen their work, elevate their voice and drive influence in their communities. After a first-of-its kind public opinion poll conducted across 22 countries, including the U.S., we have new compelling data on how people — and different demographics — experience and perceive housing opportunity and access. These findings offer a powerful tool for affiliates seeking to shape conversations, build credibility, position with donors, and advocate for solutions that expand access to safe, affordable housing. To be published around World Habitat Day, this research report launches Habitat's annual global housing report designed to ignite a conversation around housing. This thought leadership report is a central research initiative within Habitat's "50 for 50" strategy that aims to increase our influence and inspire action for housing through data and evidence. While global in scope, the report is designed to be locally useful to engage with media, donors, partners and policymakers. The session will begin with a short presentation on key findings and tools and then transition to breakout group opportunities to practically brainstorm how to leverage this locally.

Tags: Advocacy Tactics, Resource Development, Research, Global

Prove Your Impact: Turn Your Stories into Data Through a Homeowner Impact Survey (RM)

Ready to better measure and communicate your affiliate's impact? This session walks through how one Habitat affiliate created and refined a survey process into a long-term tool for capturing both data and stories about homeownership impact. Learn why combining qualitative and quantitative insights matters and how this combination can elevate your outreach and stakeholder engagement. We'll provide resources and ideas to help you build your own survey approach and confidently share your results.

Tags: Marketing, Homeowner Services, Resource Development, Data-Driven Decision Making

Blueprint for Impact: Building Skilled Volunteer Roles That Increase Capacity (V)

Do you ever feel like your team is stretched thin with work relegated to the back burner because there isn't enough time or the right expertise? Do you ever catch yourself thinking, "If we just had a few more hands or a few more skills, we could serve more families and do it better?" Discover how Habitat Metro Denver moved beyond using volunteers as "extra help" and began engaging volunteers as strategic partners. Through collaboration with internal teams, they were able to identify real operational needs that could be addressed by creating meaningful volunteer roles aligned with organizational priorities, resulting in improved efficiency and increased capacity. As many of these activities emerged out

of Habitat Metro Denver's efforts to renew its Service Enterprise Accreditation, this is a great example of the Service Enterprise framework to help you decide about participating in an upcoming training and accreditation opportunity.

Tags: Volunteers, Leadership, Capacity Building

DEMO – Smarter Housing Starts with an Energy Technology Partner

This session will explore how Schneider Electric turns energy and data into actionable insights. By combining electrification, automation, and digitalization, affiliates can scale impact. We will also reveal the latest innovations that bring these ideas together in a powerful and practical way.

Engaging the Next Generation: Creating Collaborative Youth Events (V)

Youth events offer a powerful way to inspire the next generation of leaders, deepen understanding of housing issues and connect students to Habitat for Humanity's mission. This session will explore how Houston Habitat for Humanity is designing an inclusive and culturally rich Youth Day that can be supported through a variety of funding and partnership opportunities. The session will highlight how educational components on affordable housing, homeownership and financial literacy can be paired with hands-on or creative activities that reflect Habitat's mission. It will also examine the value of integrating a global perspective, including how partnerships such as Houston Habitat's relationship with Habitat Mexico can enrich youth programming through cultural exchange. By the end of this session, attendees will understand how to gain leadership buy-in to support and sustain engagement to structure a Youth Day that expands access to service, fosters cross-cultural learning and empowers them to advocate for equitable housing in their communities.

Tags: Volunteers, Community Engagement

Dialogue Skills for Courageous Community Conversations: Building Trust for Homes, Communities and Hope (S)

Are you feeling hesitant about conversations in your community with people who hold diverse or sometimes conflicting perspectives? Courageous Community Conversations are essential for creating the trust, lasting relationships and innovative housing solutions needed to bring our mission and vision to life. Join your peers to learn, practice and build confidence together through this interactive session. You will explore how understanding different perspectives, historical and cultural contexts, and power dynamics can help build bridges foundational to our housing equity work. You will practice dialogue skills with your peers to help you navigate difficult conversations with empathy, clarity and courage.

Tags: Bridge-Building, Community Engagement, Equity/Justice

Understanding the Habitat 2.0 Fee Policy Revisions and What's Next (S)

Learn more about the Habitat 2.0 fee policy revision process and the revised policy planned to take effect in July 2027. In this interactive session designed for affiliate leaders, hear from members of the Collaborative Operating Model Oversight and Accountability committee on how they came to the recommended policy revisions and what factors were considered during the process. Have your questions answered about the revision process and learn more about how your affiliate can prepare for the upcoming revisions to the policy.

Tags: Finance, Compliance

Amazon Working Session (S)

This session is invitation-only.

Tags: Leadership, Innovations, Capacity Building

Start and Scale Advocacy Communications with Confidence (A)

This session will demonstrate how Habitat for Humanity affiliates of any size can plan and deliver consistent, advocacy-focused communications that advance public policy and funding goals. Operating in a state without an affiliate support organization, our affiliate built an advocacy communications program from the ground up, integrating it into existing marketing efforts despite limited staff capacity. Participants will learn how to:

- Identify and prioritize key advocacy audiences.
- Develop an effective advocacy communications plan.
- Create clear, compelling messaging that engages multiple constituencies.

Through practical examples using newsletters, social media and advocacy alerts, attendees will explore how to embed and scale advocacy across their affiliate communications and strengthen campaigns for increased funding and public policy success. Participants will leave with the confidence and tools to take concrete next steps to elevate advocacy awareness and impact within their own affiliates.

Tags: Advocacy Tactics, Cross-Affiliate Collaboration, Community Engagement, Elected Officials

Financial Health for Board Members, CFOs and Leadership (HF)

In this introductory session, Habitat Capital staff members discuss proven practices in housing finance to help affiliates understand their financial health and position them to best leverage available financial tools to increase production. We will use real-world examples so that affiliates will walk away with a better understanding of their balance sheet and financial health.

Tags: Affiliate Financial Health, Finance, Real Estate Development, Habitat Capital

New Markets Tax Credits 101: A Catalytic Program for Real Estate Development (HF)

Join this session for a basic-level discussion of New Markets Tax Credits, or NMTCs, as a tool for financing affordable for-sale housing and community development projects. Participants will learn the fundamentals of NMTCs, including an overview of the program, the roles of significant players, successful projects, firsthand experience with the program, and the involvement of Habitat Capital and Habitat for Humanity International in the space.

Tags: Habitat Capital, Affiliate Financial Health, Real Estate Development, Community Development Financial Institution

Redefining Readiness: Expanding Equitable Pathways to Affordable Homeownership (MSHS)

What does it truly mean to be “ready” for homeownership — and who gets to decide? For many individuals and families, the journey to affordable homeownership is about far more than income or employment. Financial thresholds, credit systems, lending practices and historic inequities continue to shape who gains access to opportunity and who remains locked out. This engaging and data-informed workshop challenges traditional ideas of readiness by exploring the structural and economic barriers that impact access to sustainable homeownership in historically underserved communities. Through real-world examples, participant discussion and practical strategies, attendees will examine how systems influence eligibility, affordability and long-term financial stability. Participants will leave with actionable tools to rethink pathways to homeownership, identify opportunities to reduce barriers within their own organizations and communities, and explore strategies that promote more equitable and sustainable access to housing opportunities.

Tags: Equity/Justice, Homeowner Services, Data-Driven Decision Making, Innovations

Dispelling Myths and the Advantages of Mortgage Licensing (MSHS)

Many affiliates feel intimidated by the idea of becoming licensed, worrying about requirements or costs or simply not knowing what it really means. For SAFE-Act-exempt affiliates, the choice can feel daunting. This workshop replaces that fear with clarity and shows how licensure can be a strategic advantage. We'll break down the biggest misconceptions about licensing and explain why it doesn't limit your work but expands it. Participants will learn how a

Nationwide Multistate Licensing System, or NMLS, license strengthens credibility with funders and donors, opens doors to financing opportunities they may not even know exist, and becomes a key driver for building at scale. What might feel like a burden is often the very thing that accelerates growth. This session will empower affiliates to make informed, confident decisions and to see licensing not as an obstacle but as a powerful opportunity.

Tags: Mortgage Origination, Compliance, Homeowner Services, Capacity Building

Time Slot 3: Wednesday, Oct. 7, 10:30 a.m.

Making Climate-Resilient, Energy-Efficient Homes Achievable for Every Affiliate (BMB)

This interactive session explores durable, resilient and energy-efficient building practices through an organizational lens, emphasizing the culture and partnerships required to implement them well. Using a longitudinal case study from Bend-Redmond Habitat for Humanity — from the affiliate's first "net zero" development in 2020 to its first Phius-certified development planned for 2026 — participants will examine how building standards evolved alongside team capacity, cross-department integration and external partnerships. Facilitated, discussion-centered activities will invite participants to assess their affiliate's readiness, identify barriers and learn from peer strategies for adopting higher-performance building practices in achievable, scalable ways. The session prioritizes progress over perfection, equipping affiliates with practical tools to strengthen both their buildings and their organizations.

From an Abandoned Lot to a Community Asset: How Investing in Community Green Spaces Can Drive Safer, Stronger Neighborhoods (DKC)

What does it take to transform an abandoned lot associated with violence and crime into a thriving park where families feel safe? For the Northside neighborhood of Paterson, New Jersey, the answer was years of relentless advocacy, intentional community engagement, and an unwavering belief that Northside residents deserve more. In this session, appropriate for affiliates curious about integrating community-centered approaches into their work and seasoned practitioners seeking inspiration, participants will examine the processes behind successful community-led projects. This session uses the real story of Jeanette Thompson Park (formerly Clinton Street Park) as a window into what community-led neighborhood revitalization looks like on the ground. From navigating funding setbacks to building trust with residents and choosing a bottom-up rather than top-down development model, this is an honest look at the messy, meaningful work behind lasting neighborhood change. In this session, participants will recognize how traditional, top-down approaches to community development can unintentionally diminish resident choice and voice, particularly in Black and Brown communities, and identify more inclusive alternatives. Participants will be able to assess how investing time in community leadership development positions affiliates for sustained success beyond a single project, including stronger advocacy and broader mission achievement. This session will highlight how Habitat affiliates, even without dedicated community development departments, can play a meaningful role in neighborhood revitalization beyond housing construction. Attendees will gain insight into building trust with residents, navigating funding challenges, and aligning green space development with Habitat's mission of strengthening communities.

Tags: Community Engagement, Safety, Equity/Justice, Community Development

Leveraging Technology Collaboration to Amplify Impact (DKC)

What if your affiliate didn't have to solve technology challenges alone? Designed for executive directors, operations and IT leaders, finance staff members, and anyone shaping technology decisions, this session brings together real-world insights from affiliates already collaborating on tech to share what's working and what's not. You'll walk away with practical ways to reduce duplication and increase impact. We'll also take a candid look at how Habitat for Humanity International currently supports collaboration — and where we can go further. Through interactive discussion, participants will help shape shared goals, guidelines and next steps to strengthen technology collaboration across the network.

Tags: Cross-Affiliate Collaboration, Innovations, Data-Driven Decision Making, Strategy and Planning

I Don't Know What a Stud Is, and I'm Too Afraid to Ask: Construction for Non-Construction Professionals (DKC)

Want to up your game and feel more confident talking about construction? If you're not on the jobsite every day, the homebuilding process can feel complex, unfamiliar and disconnected. This session breaks it down in a clear, fun and practical way, walking through how a home gets built from the first shovel in the ground to handing over the keys — and every phase in between. Habitat staff members with little or no construction experience will gain a foundational understanding of each stage of the build, learn common construction terminology, and see how the pieces come together to produce a finished home. You'll leave better equipped to navigate jobsites; engage in informed conversations with the construction staff; and communicate more confidently with donors, volunteers and partners. Whether you're new to construction or looking to strengthen your working knowledge, this session will help you connect the dots and show up with confidence.

Tags: Management and Operations, Leadership, Bridge-Building, Construction

Breaking Barriers and Building Bridges of Faith Partnerships (FF)

Working with faith leaders and partners is a natural fit for Habitat affiliates but can be difficult to navigate. We will examine how to best motivate the leaders of your local religious communities through this session. Walk away feeling comfortable with a plan of engagement to strengthen your organization's current and future faith partnerships.

Adaptive Leadership and Team Building for Next-Gen Impact (HR)

The foundation of a successful ReStore is a high-performing team built through intentional leadership and a strong team culture supported by well-designed operations. Participants will focus on how leadership can shape culture, how culture can drive team performance, and how aligned teams enable effective retail execution. We will also explore how leaders can move beyond reactive problem-solving and create ReStores that consistently deliver both mission impact and net revenue.

DEMO - Work Smarter. Build Faster. Explore Simpson Strong-Tie Tools That Boost Productivity

Simpson Strong-Tie will showcase our Quik Drive Project Pro and our Quik Stik used with the SDWC screws, already used by many affiliates, including at the 2026 Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project in Atlanta! These tools and products can easily be integrated into Habitat builds to increase speed and can be utilized by less experienced users as needed. The demonstration will be led by Mike Parker, Regional Product Specialist – Fasteners at Simpson Strong-Tie, where he provides technical expertise and leadership in structural fastening systems and building solutions.

Collaborative Fundraising: From Local Engagement to Major Gifts (RD)

Local engagement and major gifts are key components to the success of collaborative fundraising. What does that look like day in and day out at your affiliate? Learn methods used to steward donors and turn them into major givers. Hear about successes and leave with a plan you can activate at your affiliate to engage and cultivate your best prospects.

Tags: Collaborative Fundraising, Major Gifts, Resource Development, Community Engagement

More Than a House: Supporting the Mission, Not the Project (RD)

This session explores how Habitat affiliates can move beyond transactional fundraising by focusing donors on investing in the mission of affordable homeownership and community impact, not just an individual home or project. Participants will examine how cultivation and stewardship function as a continuous relationship strategy that builds trust, deepens engagement and creates long-term mission ownership among supporters. Through Habitat-specific examples, attendees will learn how to intentionally use existing touchpoints to strengthen donor relationships and inspire long-term investment in the mission. Participants will leave with practical strategies to build a scalable cultivation and stewardship approach rooted in long-term impact rather than one-time transactions.

Tags: Donor Engagement, Major Gifts, Sponsorships, Resource Development

Opening the Door to Stronger Individual Giving: The Investment That Fuels Your Mission (RD)

In this strategic, action-oriented workshop, participants will learn how to strengthen their fundraising programs by amplifying what already works while positioning their organizations for long-term, scalable success. Designed for nonprofit leaders, development teams and board members, this session provides practical frameworks, tools and insights to bolster individual giving, accelerate donor retention and drive sustainable revenue growth.

- **Topic 1: Build upon what's working well** — We begin by identifying the strengths already present within your development program. Participants will explore industry trends to analyze donor data, reinforce effective stewardship practices, and deepen relationships that lead to improved donor retention and increased leadership-level giving.
- **Topic 2: Invest in the right things** — Fundraising grows when leaders invest time and resources where they matter most. This segment helps teams evaluate current staff capacity, organizational priorities and operational systems to ensure alignment with fundraising goals.
- **Topic 3: Grow individual giving through smart acquisition strategies** — To expand beyond current donors, organizations need diverse and intentional acquisition methods. This portion of the workshop explores peer-to-peer networks, including the vital role of board members, alongside targeted campaigns and optimized direct mail initiatives. We will use experiences in collaborative fundraising to show how to grow supporters' average gifts through localized stewardship.
- **Bonus:** Short-term wins matter, but sustainable fundraising requires a multiyear strategy. The workshop concludes with creating a road map for years 3–5, enabling participants to create a vision for long-term donor engagement, staffing, investments and growth.

Tags: Major Gifts, Data-Driven Decision Making, Collaborative Fundraising, Resource Development

One Habitat: Strengthening Corporate Partnerships Through Collaboration (RD)

Collaboration among internal corporate teams, the affiliate network and corporate donors is essential to growing and sustaining Habitat's mission. As we navigate rising costs, evolving donor expectations and departmental changes, it's important to strengthen our understanding of current processes and identify opportunities for improvement. The session will explore the Corporate Resource Development team and its structure and approach to managing cause marketing, donated product, and cash donor partnerships. Affiliates and conference participants are invited to join and engage in strengthening practices and partnerships.

Tags: Corporate Partnership, Cross-Affiliate Collaboration, Resource Development

More Impact, More Money: Communicating a Case for Support (RD)

An impactful case for support combines compelling storytelling with data to communicate urgency, inspire donor engagement and demonstrate meaningful community impact. This session highlights resources available through the U.S. Research and Measurement team, including how to access tools for affiliate use. Participants will examine the essential components of an effective case for support: articulating need, communicating urgency and demonstrating impact. The session will also share practical strategies for developing clear, donor-centered messaging that builds confidence, strengthens engagement and drives philanthropic investment. Through discussion and interactive exercises, attendees will leave with actionable frameworks and tools to strengthen their organization's fundraising narrative and elevate conversations with donors and stakeholders to drive fundraising outcomes.

Tags: Research, Marketing, Donor Engagement, Resource Development

Behind Closed Doors: Homeowner Engagement with Energy-Efficient Homes (RM)

Habitat affiliates make key decisions about energy-efficient technologies that influence homeowner utility bills and long-term performance, yet actual energy use often differs from modeled expectations. This workshop shares findings from a multiyear evaluation of BuildBetter with Whirlpool homes, beginning with a national comparison that shows how Habitat energy use compares with typical U.S. housing and where differences among similar homes persist. Participants will then examine in-home monitoring results from Auburn University that illustrate how technology

choices and household behavior shape real-world energy use. The session centers on discussion and hands-on activities to help affiliates apply evidence to design and specification decisions in their own programs.

Tags: Climate Resiliency, Construction, Data-Driven Decision Making, Homeowner Services

Expand Volunteer Reach and Impact: Practical Ways to Unlock the Power of Your Community (V)

Most affiliates already engage volunteers, homeowners and neighbors who care about the mission, but many are not fully connected to it yet. This session focuses on ways to expand traditional volunteer models by tapping into the skills, relationships and lived experiences within the community. You will hear real examples of how affiliates are increasing impact through their volunteer programs by creating roles beyond construction, strengthening relationships, and helping people contribute in ways that match their interests and strengths. Volunteers and homeowners can become Habitat's strongest champions when they feel welcomed, valued and empowered to participate as their authentic selves. This session will explore how personal connections to Habitat can grow into advocacy and leadership. You will leave with practical ideas to make volunteer engagement more effective, reducing pressure on your staff and building a stronger base of support for your work. We will also explore common challenges, including long-standing volunteer culture, resistance to change, and the shift from one-time engagement to deeper, more connected involvement. Attendees will leave inspired, encouraged and equipped with practical ways to introduce new approaches; set clear expectations; and build a more connected network of volunteers, homeowners and community partners.

Tags: Volunteers, Community Engagement, Advocacy Tactics

From Tweaks to Transformation: Micro Changes to Make Volunteer Engagement Less Overwhelming (V)

We've all had days when small frustrations stack up, like too many clicks to find a file, misplaced supplies, communication gaps, or tasks that take longer than expected. Individually, these challenges seem minor, but over time they create inefficiencies, increase stress and make volunteer engagement feel overwhelming. Focusing on complex projects can cause us to overlook the small, practical adjustments within our control that can have a powerful cumulative effect. If small stressors build into larger challenges, small improvements can also lead to meaningful transformation. In this session, participants will explore the small changes Habitat for Humanity Detroit implemented to strengthen their volunteer program. By examining challenges from multiple perspectives, you will learn how small, targeted adjustments can improve efficiency; reduce daily stressors; and enhance the experience of staff members, volunteers and partners. Through guided reflection and discussion, you'll have the opportunity to identify recurring "sticking points" in your own work and develop a simple, actionable plan to improve your daily workflow and strengthen volunteer engagement at your affiliate.

Tags: Volunteers, Innovations

Mobilizing Student Volunteers: A Model for Long-Term Community Partnerships and Impact (V)

App Builds a Home, or ABAH, began with a simple but bold idea: What if Appalachian State University could come together to fully fund and build a Habitat home every year? Through this model, students cultivated a campuswide movement that now serves as a large-scale volunteer mobilization effort and community partnership that strengthens affiliate capacity and impact. This session will explore the development of ABAH from its humble beginnings to its emergence as an award-winning initiative that rallies hundreds of students, faculty members, staff members, Greek organizations, faith communities and local businesses. We'll highlight our creative fundraising and engagement strategies that have become ABAH staples, including our campuswide letter-writing campaign and peer-to-peer fundraising teams. These efforts, combined with thousands of volunteer hours, have raised over \$300,000 for six Habitat homes and significantly expanded Habitat's local impact in Watauga County.

Tags: Volunteers, Community Engagement, Resource Development

Engage Globally to Build Capacity Locally: Explore the Power of Tithe (S)

Enhance organizational capacity by integrating global engagement into your development plan and strategy. Learn to leverage the untapped power of tithe partnerships to engage your board, donors and community members more deeply in Habitat's global ministry. A panel of U.S. and country program leaders will explain how their collaboration has been mutually beneficial by strengthening their impact, inspiring innovation and expanding their local support bases. There will also be time for Q&A, feedback and discussion. Executive directors; board members; and staff members and volunteers who support fundraising, tithe or global engagement efforts are encouraged to join. Together, we can expand our collective impact.

Tags: Community Engagement, Global, Capacity Building

Creating Impact Through Human-Centered Storytelling (S)

How do we tell stories about the families we partner with? This session highlights a cross-divisional working group convened to reimagine our storytelling process from the ground up. Marketing and communications, development, construction, and program staff are coming together around a shared philosophy of engagement — one that treats storytelling not as a one-off transaction but as a long-term relationship between Twin Cities Habitat and people who buy with us. By aligning both internal- and external-facing teams, we are creating an approach that centers homeowner dignity at every stage. The group was formed after homeowner bios began to fall by the wayside during the pandemic — the same period when we ended the “sweat equity” requirement for homebuyers, which reduced barriers and advanced equity but also removed a long-standing point of connection. Field staff members and volunteers, who had previously built relationships alongside families on site, began to feel more disconnected from the homebuyers they were working to support. Inconsistent storytelling left donors and other stakeholders with fewer meaningful ways to connect to the impact of our work. In response, our working group reframed storytelling not merely as a communications task or a donor stewardship deliverable, but as an organizational strategy grounded in our values. We identified key moments to build authentic, consent-based engagement that strengthens relationships across the ecosystem at each stage and ensures that our engagement with homeowners is empowering rather than extractive. We'll share how we collaborated to map the homebuyer experience; identify gaps; and redesign touchpoints to be more timely, culturally competent and mutually beneficial. We'll discuss challenges encountered, such as balancing communication needs with homeowner privacy, coordinating across teams with different priorities, and redefining internal processes that had long been siloed.

Tags: Community Engagement, Homeowner Services, Marketing, Organizational Culture

From Ballot to Billions: Habitat's Coalition-Driven Funding Campaign for Affordable Housing (A)

Across the Habitat network, affiliates are increasingly challenged to move beyond incremental funding and toward durable public investment systems that can support affordable homeownership at scale. This workshop presents Los Angeles County's campaign as a case study of how Habitat can help shape — and succeed within — complex, coalition-driven funding efforts. This interactive session will unpack how the coalition was built and governed, how messaging balanced homelessness response with long-term housing stability, and how Habitat navigated political trade-offs while maintaining mission alignment. Participants will also explore how affiliates can assess readiness, manage risk, and transition from advocacy to delivery when large public funding becomes available. The session is designed to be practical, candid and scalable, offering lessons affiliates can adapt to their own capacity and political and funding environments, whether pursuing ballot measures, dedicated tax revenue or other long-term public funding strategies.

Tags: Advocacy Tactics, Elected Officials

Innovation in Housing Finance (HF)

This session will highlight exciting examples of innovation in the network and explore solutions to the most pressing housing development issues affiliates are facing. It will include real examples from affiliates about partnerships,

financing structures and deals to increase production, along with guidance from subject matter experts on how to cultivate housing innovation at your organization.

Tags: Real Estate Development, Habitat Capital, Affiliate Financial Health, Debt Capital

Scaling Lasting Affordability Models: From Strategy to Implementation (HF)

The lasting affordability panel will bring together affiliates in the network that have scaled their lasting affordability programs over the past decade. This session will also explore the experience of a rapidly growing urban affiliate and how a small Habitat affiliate in a rural community used a community land trust, or CLT, to scale from building three homes per year to developing a 30-home permanently affordable neighborhood. Presenters will walk through the strategic decisions, partnerships and policies that made large-scale development possible, despite limited staff and capacity. Attendees will gain practical insights into when lasting affordability models are the right tools, how to structure cross-sector collaboration, and how this model can be adapted for affiliates of varying sizes.

Tags: Real Estate Development, Innovations, Rural, Urban

Transformative Service: From Low Barrier Access to Post-Purchase Support (MSHS)

This workshop explores how affiliates can identify and address internal policy and practice barriers that unintentionally limit equitable access to homeownership. Through analysis of disaggregated data, community feedback, and a Twin Cities case study alongside data from three years of Habitat for Humanity International's Advancing Black Homeownership initiative, affiliates will examine how homeowner selection processes, applicant pipelines and program outcomes can produce disparities — and how Twin Cities has transformed these systems to expand access for historically underserved populations. Attendees will also deepen their understanding of integrated pre- and post-purchase support. This includes engagement strategies and targeted approaches that address financial stress, trust gaps and complex systems navigation. Attendees will explore person-centered, equity-informed support models and leave with practical strategies and actionable steps to advance policy, process and homeowner support improvements within their own affiliate.

Tags: Homeowner Services, Equity/Justice, Innovations, Data-Driven Decision Making

Rescue and Rebuild: Homeowner Services That Last (MSHS)

A homeowner services department in disarray can feel overwhelming, especially when systems are broken, processes are unclear or support is limited. This workshop offers practical, realistic guidance for professionals who are struggling with homeowner services, navigating major transitions, or operating without direct assistance from an affiliate support organization. Participants will learn how to identify first steps, bring structure and clarity to daily operations, rebuild trust with homeowners, and create sustainable processes without feeling pressure to fix everything at once. You'll gain peer-informed ideas, reassurance and actionable strategies to prioritize what matters most and begin making meaningful progress. Attendees will leave encouraged, empowered and equipped to stabilize struggling departments and strengthen homeowner services that last.

Tags: Homeowner Services

Time Slot 4: Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2:15 p.m.

Launching a Critical Home Repair Program: Inspiration, Implementation and Lessons Learned (BMB)

What does it actually take to launch a critical home repair program, and what will go wrong in the first two years? In this candid, practitioner-led session, two Habitat leaders share their parallel journeys into repair: one a 40-year new-construction affiliate who waded in naively — “How hard can it be?” — the other a vice president who built a structured program from scratch and lost money for three years before turning it into a \$1.5 million tri-county operation. Using a combination of case study storytelling, team scenario-solving and facilitated peer discussion, attendees will walk away with a scope-of-work framework, a funding decision tool, and a clear-eyed picture of what “normal” looks like in the early years so that they can build a repair program that survives and thrives.

Beyond Tokenism: Building Resident Leadership That Lasts (DKC)

Too often, resident engagement stops at surveys, listening sessions or advisory groups without real influence. This session explores what it takes to move beyond tokenism and build authentic resident and homeowner leadership that shapes decisions, strengthens trust and leads to more sustainable community impact. Whether you are a frontline staff member, executive leader or community engagement practitioner, you'll leave with practical ideas for building relationships earlier, developing resident leadership over time, deepening community trust and creating more community-driven approaches within your affiliate. Presenters will share practical and honest examples of how affiliates are creating pathways for residents and homeowners to move from participants to trusted advisers, mentors, connectors and community leaders. Through examples ranging from the Southwood Mobile Home Park redevelopment and Homeowner and Resident Advisory Committees to neighborhood-based leadership efforts in McNair Heights, attendees will hear how relationship-building, shared decision-making and long-term trust can transform both programs and communities. This session will also explore what it takes organizationally to do this work well, from leadership buy-in and staff capacity to building engagement strategies that are realistic, relational and sustainable, even for smaller affiliates. Panelists will speak candidly about common challenges, including building trust in communities where Habitat is still new, balancing residents' voices with development and funding realities, avoiding extractive engagement practices, and creating opportunities for leadership without overwhelming residents or staff members.

Tags: Community Engagement, Equity/Justice, Community Development, Bridge-Building

Risk to Ready: Navigating HR Challenges at Your Affiliate (DKC)

A practical and approachable session designed to help leaders identify common HR risks, avoid costly compliance pitfalls and strengthen everyday HR practices. From wage and hour compliance and employee classification to documentation, discrimination prevention and data privacy, this session will cover key areas that can create legal, financial and operational challenges for organizations. Participants will leave with actionable strategies and tools to build proactive, compliant systems that support a strong workplace and long-term organizational success.

Tags: Human Resources, Risk Management, Compliance

Trust and Tactics: Developing a Cross-Training Plan for Your Affiliate (DKC)

Nonprofit professionals are often required to wear multiple hats, yet a deep understanding of colleagues' roles across the organization is not always guaranteed. In an environment where connectedness is essential to achieving mission-driven goals, intentional cross-training and interdepartmental collaboration have proved to be powerful tools for organizational success. This session will explore practical approaches to developing internal policies and procedures that support effective cross-training, equipping staff members to better advocate for all facets of the Habitat mission and fostering stronger, more cohesive organizational strategies. This session will feature concise case examples of internal policies and procedures that have strengthened cross-departmental collaboration. These experiences will serve as a framework for facilitated discussion, encouraging participants to exchange ideas and reflect on:

- Key aspects of their roles that they wish others better understood.
- Areas where greater insight into colleagues' roles would enhance their own effectiveness.
- Opportunities to implement regular cross-training practices within their affiliate to support sustained interdepartmental collaboration.

Participants will be guided toward developing preliminary outlines of policies, procedures and process documents that can be adapted to their respective affiliate operations. Ongoing collaboration will be encouraged through continued knowledge sharing within the Habitat network and session attendees.

Tags: Management and Operations, Organizational Culture, Capacity Building, Leadership

Centralize, Streamline, Unite! Leveraging Technology to Scale Impact (DKC)

Bringing your team together to build homes, communities and hope is increasingly complex in the digital information age, especially as you strive to meet the growing need for affordable homeownership. Through examples from the

Greater Charlottesville and Metro Denver affiliates and the Illinois affiliate support organization, see how your peers are centralizing information, streamlining operations and enhancing collaboration across departments to scale their impact. Regardless of your role or affiliate size, you will learn how to identify barriers, build buy-in and guide teams through adoption using practical change management strategies. With opportunities for peer exchange and applied discussion, you'll leave with proven practices and a clear, realistic first step to drive meaningful, sustainable change at your organization.

Tags: Capacity Building, Organizational Culture, Data-Driven Decision Making, Strategy and Planning

Expanding Access to Homeownership Through Faith Partnerships (FF)

This session will share a practical case study of how Houston Habitat partnered with a local faith organization to expand access to homeownership through community-based awareness, education and engagement. Participants will learn how the affiliate moved from initial relationship-building to introducing Habitat's homeownership program in a way that invited trust, participation and shared purpose. Attendees will walk away with a simple, replicable framework for engaging faith partners in meaningful outreach that strengthens both housing access and community connection.

Tags: Faith Engagement, Homeowner Services, Community Engagement

Seeking to be Christian and Inclusive (FF)

Habitat was birthed as and continues to pursue being Christian and inclusive. This session will wrestle with the ongoing adaptive challenge of how Habitat can be authentically Christian and inclusive in the pluralistic society in which we work. After a brief introduction to the history of Habitat as an inclusive Christian ministry, the session will include a panel of current Habitat leaders discussing this challenge and emerging trends of how they are confronting it. The audience will have the opportunity to share their own challenges.

Fundraising and Building Community Through the ReStore (HR)

This session will explore ways that ReStores can leverage fundraising with community partners, including a furniture bank and furniture voucher program. Through these programs, ReStores can serve clients while generating unrestricted revenue that strengthens store sustainability and Habitat's broader mission. Attendees will leave with practical strategies they can adapt to create a dual-impact program in their own communities, along with a checklist for getting started.

Maximizing Donor Data for Collaborative Fundraising (RD)

This session is geared toward affiliates in the two-way data exchange portion of collaborative fundraising (Tiers B and C). Learn the best ways to enter, store, transfer, update and ultimately use the data provided by Habitat for Humanity International to make the most of the Collaborative Fundraising Direct Marketing program. Learn tips and strategies from veterans of the program, whether data is your full-time or part-time role at your affiliate.

Tags: Collaborative Fundraising, Data-Driven Decision Making, Resource Development

From Fragmented Transactions to Greater Impact: A Smarter Banking and Payments Playbook for Affiliate Growth (formerly *More than a Transaction: Reliable and Secure Payment Solutions That Help Affiliates Scale Impact*) **(S)**

What if every payment, deposit and financial decision could work harder for your affiliate? Disconnected banking and payment systems can make it harder to see cash flow clearly, reconcile activity and make timely decisions across Habitat ReStores, mortgage servicing, donations, construction and fundraising. Join experts from U.S. Bank Business Banking and Elavon by U.S. Bank, alongside a fellow Habitat affiliate leader, for an interactive session designed for CEOs, CFOs, and finance and operations leaders. In this session, previously titled *More than a Transaction: Reliable and Secure Payment Solutions That Help Affiliates Scale Impact*, you can explore how a more connected approach to banking and payments can improve cash flow, streamline reconciliation, strengthen financial visibility, reduce risk and create a stronger foundation for sustainable growth. Hear real-world lessons, ask questions, and leave with

practical strategies you can evaluate immediately, helping your affiliate reduce complexity, operate more efficiently, and direct more time and resources toward building homes and strengthening communities. One winner will be selected from among the registered affiliates who attend U.S. Bank's workshop to receive one "My Big Ambition" prize, inclusive of:

- \$3,000 to invest in their business or local community.*
- Up to three business consultations with a bank expert, conducted in person or virtually.
- Creative production, including a 30-second promotional video and professional photography.
- A point-of-sale equipment upgrade and installation.

**Visit mybigambition.com for official rules and to learn more about the program.*

Tags: Management and Operations, Capacity Building, Finance, Affiliate Financial Health

From Build Day to Fundraising Powerhouse: Strategies to Evolve Your Affinity Build (RD)

Affinity builds, such as Pride Builds, Women Build events and other purpose-driven initiatives, offer powerful opportunities to engage volunteers, deepen donor relationships and expand community impact. This workshop will explore how affiliates can design and grow successful affinity build programs by leveraging targeted fundraising strategies, meaningful donor engagement and creative outreach approaches. Participants will gain practical tools to solicit and steward support; activate diverse audiences; and implement innovative tactics such as peer-to-peer fundraising, social media campaigns and tiered giving opportunities. Whether launching a new affinity build or evolving an existing effort, this session will equip affiliates with adaptable strategies to strengthen funding and community connection.

Tags: Resource Development, Volunteers, Community Engagement, Sponsorships

Data Diving! Jump into HFHI's Ocean of Published and Utilized Data Resources and How Affiliates Are Leveraging Them (RM)

This session will highlight data products and resources made available by Habitat for Humanity International's U.S. Research and Measurement team, giving a thorough demonstration on functionality and specific use cases in the affiliate network. Participants will also explore existing secondary data sources and hear an affiliate speak about how these tools can be leveraged to showcase affiliate impact. The session also includes a guided discussion about internal and external data sources, allowing opportunity for peer learning and insights. Finally, a hands-on activity will give attendees experience turning data into usable and meaningful stories for their everyday work.

Tags: Data-Driven Decision Making, Research

Volunteer and Community Engagement World Cafe: Inspiring Action for Housing (V)

This interactive session features a series of small-group conversations centered on questions that matter most within volunteer and community engagement across the Habitat network. In this World Café format, attendees will rotate through themed and guided discussion tables to share successes, explore obstacles and uncover new opportunities for inspiring action for housing and community impact. Through collective insight-building and peer-to-peer learning, participants will generate practical ideas, fresh perspectives and actionable takeaways they can bring back to their affiliates. This session is designed for anyone seeking to deepen volunteer engagement and spark meaningful change through community-driven approaches. Table topics may include youth engagement, connecting volunteers to Habitat's mission, deepening volunteer engagement, the volunteer experience path, bridge-building and community partnerships, corporate volunteer engagement, volunteer strategy, cultivating a culture of volunteerism, or elements of the volunteer management cycle.

Tags: Volunteers, Community Engagement

Let's Talk Rural: Giving Rural Affiliates a Voice (S)

Join us for a celebration of rural resilience, resourcefulness and real-world results. Affiliates will share inventive approaches to long-standing rural challenges, spotlighting strategies that are working in their communities. Participants will explore how these models might scale, spread and spark new possibilities across the network. We'll wrap with a lively, open-mic exchange where participants can swap stories, share ideas and shape what's next for rural housing. Together, we'll lift rural voices, fuel fresh thinking and strengthen Habitat's shared impact.

Tags: Innovations, Rural, Capacity Building, Community Engagement

DEMO - From Blueprint to Appliances: Purposeful Innovation for the Model Habitat Home

How do we turn a house into a foundation for a better life? It starts with purposeful innovation. Join Whirlpool Corporation in the Innovation Lab for an interactive 45-minute session designed specifically for affiliate leaders and builders looking to elevate the homeowner experience. *Note that this demonstration runs from 2:15 – 2:45pm.*

The Power of Veterans, the Importance of Housing, and Why You Should Employ Them (S)

Veterans bring operational excellence, teamwork and a mission-first mindset to any organization. Research on nonprofits supporting veteran employment finds that these efforts contribute to sustained gains in veteran employment and lower unemployment relative to nonveterans — a pattern that's linked to veterans' transferable skills and strong workplace performance. For Habitat affiliates, employing veterans is more than a hiring choice — it's a force multiplier.

Tags: Community Engagement, Human Resources, Organizational Culture

Unlocking the Power of National and Local Rotary Partnerships to Turbocharge Collective Impact (S)

Does your affiliate need a boost? Rotary International and Habitat for Humanity navigate in a similar lane: deeply rooted, locally led networks committed to community-driven impact. When these two organizations effectively partner, they spark powerful opportunities to fuel solutions, mobilize volunteers and accelerate community outcomes. Learn how Habitat affiliates and Rotary organizations can collaborate to advance shared goals, particularly within housing, community development and volunteer engagement. Participants will gain a practical understanding of Rotary's mechanics, including strategic priorities, funding models and decision-making across local, national and global levels.

Tags: Community Engagement, Capacity Building, Grants, Volunteers

Funding Advocacy for Long-Term Impact (A)

This workshop helps affiliates understand advocacy as a strategic investment by exploring how organizations fund it in practice, from securing grants to reallocating internal budgets and aligning with funder priorities. Through a panel featuring these three perspectives and interactive activities, participants will compare funding approaches, unpack tradeoffs, and learn how to position advocacy to different funding sources. By the end, attendees will identify a realistic, context-specific funding strategy and a concrete next step to begin or strengthen their advocacy investment to set themselves up for long-term impact.

Tags: Advocacy Tactics, Capacity Building, Resource Development

Building Trust, Building Homes: Pathways to Supporting Native American Homeownership (S)

Join a panel of leaders and experts, including Habitat for Humanity's first Native American housing liaison, to explore how Habitat affiliates can better serve both aspiring and current Native homeowners. Despite the enduring strength, sovereignty and resilience of Native communities, Native Americans experience some of the worst housing conditions in the United States, rooted in historical injustice. Habitat has a unique opportunity to address both critical repair and homeownership needs on and off reservation lands. At the same time, unique land ownership, financing and bureaucratic barriers can make it challenging for Habitat affiliates to serve Native American homebuyers, especially on tribal lands. This workshop will provide a foundational understanding of U.S. Indigenous communities' unique

history and relationship to housing and the subsequent need for slow, thoughtful relationship and trust-building actions necessary for successful partnerships with Native Americans and tribal communities. Additionally, panelists will identify how specific land ownership initiatives, financial products and government programs shape the Native American housing ecosystem. By the end of the session, participants will know where to find information resources, funding sources and financial products to begin partnering with Native Americans and tribal entities in ways that are aligned with Indigenous values.

Tags: Equity/Justice, Community Engagement, Community Development, Indigenous Communities

Turning Local Action into Federal Policy Impact (A)

Federal policy may feel out of reach, but local voices play a powerful role in shaping national decisions. Policy decisions made in Washington directly impact housing access and the resources communities rely on every day, making federal action closely tied to our day-to-day work. This session will explore how participants can build momentum at the local level that resonates all the way to Capitol Hill. Through case studies, practical strategies and real-world examples, participants will learn how to build strong relationships with congressional offices, elevate compelling stories to demonstrate the value of federal housing and community development outcomes, better understand Habitat's federal policy priorities, and align local engagement with Habitat's broader advocacy strategy. Attendees will leave with tools to strengthen their advocacy efforts and connect local impact to national policy conversations.

Tags: Advocacy Tactics, Elected Officials, Community Engagement

Humanity Land: Exploring Affordable Housing Development in a Game (HF)

What does it actually take to build affordable housing in your community, and what forces push your mission off course? In this game-show-style simulation, participants step into the role of a Habitat affiliate making real decisions across four stages: lot acquisition, site design, household selection and financing. Watch trade-offs unfold in real time as the room collectively navigates land costs, funding constraints and community impact metrics. This session is focused on new construction in urban, post-industrial and rural contexts (not repairs or rehabilitation) and is designed for affiliate leaders, executive directors, development staff members and board members. Attendees will leave with a shared vocabulary for financing tools and density decisions, a clearer view of how mission and feasibility interact, and at least one insight to bring back to their team.

Tags: Real Estate Development, Finance, Debt Capital, Affiliate Financial Health

Land Development: More Than a Subdivision (HF)

An expert panel will share their experience creating Habitat housing developments that are more than a single-family subdivision on green space. Information will include partnering with faith communities for land, how to think about amenities in the development, mixed housing types, lessons from building condos, how to use an asset-based approach, and how moving from a builder model to a land developer model reframes opportunity for partnerships in the industry and government influence.

Tags: Real Estate Development, Debt Capital, Affiliate Financial Health, Innovations

From Renters to Roots: Affordable Homeownership with HUD Vouchers (MSHS)

Let's demystify Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers! Have you ever wondered if Housing Choice Vouchers can be used for mortgage payments? The answer is yes! In this session, experts will break down how Housing Choice Vouchers can support homeownership, how to effectively work with local public housing agencies, and how this tool can transform renters into homeowners, giving them roots to build generational wealth.

Tags: Bridge-Building, Homeowner Services, Innovations

Underwriting 101: Addressing Barriers for Low- and Moderate-Income Homebuyers (MSHS)

Mortgage underwriting is the foundation of safe, sustainable homeownership, yet many professionals enter the field without a structured introduction to the principles that drive strong credit decisions. Underwriting 101 for Mortgage Lending provides a practical, accessible overview of how mortgage professionals evaluate borrowers and analyze risk, along with portfolio guidelines. This session evaluates the core elements of mortgage credit analysis, including income and employment verification, assessment of borrower assets, and evaluation of credit history. Participants will learn how the pieces of a mortgage file fit together to support a sound, defensible underwriting decision. Through real world examples, we will address how to adjust your underwriting criteria to meet the needs of low- to moderate-income homebuyers in your community without jeopardizing the strength of your mortgage product.

Tags: Habitat Mortgage Solutions, Mortgage Origination, Community Development Financial Institution, Loans

Time Slot 5: Thursday, Oct. 8, 10:30 a.m.

328%: The Math Behind Scaling a West Texas Affiliate (BMB)

In 2018, Permian Basin Habitat for Humanity built just seven homes. By 2026, they are on track to deliver 30 annually — a 328% increase driven by a deliberate shift from a “lot-by-lot” builder to a high-capacity developer. In this case study session, Executive Director Joey Hopkins unpacks the “math” behind that growth: How large-scale land pipelines were secured through municipal and corporate partnerships, how funding strategies evolved to stay ahead of scaling costs, and how a professional staff and systems model enabled developer-level production. Attendees will gain a clear, replicable framework for aligning land, capital, people and community to accelerate home production, along with practical insights on building local trust and support that sustains long-term growth.

In It for the Long Haul: Extending Lasting Affordability Strategies for Future Generations (BMB)

As housing affordability pressures accelerate nationwide, many Habitat affiliates are asking, “Will the homes we build today remain affordable for the next generation?” This session explores the alignment between Habitat’s mission and community land trust, or CLT, models through real-world case studies from Greeley-Weld Habitat’s established CLT and Hope Springs development, and Pikes Peak Habitat’s emerging approach. Grounded Solutions Network will provide national context, addressing common misconceptions, lender considerations and resale formula design. The session concludes with a practical stewardship deep dive, covering ground lease enforcement, homeowner engagement, compliance and tools, so that attendees leave with both the strategic vision and operational blueprint to implement lasting affordability.

Making Solar Achievable Across the Habitat Network (BMB)

Are you an affiliate interested in integrating solar into your new or existing homes? A network of Habitat affiliate support organizations is partnering with a solar nonprofit, GiveSolar, to help expand access to solar energy across the Habitat network. This national solar collaborative aims to provide funding, expertise and project management in order to streamline the solar installation process, allowing participating affiliates to choose their desired level of involvement. Participating homeowners are routinely saving more than 50% annually on electricity bills through installing solar, helping improve long-term housing affordability and financial stability amid rising electricity costs. This session explores how affiliate support organizations and affiliates are collaborating to expand solar implementation across different regions, operating environments and policy contexts. Panelists will share practical lessons about partnership coordination, effective implementation, regulatory challenges and operational readiness while discussing how affiliates can leverage affiliate support organization partnerships and shared expertise to make solar more achievable within their communities. All affiliates are encouraged to attend, as participating affiliate support organizations are partnering both with affiliates in their states and in states without affiliate support organizations.

Tags: Climate Resiliency, Cross-Affiliate Collaboration, Community Engagement, Innovations

Not Just Sticks and Bricks: Creating Lasting Community Impact (DKC)

Housing challenges do not exist in isolation, and neither can the solutions. Across the country, Habitat affiliates are being called to respond not only to affordable housing shortages, but also to widening wealth gaps, disaster recovery needs, neighborhood disinvestment and systemic barriers that impact long-term stability. This dynamic and strategy-focused session reframes affordable housing as a community development tool, positioning Habitat as more than a builder — as a catalyst for neighborhood transformation, economic mobility, resilience and resident-led change. Through real-world examples and implementation strategies, participants will explore how homeownership, repairs, financial capability, partnerships, advocacy and community engagement can work together as part of a unified community development model. The session will highlight practical ways affiliates can align programs, partnerships and organizational strategy to create measurable impact that extends far beyond the number of homes built. This session is ideal for organizations ready to move beyond traditional housing models and strengthen their role as drivers of long-term, community-centered impact.

Tags: Community Engagement, Equity/Justice, Community Development, Organizational Culture

Mission-Driven Governance: Building Effective and Accountable Boards (DKC)

Strong boards do not happen by accident; they are built through intentional recruitment, onboarding, accountability and continuous development. Designed for new and seasoned board members, executive leaders and affiliate staff members, this session explores what it truly takes to create a high-performing, mission-driven board culture that advances affiliate impact. Participants will examine the core duties and legal responsibilities of nonprofit board service while learning practical strategies for recruiting, engaging, retaining and transitioning board members. Through practical examples, including lessons from an attorney general opinion involving a nonprofit board, participants will explore the consequences of ineffective governance and identify proactive approaches to strengthen accountability, engagement and decision-making. The session will also highlight strategies for creating efficient board meetings, fostering a culture of inquiry and continuous learning, and building governance partnerships that support long-term affiliate sustainability and mission success.

Tags: Board Governance, Compliance, Management and Operations

Built by Purpose: Three Leaders, Three Origin Stories (DKC)

An intimate, high-impact session where leaders share three TED-style talks that promise to be moving, relatable and energizing. They open up about the real stories behind their “why” and how it shows up in decisions, partnerships and results. The presentation will be followed by a short, moderated conversation. This heartwarming, mission-aligned session will leave attendees motivated and inspired to share their origin stories with others.

Tags: Leadership

Strengthening Community Impact Through Strategic Faith Engagement (FF)

This workshop will offer a cohesive learning experience designed to equip attendees with actionable strategies, fresh inspiration, and a clearer pathway to building stronger, more connected communities, where mission and community align and people are inspired to show up, serve and build lasting impact. This interactive session explores how Habitat affiliates can engage or re-engage faith communities in meaningful, sustainable ways. Learn how one affiliate is rebuilding connections post-COVID, while another leverages faith champions to maintain and grow long-term engagement. Featuring insights from staff members and faith champions, participants will leave with actionable tools to strengthen their faith partnerships, develop and support faith champions, and create clear pathways for churches and faith-based organizations to engage, whether they are new partners or longtime supporters.

Tags: Faith Engagement, Community Engagement, Bridge-Building, Servant Leadership

Koinonia in the 21st Century (FF)

This session will help affiliates gain a deeper understanding of how Habitat's Christian foundations at Koinonia Farm impact and compel our work in communities as we strive to actively promote everyone's right to have equitable access to decent, affordable housing.

Designing a Memorable ReStore Experience (HR)

What makes ReStore truly unique? Where else can you buy a 2-by-4, a book, a sofa and clothes all in one place? This session looks at how intentional touchpoints shape that experience, from an eye-catching merchandising "snapshot" that greets customers with excitement, to creating meaningful volunteer and donor moments through storytelling. We'll also explore the power of the employee morning huddle and how it sets the tone for the day. Walk away with practical ideas to design an experience that inspires, engages and keeps your community coming back.

Innovative Ideas for ReStore Revenue Growth (HR)

This session brings together proven strategies and innovative ideas from high-performing affiliates to help ReStore leaders optimize operations and unlock new revenue potential. Participants will explore how to evaluate and implement revenue-driving initiatives, covering a variety of unconventional programs and partnerships to operational improvements that increase efficiency and product flow.

How to Make Collaborative Fundraising Work for You: A Step-by-Step Guide to Getting Real About Data, Reorganizing Your Team, and Shifting Your Priorities (RD)

Collaborative Fundraising is the new way of doing business for the Habitat network. Instead of competing, Habitat for Humanity International and affiliate staff members will come together with shared knowledge, access to expanded strategies, and a cooperative approach that centers the donor experience. Whether you are currently "all in" or still waiting to dip your affiliate toes in the water, this session will offer insights and successful practices to maximize benefits for your affiliate.

Tags: Collaborative Fundraising, Management and Operations, Major Gifts, Resource Development

From Repairs to Results: How Outcomes Strengthen Program Design, Outreach, Fundraising and Advocacy (RM)

This session will share key results from home repair and disaster recovery projects funded through recent repair grants. Participants will learn how these data points highlight program impact, along with areas for improvement. The session will also explore how insights are being used to strengthen program design and conduct effective outreach, fundraising and advocacy campaigns at the local level.

Tags: Data-Driven Decision Making, Disaster Resilience, Research

Lasting Affordability Fundamentals: Foundations, Models and Resale Basics for Habitat Affiliates (RM)

As housing costs continue to rise, Habitat for Humanity affiliates are exploring approaches that preserve affordability beyond the first home sale while supporting long-term program sustainability. Lasting affordability models provide a framework for stewarding community investment, maintaining affordability for future buyers, and extending the impact of each home built. This introductory session focuses on the foundational elements shared across permanent, lasting affordability approaches used in Habitat homeownership programs. Participants will build a common understanding of key terminology, core principles, and the essential components that define lasting affordability, regardless of model structure. The session will introduce how ground leases, community land trust partnerships and affiliate-held land models apply these shared foundations through long-term stewardship, affordability protections and clear program agreements. Participants will also receive an introduction to resale formulas as a central feature of lasting affordability. Using simplified examples, the workshop will explain how resale formulas function, why they are used, and how they help balance homeowner equity with preserving affordability for future homebuyers. Designed as a

foundational session, this workshop helps affiliates understand the core building blocks of permanent, lasting affordability and identify considerations for exploring or strengthening these approaches within their local context.

Tags: Research, Data-Driven Decision Making, Homeowner Services, Capacity Building

A Real-World Case Study: An Innovative Approach to Building More with a Volunteer Crew Leader Program (V)

In Habitat's history, volunteers have played a critical role in expanding construction leadership and on-site capacity, but affiliates haven't always had a strategic approach or formal training structure to support these volunteers. This session explores a case study from the pilot year of the Cornerstone Construction Leader program at Habitat for Humanity MidOhio. As Habitat MidOhio prepares for a new season of growth, including the addition of multifamily housing units, they identified the need for a structured, scalable approach to developing volunteer crew leaders. The result is a formalized construction crew leader curriculum created in collaboration across departments to strengthen leadership, deepen volunteer engagement and increase build capacity. This session will walk through the start-up process, share promising practices and lessons learned, and offer practical insights you can apply as your affiliate considers launching or strengthening a similar program.

Tags: Volunteers, Construction, Community Engagement, Capacity Building

When Growth Breaks Volunteer Systems: A Staff-Led Model for Scaling Capacity Without Losing Control (V)

As Habitat affiliates grow, volunteer volume increases faster than most systems can handle, and staff-only approaches often become bottlenecks. At Greater Fox Cities Area Habitat for Humanity, we treat volunteer engagement as operational infrastructure, redesigning it into a staff-led leadership system that expands capacity while maintaining staff authority and accountability. Attendees will learn how our volunteer leaders function as a centralized capacity platform and how volunteers are intentionally deployed into defined support and skilled roles to create consistency across construction, ReStore, advocacy and other program needs. The session will include practical examples, candid lessons learned, and guided activities so that participants leave with a repeatable framework they can adapt to strengthen volunteer leadership and reduce staff strain at their own affiliate.

Tags: Volunteers, Capacity Building, ReStore

Calamity Strikes! A High-Impact Guide to Protecting People, Property and Peace of Mind (S)

When threats shift and hazards rush in, your readiness has to rise to the moment. Join us as two Habitat affiliates from Asheville, North Carolina, and Los Angeles, California, share how they navigated real world crises with quick thinking, clear priorities and people-centered care. Walk away with ready-to-use tactics for spotting risks early, strengthening resilience, and securing your people and property. Plus, get a look at Habitat for Humanity International's Global Safety and Security Policy — a One Habitat guide to smarter, swifter and more people-centered crisis readiness.

Tags: Risk Management, Management and Operations, Safety, Disaster Resilience

Media Training 101: Getting Your Message Across in a Media Interview (S)

Have you ever sat for an interview with a reporter to talk about your affiliate's work only to have the final story air or publish and think to yourself, "Why did I say that?" This session, adapted from Habitat for Humanity International's internal spokesperson training, focuses on how to prepare for your moment in the spotlight and ensures that your message shows up in the media. We'll cover everything from how to handle nerves and what to wear during a broadcast interview to how to bridge to your core messages with each response you provide and follow up effectively with a reporter. After going over some best practices and sharing successful Habitat affiliate examples, we'll have time to do a round of mock interviews with your fellow attendees. Join us to build confidence and be prepared next time an interview request comes your way.

Teamwork Does Make the Dream Work: Boost Your Impact by Unifying State and Local Advocacy Efforts (A)

Advocacy is most powerful when it is aligned, coordinated and rooted in strong partnerships. This interactive, practical session explores the critical importance of unifying state and local advocacy efforts across the Habitat for Humanity network to advance affordable homeownership and housing policy solutions. It is ideal for affiliate support organizations and affiliates engaged with or wishing to engage in statewide and local advocacy efforts targeting lawmakers and elevating affordable homeownership policies. Participants will learn how coordinated strategies between affiliates and their affiliate support organizations can amplify impact, strengthen relationships with policymakers, and create sustainable policy change. We will examine how local storytelling, municipal engagement, and on-the-ground expertise complement state-level policy strategy, coalition building and legislative influence. Through discussion and practical examples, participants will leave with actionable steps to foster teamwork across the statewide network, ensuring Habitat speaks with one voice while leveraging the unique strengths throughout the state's Habitat network. Together, we can build stronger advocacy systems that support affordable housing solutions and expand access to safe, stable homeownership in our communities and across our states.

Tags: Advocacy Tactics, Capacity Building, Cross-Affiliate Collaboration, Elected Officials

Resilient Homeowners, Resilient Communities: Policy Solutions to Help Homeowners Stay and Thrive (A)

Today's homeowners, especially those with lower incomes, face myriad threats to their stability and longevity, from critical home repair needs to rising property taxes and beyond. In this workshop, attendees will learn about homeownership resilience and hear from network peers and subject matter experts about emerging policy solutions to help homeowners stay in their homes, equitably build wealth, and pass that wealth down to future generations. This session will also include a discussion of effective tactics and strategies to use when advocating for policies that support and boost homeownership resilience. Participants will evaluate different solutions to support existing homeowners and leave with actionable ideas for their own communities.

Tags: Advocacy Tactics, Elected Officials

Faster, Cheaper, Better? Lessons from Affiliate Implementation of Modular Affordable Housing (HF)

This session will offer a deep dive into modular housing, focusing on applications of the construction technique, financing strategies and effective team formation through real-world examples implemented by affiliates. Anchored by a case study developed in partnership with Harvard University's Joint Center for Housing Studies, this session will require limited prework and will include both a presentation and a more interactive portion. Attendance may be limited.

Tags: Habitat Capital, Debt Capital, Real Estate Development, Affiliate Financial Health

Financial Tools for Multiproject Real Estate Development (HF)

Join us for an interactive experience to understand the financing and considerations of navigating multiple development projects concurrently. We will highlight affiliate experiences and include the launch of Habitat Capital's multiproject development tools, which give participants the opportunity to use real financial scenarios to visualize the impact of multiple related projects.

Tags: Habitat Capital, Real Estate Development, Debt Capital, Affiliate Financial Health

Expanding Habitat's Impact with Financial Coaching and Empowerment (MSHS)

This session explores how affiliates of any size can leverage partnerships to expand financial education for current program participants while cultivating a pipeline of mortgage-ready families in the communities they serve. Attendees will learn how trained volunteers and trusted industry partners can provide trauma-informed, relationship-centered coaching that builds financial confidence, resilience and practical budgeting skills from pre-program participation

through post-purchase support. Through adaptable frameworks and a three-part training model, affiliates will gain tools to deepen homeowner engagement, strengthen financial capability, reinforce homeowner support, and increase community impact without adding to staff capacity.

Tags: Community Engagement, Capacity Building, Volunteers, Homeowner Services

Protecting What We Build: Affiliate Approaches to Lasting Legacies (MSHS)

Learn and test how affiliates strengthen intergenerational wealth through post-purchase support, shared equity, estate planning and legacy programs. Attendees will be able to:

- Explain how intergenerational wealth connects to Habitat's mission and long-term homeowner success.
- Identify at least three affiliate-led models that support intergenerational wealth building.
- Apply practical tools and partnership approaches to their local context.
- Develop next-step actions for their affiliate to pilot or strengthen wealth-focused strategies.

After the session, attendees will be better equipped to:

- Incorporate wealth and legacy framing into homeownership services, not just affordability framing.
- Strengthen or introduce post-purchase support to improve credit outcomes and financial resilience.
- Initiate legal partnership conversations about wills, estate planning, heirs' property and successor-in-interest processes.

Tags: Habitat Mortgage Solutions, Homeowner Services, Innovations, Qualified Loan Origination

Session 6: Thursday, Oct. 8, 1:45 p.m.

From Idea to Impact: Building an Affiliate-Operated Modular Home Factory (BMB)

Many Habitat affiliates purchase modular homes, but BoulderMOD asked a different question: What if we built our own? In this case study session, presenters from Flatirons Habitat for Humanity, the City of Boulder, and the Boulder Valley School District provide a candid, step-by-step look at how an affiliate-operated modular factory moved from concept to reality. Attendees will explore how BoulderMOD was financed, designed and launched and what it takes to operate a factory that delivers on mission, cost control and production reliability. The session will unpack partnership structure and governance, capital strategy, facility development, staffing, and production workflows, along with key risks and lessons learned. Participants will leave with practical decision frameworks and implementation insights to evaluate whether owning production capacity is the right strategic path for their affiliate and market.

From Shock to Shelter: Real-World Disaster Leadership Lessons (BMB)

This 90-minute symposium covers real-world lessons from leading through major disasters, featuring leaders from Habitat for Humanity affiliates in Houston, Florida and Los Angeles, alongside Airbnb.org. Designed for affiliate executives and operational leaders, the session explores how these leaders stabilize operations, protect mission and community trust, organize scalable recovery systems, mobilize partners and resources, and sustain teams through long-term recovery. Through candid case conversations and practical discussion, panelists will share key decisions, operational tradeoffs, lessons learned, and what they would do differently while navigating recovery under pressure, public scrutiny and community trauma. The session will examine leadership challenges from the first days of response through long-term recovery, including staffing, communications, survivor support systems, operational innovations and partnerships. Airbnb.org will provide a partner perspective on collaborating with Habitat and other organizations to scale survivor support responsibly and reduce trauma. The symposium also includes a short interactive exercise in which participants will begin drafting a practical recovery framework for the first 30 days after a disaster, which they can adapt within their own affiliate and community context.

Tags: Disaster Resilience, Leadership, Corporate Partnership, Management and Operations

50 for 50: Habitat for Humanity's Global Strategic Framework (DKC)

Explore Habitat for Humanity's global strategic framework, 50 for 50: Ready for Our Next 50 Years of Impact, and what it means to operate as a more unified "One Habitat" network. Discover how this framework serves as a common blueprint for the global network, with a focus on its vision and early direction and what it means for U.S. affiliates in this initial phase. Through structured small-group discussions, participants will reflect on how their affiliates' work aligns today and share insights on the housing barriers and opportunities they see in their communities.

Tags: Management and Operations, Leadership, Mission and History, Strategy and Planning

Leading with Resilience in Times of Change (DKC)

Our work as nonprofit builders is constantly changing. Adaptability is currency at Habitat, and even more so if you're a leader wanting to grow your affiliate and scale. Our vision is often met with resistance, because change is always personal and means that someone is losing something. So how do we bolster our resilience and learn to lead through the change process so that we fulfill our vision? This session will normalize the change process, open our eyes to new ways of thinking, and help provide new tools for your leadership. The session will conclude with time to reflect and develop a personal action step to strengthen leadership and support their teams during times of transition.

Tags: Leadership, Capacity Building, Organizational Culture, Innovations

To Merge or Not to Merge, That Is the Question (DKC)

Have you heard whispers of merging in the dark corners of the board room? Do you think that maybe you and your neighbors could do more if only you worked together? Then this session is for you. Habitat for Humanity International and a recently merged affiliate have collaborated to pair real-world experience with national resources and support. Come listen to firsthand accounts of what a merger can look like when our leaders aim to increase affordable housing impact in their communities. This presentation offers an honest and qualitative overview of the merger's progress. Explore the anticipated benefits vs. real outcomes, drawbacks (both expected and otherwise), plus all the other challenges encountered during and after the merger. Walk away with actionable lessons for your affiliate to draw from if and when you need to consider consolidation.

Tags: Management and Operations, Cross-Affiliate Collaboration, Capacity Building

Permission to Pause: Sabbaticals in Mission-Driven Work (DKC)

In mission-driven organizations, burnout, leadership transition risk and overreliance on a single executive are often treated as unavoidable realities rather than governance challenges. This session positions sabbaticals as a strategic tool for executive sustainability, organizational resilience and effective succession planning. It also works to demystify and normalize sabbaticals as a standard leadership practice and a board-level strategy for executive retention and long-term leadership sustainability. Presenters will share their experience designing, supporting and participating in sabbaticals. Through case studies from three Habitat for Humanity affiliates of different sizes, presenters will examine how planned executive absences strengthen internal systems, clarify decision-making authority, and help leaders determine what to delegate, what to leave distributed, and what — if anything — to reclaim upon return. Designed for executives and board members, participants will receive practical sabbatical planning templates, sample policies and board-ready tools that can be adapted to their own organizations to support implementation, mitigate risk and ensure leadership continuity and long-term organizational health, leaving with both the tools and the confidence to explore sabbaticals in their own organizations.

Tags: Organizational Culture, Human Resources, Leadership

The Power of Interfaith Collaboration: Creating Shared Spaces for Connection and Service (FF)

Interfaith partnerships can deepen community trust, expand volunteer and donor networks, and create powerful shared experiences rooted in service. Yet many affiliates aren't sure where to begin or how to sustain these relationships once they start. This session offers a practical road map for launching your own interfaith program and

maintaining interfaith initiatives, from early outreach to long-term collaboration. Participants will explore models for interfaith engagement and hear examples of affiliates that have successfully built bridges across religious traditions. The session will highlight strategies for navigating differences with respect, fostering mutual understanding, and creating people-centered spaces where diverse communities can work side-by-side toward shared housing goals. Attendees will leave with tools, templates and confidence to begin or expand interfaith work in their own communities. Interfaith efforts bring people together who orient around the concepts of belief, faith and religion differently. Interfaith reaches beyond the diversity of Christian denominations and is inclusive of all worldviews and faith traditions in the communities we serve.

Tags: Faith Engagement, Bridge-Building, Community Engagement, Equity/Justice

Safeguarding in Habitat ReStores: What You Don't Know Can Hurt You (HR)

Think your retail space is just about hammers and home goods? Think again. This eye-opening workshop dives into the hidden intersections between safeguarding and Habitat ReStores, where real risks meet real people. We'll uncover common blind spots, explore what happens when safeguarding is overlooked, and tackle real-life scenarios with your peers. Expect honest conversation, practical solutions, and maybe even a few "I never thought of that!" moments. Whether you manage a store, lead volunteers or support operations, this session will help you build a safer, more respectful and truly welcoming environment for everyone who walks through your doors.

Tags: Management and Operations, Risk Management, Human Resources

Retail Merchandising: Maximize Profits from Donated Materials (HR)

Optimized processing and spectacular displays can help you maximize profits from donated materials. This session provides an overview of retail visual merchandising elements: visual communication, nonverbal features, store layout, merchandise preparation and processing, and merchandise display. Resources available on MyHabitat also will be reviewed, and there will be a detailed discussion of areas specific to Habitat ReStore operations.

The Builders Network: A Strategic Approach to Leveraging Donor Engagement for Revenue Growth (RD)

The Builders Network is a national donor engagement and recognition initiative developed collaboratively by affiliates and Habitat for Humanity International to strengthen donor relationships and increase long-term philanthropic commitment across Habitat. The Builders Network expands on the traditional giving society model by placing greater emphasis on donor engagement, relationship stewardship and meaningful connection to Habitat's mission across the network. This session will examine how intentional, mission-aligned engagement delivered through meaningful, personal touchpoints can strengthen donor connection and deepen long-term commitment. We will explore how integrating the Builders Network into existing fundraising strategies can strengthen the donor pipeline, move relationships from transactional giving to long-term support, and support sustainable revenue growth through increased donor loyalty and higher lifetime value.

Tags: Major Gifts, Resource Development, Donor Engagement

Creative, Mission-Focused Events That Build Community (RD)

Are your fundraising events struggling to attract new donors? Are galas and golf outings not sustainable for your affiliate? In this session, participants will learn how to design and execute creative, community-centered fundraising events that grow revenue while deepening donor and community engagement. Explore tried and tested events such as ReStore the Earth, Rock the Block, and Happy Hour for Happy Homes, then leave with creative fundraising event plans that you can take back to your community.

Tags: Community Engagement, Innovations, Resource Development, Donor Engagement

Awareness to Action: Supporting Homeowners in a Changing Insurance Landscape (RM)

This session explores how the homeowner's insurance market, through rising costs and declining coverage, is affecting housing access and stability for the households Habitat serves. Participants will gain a practical overview of how insurance works, informed by lessons from post-disaster recovery contexts, and how these dynamics shape insurance affordability, availability and recovery outcomes. Drawing on a first-of-its kind insurance cost-burden analysis and case studies, the session highlights how these challenges are playing out across markets, alongside affiliate perspectives on solutions and strategies being implemented locally. The session also examines appropriate engagement approaches, including homeowner education, data sharing, partnerships, and participation in public forums. Affiliates will leave with resources and ideas for elevating housing perspectives in local and state insurance conversations.

Tags: Advocacy Tactics, Capacity Building, Homeowner Services, Disaster Resilience

Starting with Community: A Resident-Centered Approach to Habitat Development (RM)

Representatives from Habitat for Humanity of Goldsboro-Wayne and the University of North Carolina's Community Practice Lab will share how they facilitated the creation of a Neighborhood Advisory Team before the construction of McNair Heights, a Habitat subdivision in the historically African-American Webbtown community in Goldsboro, North Carolina. Presenters will discuss their three-prong approach to focusing on community preservation, community engagement and community advocacy. This resident-centered approach was developed through workshops, neighborhood-level analysis and sustained partnership with resident leaders and local partners. Through case study reflection and guided discussion, participants will explore practical strategies to support effective community engagement before, during and after home construction. The goal is to strengthen trust with longtime residents and ensure that new development supports existing community identity and quality of life.

Tags: Community Engagement, Advocacy Tactics, Equity/Justice, Data-Driven Decision Making

An Executive Director's Perspective: Volunteers as a Strategy for Affiliate Advancement (V)

Volunteers are a powerful strategy that affiliate leaders can leverage to accomplish goals. This session will provide clear examples of how leadership can view affiliate planning and operations through a "volunteer lens," leading to creative corporate partnerships, increased ReStore capacity, engaged volunteers on construction sites, and a demonstration of the power of community volunteers. Attendees will brainstorm how to have meaningful dialogue between leaders and staff members and identify successful practices and challenges to effectively engage volunteers within affiliate operations. This session highlights how intentional leadership support and strategic volunteer engagement can directly strengthen affiliate impact and advance organizational goals.

Tags: Volunteers, Leadership, Organizational Culture, ReStore

Build Big or Go Home: A Survival Guide to Large-Scale Projects (S)

Dreaming of building multiple homes with hundreds of volunteers and creating a moment your community will never forget? This session is your launchpad. We'll break down what it really takes to host a large-scale build — think Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project-level coordination — across volunteers, fundraising, media, logistics and community partnerships. You'll leave with a clear, practical road map for hosting a major build of your own. From sponsor engagement to post-build impact, we'll offer a transparent look at the rewards, the challenges and the readiness factors every affiliate should consider. Whether you're actively eyeing the Carter Work Project or simply exploring what "building big" could look like, you'll walk away with clarity, confidence and next steps.

Tags: Capacity Building, Community Engagement, Sponsorships, Volunteers

Giving Back, Creating Hope and Building Futures: Partnering with People in Substance Use Recovery Communities (S)

Individuals in substance use recovery can and want to be an asset to their community. In this interactive session, participants will learn Habitat for Humanity of Southeast Ohio's strategies around developing relationships with

recovery communities, identifying ways for these communities to contribute, developing a sustainable workforce training program for individuals in recovery, and developing pathways to homeownership for individuals and families impacted by substance use disorders. Participants will find themselves energized and inspired about working with people in recovery, developing outreach strategies and finding potential funding. They also will have an opportunity for peer discussions about ways in which their organizations can create forward-focused, mutually beneficial partnerships with the recovery community.

Tags: Bridge-Building, Equity/Justice, Organizational Culture, Innovations

Maximizing the Network's State and Regional Impact (S)

This panel explores the synergistic power of effective collaboration between affiliate support organizations and the affiliates they serve. Learn how affiliate support organizations and affiliates are leaning in together to advance key advocacy initiatives, unprecedented funding opportunities, and enhanced operating capacity and resilience.

Tags: Capacity Building, Affiliate Financial Health, Advocacy Tactics, Cross-Affiliate Collaboration

The Coalition Playbook for Zoning Reform (A)

Zoning reform doesn't happen in a vacuum — it happens through alignment, persistence and partnership. Participants in this workshop will engage in small-group exercises and large-group share-outs while exploring how coalitions can shape meaningful housing policy change. Using Dallas Area Habitat for Humanity's leadership within the wider Dallas Housing Coalition's work on zoning reform and land use planning as a case study, we'll share how diverse stakeholders can come together to influence policy, navigate political realities, and sustain momentum through competing interests. Grounded in our experience working alongside the City of Dallas, this session will candidly explore what has worked, what hasn't, and the lessons we've learned moving zoning policy from concept to adoption. Like any strong team, successful coalitions need a solid playbook, clear roles, and members willing to work together toward a shared goal. Participants will leave with a better understanding of how the Dallas Housing Coalition operates, why zoning reform matters for housing availability, and how they can engage in zoning and land use efforts in their own communities.

Tags: Advocacy Tactics, Elected Officials

Beyond the Deed: Partnerships, Policy and Disaster Recovery (A)

When weather disasters strike, the rules written into federal recovery funding typically determine who can rebuild and who cannot. Proof-of-ownership requirements, designed for households with single-owner deeds, often lock out families whose homes have been passed down through generations without formal titles. Heirs' property arrangements are most common in Black families and rural communities across the South, a direct legacy of policies that long excluded these families from formal estate planning resources and legal protections. The barrier isn't ownership; the barrier is the policy. This session traces how a Habitat affiliate support organization, leading heirs' property legal experts and a state resilience agency partnered to change that. Together, a streamlined recovery approach was built that maximized government funding and expanded affiliate capacity. A scalable heirs' property affidavit model opened access to critical repair assistance. This collaboration sparked a coordinated legislative push for a property tax reassessment exclusion so that families can clear title without risking displacement. Designed for executive leaders, family services teams, construction and repair staff members, and advocacy professionals, this session demonstrates how integrating advocacy, operations and disaster recovery can drive meaningful systemic change and deliver equitable housing solutions when communities need them most.

Tags: Advocacy Tactics, Elected Officials, Community Engagement

Habitat Capital Overview and Preparing to Take out a Loan (HF)

Habitat Capital and affiliate partners outline how to financially and strategically prepare your organization to take out a loan to increase housing production. Participants will understand the pros and cons of taking out a loan, the specific financial documents needed to prepare and apply, and the process from start to finish.

Tags: Loans, Habitat Capital, Real Estate Development, Debt Capital

Capital That Multiplies: Launching a Revolving Loan Fund (HF)

This session will introduce the creation and implementation of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Raleigh's Revolving Loan Fund, or RLF. The fund is an innovative, self-replenishing capital tool that accelerates land acquisition and development, enabling Habitat of Greater Raleigh to plan for long-term sustainability. Participants will learn how the RLF is governed through a board-appointed fiduciary committee, how withdrawals are approved, and how Habitat of Greater Raleigh will structure repayment plans. We'll then translate the strategy into donor-friendly messaging that frames gifts as capacity-multiplying investments. We will highlight the overall pitch framework and share visuals to explain the revolving cash cycle, along with strategies that highlight the RLF's potential to expand Habitat of Greater Raleigh's impact by serving up to 60% more families in Wake, Johnston and Franklin counties.

Tags: Resource Development, Real Estate Development, Affiliate Financial Health, Debt Capital

From Collaboration to Closing: Partnerships That Expand Homeownership Opportunities (MSHS)

Sustainable homeownership is rarely achieved by a single organization working alone. This workshop explores how intentional partnerships among nonprofit housing providers, lenders, local governments, employers and community-based organizations can strengthen housing systems and expand access to affordable mortgage solutions and long-term homeowner support. Through real-world examples and a collaborative down payment assistance partnership model, participants will examine how aligned missions, shared data and coordinated service delivery can reduce barriers to homeownership, improve mortgage readiness and affordability, and promote long-term housing stability. The session will also explore how partnerships can enhance borrower education, mitigate lending risk, and support homeowners through critical stages, including underwriting, closing and long-term retention. Attendees will leave with practical strategies for initiating, formalizing and sustaining cross-sector collaborations that respond to market challenges while centering equity, affordability and homeowner success.

Tags: Corporate Partnership, Mortgage Origination, Homeowner Services, Grants

What Got You Here Won't Get You There (MSHS)

Habitat affiliates are confronting a common challenge: Demand for affordable homeownership is rising along with substantial increases in costs. The traditional Habitat mortgage model is no longer the optimal solution for many affiliates. Scalability, affordability and sustainability in homeownership require mortgage solutions that are both accessible and financially durable, paired with strong homeowner support systems that promote growth and long-term success. This workshop explores cultivating and combining third-party lending partnerships with robust pre- and post-purchase support to expand and sustain homeownership opportunities for low-income households. Participants will examine the trade-offs between traditional internal mortgage models and third-party lending approaches. Through real-world examples and practical frameworks, affiliates will gain transferable strategies to responsibly modernize lending practices and respond to emerging opportunities and challenges in affordable homeownership.

Tags: Capacity Building, Loans, Homeowner Services, Affiliate Financial Health