



# Habitat Day

APRIL 21, 2010

in the Capital Region



## Rohit believes in giving back to a community that gave them so much

Rohit Group of Companies creates homes and develops communities, and as they build on each success they look to give back to the communities from which they receive so much.

Rohit has teamed up with Habitat for Humanity to help provide stable, affordable housing to well-deserving families, an initiative that benefits everyone involved. They are building and donating a home in west Edmonton's Ambleside community.

"Teamed up with Habitat for Humanity for a two reasons," said Rohit Gupta, Vice-President. "This community provided our family with a lot of opportunity. My parents have struggled to get wherever they are today and they understand what many people are going through.

"We have always believed in supporting the community through various initiatives. We've worked with the Stollery Children's Foundation, the Heritage Festival, Kids in the Hall with homelessness. Working with Habitat for Humanity is a natural evolution for us and we're very excited to be a part of it."

Rohit is a real estate leader in Western Canada, and their focus is residential and commercial building and development. Since 1986 they have accumulated numerous industry awards and created a diverse portfolio that includes single-family homes,

bungalows, two-storey duplexes and apartment condos.

From a corporate perspective, Gupta says it's important for team members to be engaged in different initiatives.

"Our team has that mindset of giving and being generous," he said. "We can all give in some way."

Gupta says it's important for his family and his business team to understand that as individuals they have been given incredible opportunities, but not everyone has been so fortunate.

"It's our duty to help those in need," he said. "And we're excited our company has been given

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this opportunity to help Habitat and help create a long-term event. Donating a home is a new approach for us, but also a natural extension."

Habitat for Humanity is based on the concept of partnership housing, where volunteers and corporate groups help those in need to build simple, safe homes. Habitat for Humanity Edmonton is a local, non-profit organization whose mission is

to mobilize volunteers and community partners in building affordable housing and promoting homeownership as a means to breaking the cycle of poverty.

Rohit is committed to Habitat's cause and understands the need for affordable housing and also the need for companies to step forward and offer help in any way they can. This project is about pride for the businesses involved, and also pride for those receiving the homes, those who can call themselves homeowners.



Habitat for Humanity's vision is to see a world where everyone has a safe and decent place to live. They accomplish this through a home ownership program that has proven successful year after year. Although Habitat for Humanity is world-renowned for their work overseas, many people do not realize that they build homes for families right here in the capital region.



## Habitat for Humanity: Building hope in the capital region

Habitat for Humanity gives families the opportunity to own their first home and build security for their future. Habitat does not give away homes. They provide affordable home ownership opportunities to families looking for a hand up, not a hand out. Eligible families must demonstrate their need, be willing to partner with Habitat by contributing 500 hours of sweat equity as their down payment, and be able to pay an interest-free mortgage that is never more than 25 per cent of their income.

The Habitat program is truly the opportunity of a lifetime for families who think home ownership is out of their reach. Habitat families are hard working families who need a helping

hand in order to afford a home. Habitat families' sense of dignity and pride grow with home ownership. Their sense of safety and security improve and they see their children thrive in school.

Another unique feature of the Habitat program is that the families' mortgage payments are reinvested into a revolving fund called The Fund for Humanity. As families pay their mortgage, the funds are reinvested into building more affordable homes in the capital region. This also means that as families pay their mortgages they are helping more families find affordable home ownership.

Since 1991, Habitat for Humanity has served 123 families in the capital region, but it would not have been possible without the support of community partners. It is through creative partnerships that Habitat brings families their own home. A home brings a family stability, and stability creates a greater potential to dream, plan, prosper and give back to the vitality of the community. With a home, families take root and hope grows. Habitat for Humanity is working hard to see a capital region where everyone has a safe and decent place to call home.

Habitat for Humanity believes that it can best achieve its mission through its core Home Ownership Program described below:



## Habitat for Humanity Volunteers

Because of habitat for Humanity Edmonton believes that one person can make a difference in the lives of many. It is this reason that volunteers are the heart of Habitat for Humanity. Habitat volunteers come from all walks of life. In 2009, over 3,000 volunteers contributed nearly 60,000 hours on build sites around the capital region. Some Habitat volunteers have never held a hammer prior to showing up on site, and yet others are professional trades-people. Skill level does not matter; volunteers are taught everything they need to know about the tasks they will perform.



### Construction Volunteers

No two days are the same on Habitat build sites. One day you might be framing, and another you might be installing drywall, building a deck, insulating or even painting. Although the days do vary, the one thing that they all have in common is the end result: you leave feeling satisfied. You've built hope for a deserving family, and you've seen the tangible results of your work.

### Crew Leaders

A crew leader empowers groups of construction

volunteers to complete the tasks at hand. Crew leaders have a general knowledge of construction, people skills, and organizational abilities in their tool belt. Training is provided.

### Build Site Hosts

A build site host welcomes volunteers and answers general questions about what is happening on the build site that particular day. Duties range from tidying the work trailer, tool van, and equipment shed to supporting the site supervisor.

### ReStore Volunteers

For those people looking for a non-construction type volunteer opportunity, they can volunteer at ReStore. ReStore is a retail outlet that sells new and gently-used building materials to the general public to support Habitat for Humanity Edmonton. Some duties include stocking shelves, unloading trucks and customer service.

For more information about volunteering with Habitat for Humanity Edmonton, please visit [www.hfh.org](http://www.hfh.org).



everyone deserves to be happy at home.  
it's that simple.