



What is it? Act! Speak! Build! Week is Habitat's student-initiated advocacy campaign. Act! Speak! Build! Week empowers young people to educate themselves and their communities, in order to move people to social action. YOUth can plant to seeds to change housing!

Who's involved? Youth ages 5 to 25, Habitat affiliates and Habitat volunteers around the world.

When is it? September 25 to October 3, 2011

How can I get involved locally?

Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County is planning a number of fun and educational advocacy activities for Act! Speak! Build! Week. Read on to see what you can do to help raise awareness of Habitat's important work.

Building Block Blitz Build: Help kick-start this year's Act! Speak! Build! Week by working in teams of three to build a building block house with 400 building blocks within an hour on Sunday, September 25th from 1-3pm at the Westfield Montgomery Mall. Help raise money and awareness for Habitat! **Ages:** Recommended for ages 5+

What you can do to help: Partake in the fun as part of a team and encourage your friends to sign up! There is a \$25 participation fee for the event, but students are encouraged to fundraise as much as possible for the event. [Download our registration form from our website.](#) Preregistration is a must!

BluePrints Jr. Family Housing Simulation: Join Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County, MD at a BluePrints Jr session. Participants will learn about Habitat important work and take part in an interactive housing simulation. Participants will experience first hand some of the challenge low-income families face when looking for safe, simple, decent affordable housing. **Ages:** All. The entire family is encouraged to attend.

What you can do to help: Attend this event at 7pm on Wednesday, September 28th, at the Habitat office (9110 Gaither Rd. Gaithersburg, MD 20877). Register online at www.habitat-mc.volunteerhub.com.

Community Night Out: Potomac Pizza in the Kentlands is partnering with Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County to put on a restaurant charity night. Eat at Potomac Pizza in Gaithersburg and 20% of collected receipts will go to Habitat! **Ages:** All

What you can do to help: Eat at Potomac Pizza in Gaithersburg on Thursday, September 29th from 4pm to 9pm to help Habitat make some money. Visit www.habitat-mc.org/events for more information as the date nears.

World Habitat Day: The United Nations has designated the first Monday in October as annual World Habitat Day. World Habitat Day's purpose is to call attention to the current global state of the human habitat and push toward adequate housing for all. Celebrate with us on Monday October 3rd. **Ages:** All

What you can do to help: Challenge yourself to tell FIVE new people about HFH-MC and affordable housing issues in Montgomery County. Participate in Habitat International's photo campaign project. For more information visit http://www.habitat.org/gov/take_action/world_habitat_day.aspx

OYO (On Your Own) Events

Paper House Campaign: A weeklong activity in which rows of 35 paper houses, representing the 400,000+ houses that Habitat has built worldwide, are strung up throughout the county along with information about Habitat for Humanity and a call to action. The goal is to show community members that Montgomery County youth care about the need for affordable housing and to inspire others to get involved in Habitat's mission. **Ages:** All

What you can do to help: Download the paper house template from our website, make one or more paper houses and string a row of 35 houses in your favorite community center.

Cookie Outreach Project: Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County will provide participants with a house shaped cookie cutter and postcards with information about Habitat, the need for affordable housing in our community and how to get involved locally. **Ages:** All

What you can do to help: During Act! Speak! Build! Week, make at least one batch of house shaped cookies, decorate them and then distribute them, along with the postcards, to your friends and family members. This is an easy and delicious way for you to help spread the word about Habitat! Contact the office for materials.

Poverty Awareness Dinner: This event gives youth the chance to learn firsthand about the importance of affordable housing, locally nationally and internationally. Youth will take part in an interactive dinner that provides students with a greater understanding of poverty housing issues by participating in an adapted version of Oxfam America's "Hunger Banquet." Participants will also learn about global poverty and advocacy. **Ages:** All

What you can do to help: Host your own dinner. Read more details here: <http://www.oxfam.ca/what-you-can-do/fundraise-for-oxfam/hungry-for-change/hungry4change-dinner>

YIMBY Day: Be a YIMBY (YES in my backyard!) instead of a NIMBY (NOT in my backyard) when it comes to affordable housing. Visit www.yimbymoco.org for more information. **Ages:** All

What you can do to help: Tell people about HFH-MC's mission so they can support affordable housing in Montgomery County. Yay for YIMBY!

Questions?

Contact Us!

youth@habitat-mc.org

(301) 990-0014 ext. 18 or 21

