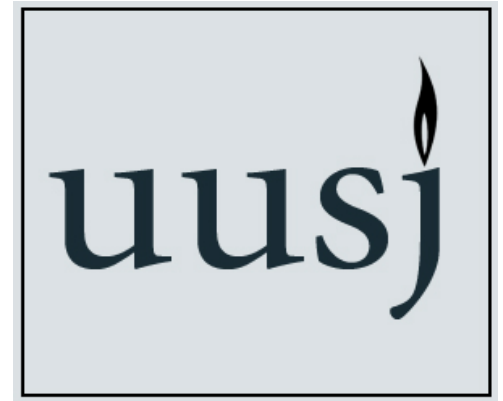


# Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice

Of the Baltimore, Washington, DC, and Northern Virginia Region

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## Montgomery Habitat Launches Pride Build

2011 MAY 4

by CSnavely

tags: Habitat for Humanity, Housing, lgbtq, pride



Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County, Maryland, Inc. (HFH-MC) is launching Pride Build 2011. Pride Build 2011 is a specialty build in which HFH-MC celebrates Montgomery County's diversity by bringing together the lesbian, gay, bisexual and

transgender community and friends to rehabilitate a distressed home in Silver Spring, MD for a deserving, low-income family. Working alongside Habitat volunteers and partner families, Pride Build will raise the money needed to rehabilitate the home, and assist with the construction in order to make it simple, decent and energy efficient.

The HFH-MC program is a hand up, not a hand out. Qualified applicants are selected based on residency and income requirements. Each family is required to contribute "sweat equity" hours to the building of their home, and attend seminars on financial planning and home repairs. Once the home is complete, it is sold to the family with a 30 year, 0% interest mortgage, where no more than 30% of their monthly income goes towards their mortgage payment. Before moving into their new homes, many of the HFH-MC partner families were living in substandard and often dangerous conditions where much of their income was spent on rent. HFH-MC believes that everyone deserves an affordable place to live without having to suffer the negative effects of substandard housing.

In partnership with HFH-MC, members of the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area LGBT community have made the commitment to help a qualified low-income family move out of substandard conditions and into a home they own affordably. HFH-MC is one of only three Habitat for Humanity affiliates in the U.S. to launch a Pride Build program. Our efforts will change this family's life permanently, and for the better.

"We are excited about working with the LGBT community in and around Montgomery County," said HFH-MC Executive Director, John Paukstis. "With 'Pride Build 2011' we'll add to our ever growing list of diverse "specialty builds" where we learn from one another and share the common goal of helping a family move out of substandard conditions and into an affordable home."

We ask that you join us as sponsors of Pride Build 2011. HFH's ministry, based on the conviction that our love must not be words only, provides an opportunity for people to put their faith and love into action. As our founder Millard Fuller once explained, "God's love leaves nobody out, and my love should not either."

I am happy to answer any questions you have about Pride Build in Montgomery County, or if you would like more information please visit the Pride Build website at <http://www.habitat->

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[mc.org/events/pride\\_build.html](http://mc.org/events/pride_build.html).

Best,

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