



## Flatirons Habitat for Humanity's Commitment to the Value of Human Dignity

At the essence of the vision and mission of Habitat for Humanity is the value of human dignity, because our work is founded on the simple principle that ***all people deserve a decent, affordable and safe place to live.***

The founder of Habitat, the late Millard Fuller, began this movement as a matter of his own Christian conscience, and was very clear that Habitat for Humanity should be welcoming and inclusive of the dignity of *all* people. "The Bible teaches that God is the God of the whole crowd," he wrote. "God's love leaves nobody out, and my love should not either." From those who live in homes built-or rebuilt-by Habitat, to those who make those homes possible with gifts of time and resources, all are welcome!

During its 38 years, Habitat for Humanity has served over one million families worldwide to help them create better lives in new or improved homes. It's an impressive number, but what's also compelling is how families *in our own community* have had their dignity affirmed and their lives transformed through Flatirons Habitat for Humanity.

Rev. Chad Kohlmeyer, Associate Pastor of Atonement Lutheran Church in Boulder, beautifully expresses this:

*As a faith leader in the Boulder/Broomfield area, I am deeply grateful for Habitat for Humanity. Why? Simply because of what their name teaches us. All faith communities are taught through their sacred scriptures to care about the health and well being of all in their community - including **habitat** housing! They also call us to treat all people with dignity, valuing their **humanity**! Flatirons Habitat does both of these with perseverance and grace in deeply faithful ways. Atonement Lutheran church is blessed to celebrate that a congregation member became a homeowner in 2013, and we celebrate how Flatirons Habitat has blessed us and continues to call us into service.*

An important aspect of promoting dignity is Habitat's model of providing "a hand up, not a handout." Contrary to popular belief, we do not give houses away. As their down payment, each adult puts in 225 hours of "sweat equity" to help build their house, and the family takes on a no-profit mortgage through Flatirons Habitat, which is then used to help build more houses!

Rosa is a single mother, who described the stress she felt as she worried about trying to keep a roof over her children's heads, before she became a Habitat homeowner.

*It is a big blessing to have a home through the endless care, love and support from the volunteers and others at Flatirons Habitat. I've learned there's a huge difference between having a place to live and having a home. Home is where your heart is, and, no matter how time goes on, you can find a way back. This peace of mind is what you brought to my life.*

You are part of this wonderful story dignity and empowerment through your generous support, and we are so grateful for your partnership in providing decent, affordable homes!