



## **Homeowner Mentor**

### **Role Description/Guidelines**

***A major aspect of the duty of a Mentor is to relay correct and current information, give support and nurture the Habitat Homeowner-in-Training. By nurture, we mean be a friend and a trusted partner to whom one can turn for guidance in becoming self-sufficient and independent.***

The purpose of the Mentor program is to act as a liaison between Habitat's leadership and the Homeowner-in-Training to provide guidance in fulfilling their responsibilities to Habitat and in mastering the skills of homeownership. This is about "DOING WITH" not "DOING FOR". Below is a sketch of what a Mentor does:

#### **Provide Information**

- Be aware of Habitat's history and purpose.
- Be aware of the affiliate's procedures, such as selection process and "sweat equity."
- Attend the Homeowner-in-Training education classes, if possible.

#### **Contacting the Partner Family**

- Let the Homeowner-in-Training know what your role is as their Mentor.
- Discuss with the Homeowner-in-Training how you might be most helpful and identify areas that the Homeowner-in-Training might need the most help.

#### **Continuing Contact**

- Meeting with the Homeowner-in-Training will depend on the family or individual's needs. Habitat recommends contact on a bi-monthly basis, but at the minimum once a month. Occasionally, you may have more frequent contact depending on the situation.
- Contact can be telephone, personal visit, letter or postcard, email, scheduled meetings, dedications or any activities the Mentor and the Homeowner-in-Training feel are appropriate forms of contact.
- After the Homeowner-in-Training has moved into the new home, continue to follow-up with the family for 6 months, as needed.



### **Other Suggestions**

- Help the Homeowner-in-Training determine a schedule for completing sweat equity hours.
- Assist the Homeowner-in-Training in finding a way to clear up outstanding debts.
- Work with them in creating and completing a budget – help them start this habit (follow up from classes).
- Remind the Homeowner-in-Training to change address information for voter registration, utilities, driver's license, friends, etc.
- Attend the Dedication Ceremony of the new home.
- Work with the Homeowner-in-Training to identify problems that arise from oversights or construction issues within the new home. In these situations, you should also notify the Habitat office.
- Remind the Homeowner-in-Training that home maintenance is a homeowner's responsibility; not Habitat's responsibility.
- Encourage the Homeowner-in-Training to stay involved with Habitat activities.