



Building Hope, Lives and Communities

Act! Speak! Build! Week 2010 Monday, March 8th – Saturday, March 13th

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is Act! Speak! Build! Week?

- Act! Speak! Build! Week empowers young people around the world to educate themselves and their communities and move people to social action. Young people, ages 5 to 25, work in partnership with local Habitat affiliates to plan and host events focused on ending poverty housing. Events are youth-led and youth-initiated!

What is advocacy?

- Advocacy is changing systems, policies and attitudes to achieve decent housing for all.

How do I get started?

1. Get your group excited about Habitat for Humanity and Act! Speak! Build! Week.
2. Plan a project, activity, or event.
3. Register online at http://habitatla.org/act_speak_build.asp
4. Enter our YouTube contest and tell us how you are advocating for affordable housing during Act! Speak! Build! Week.
5. Attend our Act! Speak! Build! Week Event on March 20th.

What kind of support does Habitat for Humanity provide?

- We are happy to provide ideas and answer any questions you have. A speaker from Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles can visit your school, depending on availability. Posters, stickers, and flyers are available from Habitat for Humanity International on a first come, first serve basis.

Where can I find statistics about poverty housing?

- Local Statistics: The L.A. Coalition to End Hunger and Homelessness: www.lacehh.org
- National and International Statistics: Habitat for Humanity International: www.hfhi.org

Is there a required minimum number of participants?

- No. We encourage individuals and groups large and small to join in this week of youth advocacy.

How much time do I need to plan for Act! Speak! Build! Week?

- Your planning time needed depends on the scale of your project. You can plan an activity or project in as little as two weeks, but we recommend planning and publicizing your activity or event at least one month in advance.

Are there more youth programs at Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles?

- Yes! Youth can be involved through building, fundraising, raising awareness, and advocacy. Please visit us at http://habitatla.org/youth_programs.asp



For more information, please contact Melissa Killian, Youth Programs Coordinator,
youthprograms@habitatla.org

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SAMPLE ACTIVITIES

Visit classrooms or schools: Go to another classroom or school and talk with the students about housing and/or poverty issues. Be sure to contact school administrators and teachers beforehand. There are several resources available on www.habitatyouthprograms.org which includes an advocacy book with accompanying lessons and the Paper House Campaign.

Living stats: Be the statistic that you are sharing; for example: “One in four people worldwide endure the hardships of poverty.” Designate every fourth person of your group as living in poverty by wearing a special identifying article such as a sticker or wristband.

Sponsor a writing contest: Accept essays, news reports, feature writing or other types of writing. Ask a department or club to sponsor your contest and help provide prizes. Consider publishing the pieces for distribution on campus or in your community.

Light the night with Luminaries: With the permission of your community or your school’s administration and fire marshal, place paper bags with a candle inside around your campus at night. Place a statement or fact about poverty housing on the outside of the bag.

Plunge event: Experience not having a place to stay for the night. Coordinate with a local shelter and spend the night on your own. Have participants sign waivers to release your affiliate, school or chapter from responsibility.

Shocking shack: Create an inadequate shelter that is life-size. Attach a sign to declare its importance. For example: “Tired? How would you like to share your sleeping space with insects, rodents and five family members?”



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