

OCHFH Homeowner Selection Program

Sweat Equity Policy

SWEAT EQUITY OVERVIEW

One of the most vital elements of the Habitat ministry is the partnership between new homeowners and the local Habitat affiliate. The most important connection between partner families and Habitat is **SWEAT EQUITY**.

- 1. Sweat Equity Builds Partnership.** The goal of sweat equity is to provide opportunities for meaningful interaction between partner families, affiliate representatives and Habitat volunteers.
- 2. Sweat Equity Builds a Sense of Pride.** HFH works with, rather than for, families in need to build their own homes and a brighter future.
- 3. Sweat Equity Builds Skills and Knowledge.** The sweat-equity program is designed to offer new homeowners a wide variety of opportunities to gain skills and knowledge that will help them successfully adapt and maintain their new home.

The SWEAT EQUITY requirement is 250 hours for adults or 350 hours per family that will be living in the house. A minimum of 100 hours working on construction is required, and all hours need to be approved by the executive director. Our future family partners need to have 100% of their sweat equity hours completed before occupancy of their home.

Required

- Building your own home. (Minimum of 250 hours required, with 100 hours spent hands on building your house, learning how it is constructed, learning safe and proper tool usage).

Achieve an additional 50 hours by:

- Helping other future homeowners build their homes up to 50 hours.
- Helping in the HFH Office, or with fundraising projects, or food preparation, or clean up, or on committees, etc.
- Work by friends, relatives, church members may contribute 50 hours. The partner family will recruit their family and friends to help build the house. The family's S/A/F may contribute 25 hours.

Otsego County Habitat for Humanity is pledged to the letter and spirit of U.S. policy for the achievement of equal housing opportunity throughout the nation. All applicants are considered without regard to age, ancestry, color, disability, familial status, gender identity, gender neutral, height, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex/gender, sexual orientation, veterans, weight nor as state or federal law otherwise prohibits.



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- Education, GED or college courses completed. One Hour will be given for any A received and a half hour for any B received. (Maximum of 50 hours per family for grades).
- Attending Homeowner Information or Neighborhood Association Meetings.
- Childcare time when adults are on the jobsite. If a person works 7 hours one day and has to get a paid sitter, he/she gets an additional 7 hours sweat equity.
- Partner family will send thank you cards or letters (provided by the affiliate) to sponsors, suppliers and volunteers.
- Going to speaking engagements to talk or help, doing public relations activities.
- Budgeting and Home Maintenance classes (may be required).

Break Down of Hours

Your own home **250 hours Minimum**

Add an extra 50 hours to your sweat equity through:

Another home	50 hours Minimum
Grades	50 hours Maximum
Relatives, Friends	50 hours Maximum
Affiliate Projects, Classes	50 hours Maximum

It is expected.... that you will continue to work on building your house through all stages of construction even in the event that you earn your 250 hours of sweat equity before construction is completed.

Each partner family will be issued a set of Tracking forms for recording Sweat Equity hours and will be responsible for having the Construction Supervisor, S/A/F or another Habitat representative sign the forms each time Sweat Equity hours are completed. The partner family should also record their hours on the worksite Volunteer Log. The completed Sweat Equity Tracking forms will be turned into the Volunteer Action Center for recording.

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