



**Habitat for Humanity of Bergen County Global Village Trip
Flathead Valley, Montana
GVA17035
October 9 – 16, 2016**

Geographic Location

Tucked into the northwest corner of Montana, Flathead Valley lies between Glacier National Park and Flathead Lake, the largest natural freshwater lake west of the Mississippi. Flathead Valley encompasses 3,262,720 acres or 5,098 square miles with only 6% of land available for development and the remaining 94% of the land mass is National or State Forest Land, Wilderness, Agricultural, and Corporate Timber Land. Kalispell, the largest city in the Flathead Valley, is the retail and business hub of Northwest Montana. To the north is Whitefish, home of Whitefish Mountain Resort and a vibrant arts community. Columbia Falls on the scenic Flathead River, is known as “The Gateway to Glacier National Park.”



With a population of 93,000, they are the fastest growing, 3rd most populated county in Montana. Native residents are now greatly outnumbered by new residents, with a large percentage of new residents being retirees and middle aged professionals. Serving as a tourist destination, it's common to find hikers in the summer and skiers in the winter.

Affiliate Background

Habitat for Humanity of Flathead Valley was incorporated in 1989 and has built 58 homes for qualified families. Habitat for Humanity of Flathead Valley is dedicated to eliminating substandard housing locally and worldwide through constructing, rehabilitating and preserving homes; by advocating for fair and just housing policies; and by providing training and access to resources to help families improve their shelter conditions. Habitat for Humanity of Flathead Valley houses are simple, decent and affordable to families that earn between 30-60% of the median income for the valley. These homes are built in partnership with the family and when their homes are completed, their monthly mortgage payments are then paid to the affiliate in order to continue to build more Habitat homes. Their most recent project took approximately four years and involved the construction of 16 townhomes in the Mitchell Way development in Columbia Falls.



Housing Need

With so much land reserved and protected for national parks, the demand for available land is high. Housing costs are out of reach for low and middle-income households. These households may include professionals such as teachers, firefighters and police officers. The median household income is \$47,800 and the median price of a home is \$233,800. 18% of residents live in poverty. Due to inflationary housing costs, many families are forced to reconsider whether they can continue to live and work in the county.

Types of Construction for Volunteers

Habitat for Humanity of Flathead Valley is currently building five single-family homes in the Spring Creek Estates development in West Kalispell. In October 2016, three of the five homes in the subdivision will be under construction: one three bedroom, one four bedroom, and one still to be determined. Construction will be completed in August 2017.

Volunteers help in all aspects of new construction: framing, roofing, installing windows and doors, appliances, insulation, sheet rock, painting and finish work. All tools and construction site materials will be provided by the affiliate. Volunteers must be 16 years old or older. Volunteers who are 16 or 17 must be accompanied by a guardian.

Lodging

The team will stay at a hotel in double occupancy, non-smoking rooms. Breakfast is included daily.

Food and Water

Water is available on site. Breakfast will be eaten at the hotel. Lunch will be provided on site by host affiliate and dinners will be taken in local restaurants. A welcome dinner will be provided by the affiliate.

Transportation

The team will travel in rental minivans.

Getting There

The team will fly into Kalispell, MT airport and travel together as a group to Kalispell.

Standard Itinerary

Day 1 – Sunday, October 9th (*Arrival day*)

- Greeted at the Kalispell airport by team leader; plan for flight to arrive by 2 p.m. MT and drive to hotel; orientation by the Flathead Valley HFH staff will follow dinner.

Days 2 - 6 – Monday, October 10th - Friday, October 14th (*Workdays*)

- Breakfast at hotel; workday 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. with lunch onsite; dinner and team activity in the evening.

Day 7 – Saturday, October 15th (*Cultural day*)

- Breakfast at hotel; visit Glacier National Park and tour surrounding area. Farewell dinner in the evening.

Day 7 – Sunday, October 16th (*Departure day*)

Breakfast at hotel; team departs hotel; drive to Kalispell airport; plan for flight to depart after 2 pm MT; will need to provide your own transportation to the airport if departing in the morning.

Trip Cost

\$1,575

- \$500 non-refundable deposit due 30 days after being invited to join the team.
- Balance of payment due August 25th, 2016 (45 days prior to trip date).

Trip cost **does not include airfare**, R&R activities. Team members arriving earlier or staying later than this itinerary are responsible for their own transport, hotel arrangements, and payments.

Trip cost includes donations to Flathead Valley Habitat for Humanity and HFHI, meals, accommodations, transport while in Montana, accident, and emergency evacuation insurance, and team coordination from HFHI and the host program.

Note: If you are unable to join the trip for emergency/extenuating circumstances your payment may be transferrable to another Global Village Trip.

Team Leader

Pamela Nall first became involved with Habitat in 1997 while attending Villanova when she went on her first service trip to Clarksdale, MS. She has since volunteered on 4 other Global Trips. She joined the Habitat Bergen staff in January 2014 as the Chief of Staff to the Executive Director and recently led her first Global Village trip on behalf of the affiliate to Taos, NM in 2015.

Pamela's favorite GV memory: Every trip has many favorite memories. Serving as the Team Leader for Habitat Bergen on my first led Global Village trip to Taos last fall surpassed my wildest expectations. My favorite memory from that week was our lunch with the partner homeowner, Vera. She spent time with us on the worksite, walking around the framed walls of her future home. The volunteers from every team had signed the wooden beams and written various prayers and well wishes for she and her daughter. She was so touched by people she had met who have come together for the benefit of she and her daughter. Those moments bring that Habitat's mission to life.

Have questions? Ready to join the team? If you are interested in joining the team please contact Pamela (pamelan@habitatbergen.org) for more information and to receive an application.