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Habitat for Humanity New York City's Women Build Culminates in Five-Day Blitz Build

Women Build is a months-long movement of New York City women who combine their effort, skill, network, and muscle to help bring awareness to the cause of affordable homeownership

May 15, 2017—New York, NY—[Habitat for Humanity New York City \(Habitat NYC\)](#), a major advocate for affordable homeownership in New York City, today announced the culmination of [Women Build](#), the second iteration of a several months-long movement to combine the effort, skill, network, and muscle of New York City women in order to help further the cause of affordable homeownership. The two-weekend, five-day blitz build, in which participants construct homes in partnership with low- to moderate-income families who will eventually own the homes, began last weekend on May 13th and will continue the coming weekend of May 20th.

Beginning in September 2016 with a kickoff event at WNYC's The Greene Space, Women Build is comprised of a series of events aimed at recruiting, networking, and fundraising in order to bring women together to raise money and advance the issue of affordable homeownership throughout the five boroughs. This year Women Build is aiming to raise \$350,000 and in addition will leverage more than 1,800 volunteer hours from 26 teams, totaling more than 300 women, to build affordable homes for ownership.

Last year, [the inaugural Women Build](#) brought together over 250 women, raised more than \$320,000, and culminated in a three-day build in Southeastern Queens.

"We empower women through Habitat NYC's work all year long; in fact, more than 80 percent of Habitat NYC homes are sold to single, female heads-of-household. Women Build is a natural intersection then, bringing all women together to lift up another woman in need. There is nothing like it," said Karen Haycox, CEO of Habitat NYC. "By harnessing the collective power of women, Habitat NYC will finance, physically build, and increase access to affordable homeownership in New York City. Women connect, women give, women build - and women support Habitat NYC's vision of a city - and a world - where everyone has a decent place to live."

"I am participating in Women Build with a daughter and two granddaughters—three generations of my family—because we all believe that affordable homeownership should be an option for all New Yorkers," said Martha Parrish, team ambassador of Women Build team Queen Bees and member of Habitat NYC Board of Directors. "Women Build is an opportunity to volunteer in our own neighborhood and raise the money needed to provide a family— and likely a woman-led family—an affordable home

that will set that family on a path of stability for generations. We are delighted to be working alongside hundreds of like-minded, socially-driven, and motivated women, to build the future we want to see.”

Over the weekend, Women Build teams were onsite at Dean Street, a 15-unit multi-family development project in Brownsville, Brooklyn. The building features two-bedroom apartments and a shared outdoor space that will be sold to families earning between 50-80% area median income (AMI). Construction tasks include dry walling all 15 apartments. Women builders will return again the weekend of May 20th to complete the blitz build. Habitat NYC partner families are scheduled to move into Dean Street Residents in the coming fall.

Earlier this year Women Build hosted a [sold-out panel discussion](#) titled “Women Connect: Rising to the Top!” which included participation from Contessa Brewer, Emmy award winning Journalist; Rachel Lam, Senior Vice President, Time Warner Investments; Debbie Propst, President, One Kings Lane; and Brenda Williams-Butts, Vice President of Recruitment, Diversity & Inclusion at New York Public Radio.

All proceeds from the Women Build campaign support Habitat NYC’s mission.

About Habitat for Humanity New York City

Habitat for Humanity New York City transforms lives and communities by building and preserving affordable homes with hardworking families - and by uniting all New Yorkers around the cause of affordable housing and homeownership. With the help of thousands of volunteers each year, Habitat NYC builds and repairs homes for families across the five boroughs. Learn more at www.HabitatNYC.org and connect with us on [Facebook](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) at @HabitatNYC.

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