

ABOUT MERCY HOUSING LAKEFRONT

Mercy Housing is national nonprofit affordable housing organization leading a movement to create stable, vibrant & healthy communities for families, seniors & people with special needs. Founded in Chicago in 1986 by residents from Chicago's Uptown community, Mercy Housing Lakefront has been committed to ending homelessness for the city's most vulnerable adults and families. Mercy Housing Lakefront meets this mission by providing affordable, program-enriched housing for families, seniors, and people with special needs who lack the economic resources to access quality, safe housing opportunities. Mercy Housing's affordable housing opportunities are enriched with programs and support systems. These programs and supports empower residents who have experienced episodes of homelessness, unemployment, and many other challenges to gain the skills and support needed to stabilize and improve their lives.

WHY ADOPT-A- BUILDING?

The support of numerous community partnerships, donors and volunteers makes it possible for us to pursue our mission to build stable, vibrant and healthy communities. Mercy Housing Lakefront builds partnerships with organizations and individuals to share their time, talents and financial resources to enrich the lives of our residents. The Adopt-a-Building Program is designed to connect the resources of our valued supporters directly to our properties. This helps us provide quality environments where residents can reach their full potential while meeting the philanthropic, marketing and team-building goals of our partners. Your partnership will support our Resident Services programs so that together we can enable seniors, families and people with special needs to live in hope during challenging times.

WHAT IS ADOPT- A-BUILDING ALL ABOUT?

- Partners are matched with the Mercy Housing property(s) of their choice.
- Mercy Housing works with your organization to tailor a partnership, matching your resources and availability with the needs of each building. Our staff works with you to discuss the goals, level and timeframe of commitment.
- We then create a partnership agreement with your organization before volunteer service begins.
- Adopt-a-Building partners are required to make a minimum commitment to provide volunteers at least once in a 12-month period along with a \$2,500 financial contribution to Mercy Housing Lakefront.
- Financial contributions are 100% tax deductible and will directly benefit the resident services programming at your chosen property.
- Adopt-a-Building partnerships are renewed or adjusted on an annual basis. Multi-year commitments are welcomed and encouraged.

BENEFITS OF PARTNERSHIP

Ongoing and Flexible Support: We commit to providing meaningful opportunities to our partner organizations and their volunteers, based on each partner's resources and abilities. You and MHL staff design a meaningful volunteer partnership to ensure your organization's philanthropic, marketing and team building goals are achieved. Your partnership is supported by a Mercy Housing staff liaison, who is available throughout the year to discuss project details and address questions or concerns. MHL staff will be responsible for organizing volunteer events and will provide onsite training to your volunteers.

Marketing Opportunities: MHL is very grateful for your partnership and will work with your organization to develop a proactive communications plan to convey the impact of your Adopt-a-Building partnership to the public. MHL regularly covers volunteer initiatives in our locally distributed electronic newsletter, our nationally distributed "Community Matters" printed newsletter, and on our Facebook and other social media pages.

Year-end Reporting and Tax Deductible Donations: Mercy Housing will provide each Adopt-a-Building partner with a year-end report detailing how your volunteer service and donations made a difference in the lives of our residents. The reports will include a full list of monetary contributions, in-kind donations, and volunteer hours served in conjunction with your partnership. Year end reports will be sent in addition to thank you letters to your volunteers and standard donation receipts required for tax deduction purposes.

EXPECTATIONS OF ADOPT-A-BUILDING PARTNERS

Staff Liaison: Each partner organization is expected to provide 1-2 staff liaisons to be the point of contact with MHL staff. Their responsibility will be to convey volunteer and in-kind donation opportunities to your group and provide feedback to MHL staff.

Philanthropic Investment: Adopt-a-Building program partners are asked to make a donation of **\$2,500 per year**. This donation will be directed to your adopted building to purchase project supplies for our volunteer driven initiatives and support various ongoing needs of our resident services programming. Donations should be made out to *Mercy Housing Lakefront*, and addressed to our central office at 120 S. LaSalle Street, Suite 1850, Chicago, IL 60603.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer Commitment: The number of volunteers and hours served will vary depending on your organizations capacity and the needs of your adopted building. Adopt-a-Building partners are required to make a minimum commitment to provide volunteers at least once in a 12-month period. Goals in these areas will be discussed at the initial planning meeting and included in your partnership agreement.

Activities vary by building, the community residents, year, and level of commitment. The next page outlines some common volunteer opportunities. Please contact your MHL liaison for current volunteer opportunities. In addition to the opportunities listed below we encourage you to suggest activities that engage the skills within your organization or creatively enrich the lives of our residents. Whether volunteering as a group or individually, every MHL volunteer is required to sign a volunteer agreement form before beginning their service activity. For volunteers working directly with residents and not as part of a group, an ongoing time commitment and a background check maybe required.

EXAMPLES OF VOLUNTEER PROJECTS THROUGH ADOPT-A-BUILDING

VOLUNTEER PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS	
COMMUNITY BUILDING EVENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Projects for groups of 5-20 volunteers</i> • <i>Great team building activity for groups.</i> • <i>Half-day events can be planned throughout the year, based on mutual schedule</i> • <i>Cultivate an atmosphere of community that makes our buildings more than a roof.</i>
Holiday Celebrations	Decorate, serve food and share in great conversation with our residents at a festive Halloween, Thanksgiving or Holiday time celebration. Optional games or activities can be planned.
Back-to-School Events	Combine a Back-to-School supply donation drive with an event that energizes young residents as they head into a new academic year.
Housewarming Parties	Host housewarming events in new buildings to welcome residents to Mercy Housing Lakefront.
IN-KIND DONATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Organize a drive once a year or more with a group</i> • <i>Directly meet the needs of low-income youth, adults and seniors</i>
Holiday Giving Tree	Provide winter holiday gifts for youth, supportive housing residents, or low-income seniors
Back-to-School Drive	Get kids ready to learn with a backpack and/or items like pens, pencils, binders, folders, crayons, and more
Welcome Home Kits	Assemble kits for new supportive-housing residents. Kits typically include: toiletries, cleaning supplies, towels, sheets, welcome home card, and more
Clothing Donations	Donate winter coats for youth, gently used professional clothing for our employment programs, or winter items (hats, gloves, scarves) for supportive housing residents
Supplies for Resident Services Programs	Donate art supplies, school supplies and equipment, cleaning supplies, or food and drink for special programs.
<u>ONGOING, IN-DEPTH OPPORTUNITIES</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Opportunities for individuals or small groups of skilled volunteers</i> • <i>Commit to either a regular, ongoing commitment or</i> • <i>Provide support using specific skills that match the needs of our residents.</i>
Educational Workshops	For small groups of skilled volunteers; Possible topics include: financial literacy, employment training, health and wellness, art, women’s issues, youth development
<p>TO JOIN THE ADOPT-A-BUILDING PROGRAM, PLEASE CONTACT ALVA WINFREY KENNEDY AT awinfrey@mercyhousing.org or 312-447-4550. THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF MERCY HOUSING LAKEFRONT.</p>	