

Title: Gift Giving Policy

Policy Type: Management Policy

Date of Last Revision: April 2024

Date of Next Review: June 2027

GIFT GIVING POLICY

Scope and Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to mitigate potential harm and risks associated with the giving of gifts, both monetary and non-monetary, to the people we serve, volunteers and the organization.

Policy

Habitat for Humanity Canada discourages all volunteers with Habitat for Humanity from giving personal gifts while engaged in, or as a result of being engaged in, a Habitat for Humanity activity. The giving of gifts sets precedence for other volunteers to do the same and can have a negative impact on relationships between the communities in which we work and volunteers, local Habitat staff, and Habitat for Humanity in general. To avoid problems, embarrassment, hurt feelings and unhappiness, we ask that gifts not be exchanged between the volunteers, community members, children, contractors, families we partner with, Habitat staff, or anyone else.

Donating Tools and Clothes

Volunteers often bring small hand tools, such as hammers and screwdrivers, to use and then donate them to the local Habitat upon departure. Tools that the team is planning to donate should be given to the Habitat staff following the final day of building and nobody else. Donated tools are retained by the local Habitat and used on future builds. The donation of clothing is discouraged. Whilst we understand the good intentions behind wanting to donate clothing, we ask that volunteers do not actively over-pack with the intention of leaving clothing behind.

Sponsorships

Agreeing to any type of sponsorship while participating in a Habitat for Humanity activity is prohibited. Volunteers sometimes are approached about the possibility of “sponsoring” children in a foreign country. They might be children of the family Habitat has partnered with, children of a local Habitat staff member, of an extended family, or simply a local resident befriended by a volunteer. Notify your team leader or relevant local Habitat staff if you have been approached about sponsorship.