

Volunteer Spotlight

The Volunteer Spotlight is here to honor those who have gone above and beyond for Habitat for Humanity-MidOhio! "Thank you" to each and every individual and group listed below for your amazing dedication and support of Habitat for Humanity-MidOhio. We are a better organization because of you!

Habitat wants to shine a special light of thanks on... Ray Garcia and Jim Rosing!



Ray Garcia: Construction Volunteer, Deconstruction Volunteer, and Habitat Photographer

Ray Garcia began volunteering with Habitat nearly six years ago. Over the years, Ray has worked on construction sites, deconstruction sites, and taken photographs at various Habitat events. Recently, Ray has taken on a larger role with the affiliate by volunteering to lead all upcoming deconstruction projects. Ray enjoys working with Habitat because it gives him a way to serve the community while meeting new people. He also enjoys being able to teach new skills to fellow volunteers.

Outside of Habitat, Ray stays busy by running his own business, Ray Garcia Handyman Services, LLC. As part of his business, Ray is hoping to start a program where young adults can learn the construction trade, while getting paid. Ray is also involved in his church, working on the tech team and creating music for the church band.

When Ray's not working or volunteering his time, he enjoys photography, fishing, camping, golfing, and riding his Harley.

When asked if he had any advice for fellow volunteers Ray said, "Keep volunteering, and keep learning!"



Jim Rosing: Construction Volunteer and AEP House Lead

Jim has been volunteering with Habitat for so many years, he's lost track! He started working with Habitat in Jackson, Michigan and has expanded his volunteerism to Cleveland, Ohio, Delaware, Ohio, and lucky for us, Habitat MidOhio! Jim got involved with our affiliate when one of his co-workers invited him to volunteer on a Habitat construction site. Jim agreed, and soon, he and a group of co-workers were hooked. They decided to ask for financing from AEP to sponsor a Habitat home. This request soon turned into a wonderful partnership.

Jim and his crew from AEP built Habitat MidOhio's first two-story home on the Westside of Columbus in 1994. Jim not only took on the role of crew lead for the project, but also put his architecture skills to work by designing the home. The first two homes that AEP built used geothermal heat pumps, which greatly lower the cost of the homeowner's electric bills, which Jim is very proud of.

Since that first house in 1994, Jim and his group from AEP have contributed to the construction of sixteen more Habitat homes.

When asked what keeps him coming back to Habitat, Jim's answer was "a lot of things." However, one thing in particular tops them all. Jim loves working with new volunteers. They show up to site a bit timid and unsure, but by the end of the day, they are completely in the groove. "You can see the pride in their eyes when they walk away at the end of the day knowing that they've accomplished something." Jim also enjoys telling the Habitat story and dispelling the many misconceptions that exist about the organization. He's also proud of the group of volunteers that regularly join him on site. He says that each one of them is capable of leading the group on any given day.

Outside of Habitat, Jim has been working on the construction of another home through his church, Linworth United Methodist. He also enjoys gardening, building, remodeling, and architecture.

Jim's words of wisdom for other volunteers, "Give us a chance. There is no magic behind swinging a hammer or sanding a wall. It's not difficult to do, but it truly makes a difference. You can see the progress at the end of each day. Put a bunch of those days together, and you go from a hole in the ground, to a home where someone can live their life."