



Craig Vette: Construction Volunteer, Critical Home Repair Volunteer

Craig Vette worked for the U.S. Customs and Border Protection and found himself moving every four years. In 2006, he landed in Columbus, Ohio and eventually retired and planted roots in buckeye country. During several summers, Craig volunteered with Habitat MidOhio through his church. Being of the Lutheran faith, Craig quickly found a regular spot volunteering with Thrivent Builds, a financial, volunteer and advocacy partnership between Thrivent Financial for Lutherans® and Habitat for Humanity® International.

Craig started off as a volunteer with little knowledge and experience in construction. He now volunteers two to three days a week, and has added numerous skills to his repertoire. He has contributed to the construction of both new builds and critical home repairs. Most recently, Craig helped Thrivent and Habitat complete an exterior repair project for a local veteran in Central Ohio. “It was one of the most rewarding projects,” Craig said of the repair. “It only took a month to complete but the transformation was incredible.”

There are many things Craig enjoys about his volunteer work with Habitat. He is happy to provide a service for those who can use a “hand up”. It supports people - people who deserve to have the basics: safe and affordable housing. He enjoys working with his regular crew, and likes the fact that volunteering keeps him busy since retirement. “Habitat keeps something regular on my schedule. I have things to do, but it’s not overwhelming.”

Outside of Habitat, Craig is active in the Lutheran Church and enjoys landscaping and gardening. Since retirement, Craig has also vested an interest in genealogy and spends time discovering his family’s lineage.

Craig's word of wisdom to future volunteers, "I think there is hesitation because people think they need skills. That's not the case. We'll teach you the skills you need and encourage you to try new things, but we're not going to force you to do anything you are not comfortable doing. You will find the service and fellowship with our neighbors to be incredibly rewarding".



Adam Noel: Construction Volunteer, Rock the Block Volunteer, ReStore Volunteer, Deconstruction Volunteer

In December of 2010, Adam Noel attended a New Volunteer Orientation at Habitat MidOhio. He was instantly drawn to the organization and began volunteering for the Green Team, a crew of volunteers who kept Habitat work sites clean. After a few months of going green, Adam began volunteering for construction opportunities. With a positive, take charge attitude, Adam has offered to help in almost every area of Habitat's work. He has volunteered for Rock the Block events, landscaping, deconstructions, and ReStore opportunities. He has even taken his passion for Habitat's mission over seas, volunteering for different Global Village trips.

"The happiness and gratitude of homeowners, and the smiles on children's faces at dedications," was Adam's answer when asked about what keeps him coming back to Habitat.

Outside of Habitat, Adam stays busy with work at L Brands. In his free time, Adam enjoys hiking, camping, and traveling. In November, he will be traveling to Cochabamba, Bolivia for a Global Village trip followed by a trip to Peru to hike Machu Picchu.

Adam's words of wisdom to future volunteers, "volunteer as much as you can for yourself, and for others."