



## Tithe – Sharing what God has given us

### Quick Reference Guide

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One of Habitat for Humanity's foundational principles is tithing. Affiliates are partners in Habitat's international work through a tithe of their financial resources. By doing so, affiliates share what God has given them with their brothers and sisters worldwide. **Tithing is the most important thing that U.S. affiliates can do to demonstrate their understanding of the true spirit of partnership that underlies Habitat's mission.**

The basic tithing formula is 10% of unrestricted cash donations (see description below). Nearly all donations to an affiliate are available to be tithed upon. Tithing on gifts-in-kind (donated materials or professional services) is not expected. An affiliate should set aside the tithe as it receives cash donations and promptly and regularly submit the funds to Habitat for Humanity International. Affiliate tithe money goes directly toward house-building efforts outside the U.S. None of these funds are used for administrative expenses of Habitat for Humanity International headquarters. Affiliates are encouraged to tithe monthly or quarterly.

**Affiliates participating in the *Thrivent Builds Homes* program are encouraged to tithe on all funds raised for the house.**

Likewise, tithing on financial contributions by Thrivent chapters is encouraged. Discuss the tithe with chapters and congregations. It is an excellent opportunity to highlight Habitat's global mission and extend Thrivent members' and Lutheran congregations' reach beyond their local communities. Share with chapters and congregations the location your affiliate sends its tithe, or invite chapters or congregations to help determine where the tithe should be sent. Affiliates are encouraged to move beyond the "house-for-house" formula of tithing and tithe more than the \$4,200 average overseas house cost.

#### Restricted donations

Restricted donations are generally a small percentage of total donations received. One example would be SHOP funding provided by HUD. In this case, the funding was initially raised from U.S. taxpayers and there is a firm expectation that that funding only be utilized locally. Another example would be a local foundation that makes it clear that the funds must be utilized within a specific geography.

House sponsorship donations **should be** tithed upon. The tithe should be publicized as an integral part of your ministry serving families locally and globally at the same time. Tithe payments should be sent to:

HFHI-Tithe Department  
121 Habitat Street  
Americus, GA 31709-3498