

## Unit 5: Personal Care and Body Systems

### Introduction

Good health begins at home. However, millions of people around the world have no home, and more than a billion live in substandard housing that puts their health and personal safety at risk. Habitat for Humanity works to solve these problems. The organization has built more than 225,000 houses around the world, providing more than 1 million people with safe and decent shelter. One study found that Habitat housing improved the health of young children as much as water and sanitation programs. You can learn more about Habitat's programs and their benefits by visiting the organization's Web site.

### Links to Explore:

#### Habitat for Humanity

<http://www.habitat.org/>

### Directions:

- Follow the link above to the Habitat for Humanity home page.
  - Go to the "Learn About Habitat" menu at the top of the page and select "Fact Sheet (FAQs)."
  - After reading the FAQ, select "Myths About Habitat" from the list at the left of the page and read through the information in this section.
  - After reading this information, answer the following questions:
1. How much does it cost to build a Habitat home?
  2. Explain how Habitat provides homes to those in need.
  3. How do Habitat affiliates choose the families they wish to help?
  4. How do Habitat homes affect property values in the areas where they are built?
  5. In how many countries does Habitat operate?

### Answers:

1. In some developing countries, it can cost as little as \$800; in the United States, the average cost is nearly \$60,000.
2. Habitat keeps its house prices low by building its homes with donations of land, material, and labor, and by selling them with no profit built into the price. Families who cannot obtain a conventional mortgage loan can buy a Habitat house with a \$500 down payment and affordable mortgage payments. They must also invest 300 to 500 hours of "sweat equity" in building their own houses or houses for others.
3. Families are chosen based on their level of need, their willingness to become partners in the program, and their ability to repay the loan. They are selected without regard to race, religion or ethnic group, in keeping with U.S. law.
4. Habitat houses can increase property values and local government tax income.

5. More than 90 countries, including all 50 states of the United States, the District of Columbia, Guam and Puerto Rico

**Additional Links to Explore:**

Use the links below to gather additional information on the activity topic. When appropriate, have students extend their research to include important concepts contained in these Web sites.

**Enterprise Community Partners**

Enterprise helps build affordable housing for low-income Americans by providing financing and expertise to community and housing developers.

<http://www.enterprisecommunity.org/>

**Corporation for Supportive Housing**

The Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) helps communities create permanent housing with services to prevent and end homelessness. One of its chief functions is advancing the creation of new supportive housing units through loans and grants.

<http://www.csh.org/>

**Family Promise**

Family Promise works to help low-income families nationwide to achieve lasting independence. It mobilizes communities to provide safe shelter, meals, and support services for homeless families and runs programs designed to address the underlying causes of homelessness.

<http://www.nihn.org/>

**Housing Assistance Council**

The Housing Assistance Council is a nonprofit corporation that helps local organizations build affordable homes in rural America. Its mission is to improve housing conditions for the rural poor, with an emphasis on the poorest of the poor in the most rural places.

<http://www.ruralhome.org/>

**National Coalition for the Homeless**

The National Coalition for the Homeless is a national network of individuals, community-based and faith-based service providers, and others committed to the mission of ending homelessness. The organization works to meet the immediate needs of the homeless and also to change the social systems and attitudes that lead to homelessness.

<http://www.nationalhomeless.org/>