



Advocacy In Albany

March 13-17, 2010

Event Details



What is Advocacy in Albany?

Advocacy in Albany is Habitat for Humanity – New York State's advocacy program providing participants with the tools they need to fight for changes in housing policy. We educate you on the issues, teach you how to organize, and arrange in-person meetings with state legislators. It's an amazing opportunity to be an advocate for affordable housing and gain invaluable skills and knowledge that will last a lifetime.

"We went to Senator DiFrancisco's office and talked with him. No one had ever brought this issue [affordable housing] to him before. This was the first he'd heard of it. I know I had an impact." - Tom Rittenhouse, Syracuse University, 2008 A in A participant.

Watch a video about our 2008 Advocacy in Albany event:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mLlyWil2UzE>

Agenda

The schedule includes interactive programs illustrating the lack of affordable housing in New York and provides participants with information on advocating and organizing for changes in public policy. The week will include legislative visits, where participants will be able to meet with lawmakers and discuss the policy changes we need to assure that people have access to decent, safe, affordable housing. Participants will be taught how to communicate with legislators and make the most of these visits, which will be arranged in advance. We will also organize additional events such as movie nights, and close the program with a press conference and discussion on how to apply the lessons they've learned and the skills they've developed to their own communities. Participants may also stay an extra two days to participate in a Habitat build in the Albany area.

Seminars and discussions will include:

- Creating an Effective Advocacy Campaign
- Coalition Building
- Impacting Public Policy
- The Need for Housing
- Funding for Affordable Housing: How does it work, and what do we want?
- Preparation for Legislative Visits

911 East Main Street • Endicott, NY 13760

Phone: 607.748.4138

info@HabitatNYS.org

These sessions will be lead by Habitat staff, members of a variety of statewide organizations fighting for affordable housing, and legislative staff.

Optional Build

Participants wishing to stay through Friday and participate in a Habitat build in the Albany area can do so for an extra \$20.

Accommodation

Participants will be able to stay for free at the 1st Presbyterian Church. Cots will be provided, but participants are permitted to bring their own air mattresses or other portable sleeping arrangements if desired. The nearby YMCA will provide free shower facilities, and the church provides access to a kitchen.

Transportation

Participants can arrange their own transportation to Albany by bus, train, or car pool. Travel between the train/bus station and the church will be provided.

Meals

Three lunches and two dinners will be provided. Participants staying at the church will have access to a kitchen and space to store food. We will provide a list of nearby restaurants as well.

Registration

Every group must submit one group registration form. Each individual in the group must submit an individual registration form.



911 East Main Street • Endicott, NY 13760
Phone: 607.748.4138
info@HabitatNYS.org