

# Advocacy in Albany

March 10 to March 16, 2012

## Participant Information Sheet



### What is Advocacy in Albany?

Advocacy in Albany is Habitat for Humanity of 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.

Click [here](#) to watch a video about our 2008 Advocacy in Albany event.

### 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. Participants may also stay an extra two days to participate in a Habitat build in the Albany area. A detailed agenda will be available on our website in mid-February. The AIA 2011 Agenda is available on our website for reference.

"We went to Senator DiFrancisco's office and talked with him. No one had ever brought these issues to him before. I know I had an impact."

-Tom Rittenhouse, Syracuse University  
2008 AIA participant

### Registration and Program Information

#### Group Leader Registration Instructions

Group leaders, please fill out the group reservation form and **return it, along with each of your group members' individual registration forms and a single check for all program and build participation fees by February 3, 2012** to: Habitat for Humanity of New York State, 911 E. Main St., Endicott, NY 13760. Forms can also be returned via email to [info@habitatnys.org](mailto:info@habitatnys.org) with Advocacy in Albany Registration as the subject line.

Please distribute a copy of this participant information sheet, and the individual registration form to each member of your group. You should maintain a copy of the group reservation form for your records. Space is limited, please check with Habitat NYS at (607) 748-4138 to make sure space is available for your group.

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## Individual Registration Instructions

**Please submit the Individual Registration Form via e-mail back to your group leader.** Space is limited, please check with your group leader to see if space is available, before submitting this form.

## Age Restrictions

Habitat for Humanity of New York State requires that each participant must be 18 years of age by the first day of the trip to register for the program. There are no exceptions to this requirement.

## Insurance Coverage

Part of your program fee is applied to supplemental accidental medical insurance. This policy will pay the deductible of an individual's own insurance, as well as any costs exceeding her or his insurance limit, up to \$250,000. If a participant does not have personal health insurance, he or she will be covered up to \$250,000. This insurance covers all participants who have an accident while participating in group activities, including building on site and group-sponsored evening activities. Coverage begins when a group checks in and ends when they leave. **Please note: Participants are not covered if they are under the influence of alcohol or drugs.**

## Cancellation Policy

Planning for this event is based on the number of participants expected. In the event that your number of participants decreases or if you should cancel the trip after confirmation, be aware that **your group will not be reimbursed your program fee(s).**

## Transportation

Groups are responsible for all transportation arrangements and costs, both to and during the event. Even if your group is flying to the site, rented vehicles will be needed to transport the group throughout the week. Supplemental insurance will not cover participants as they travel.

## Meals

Four lunches will be provided. Participants staying at the church will have access to a kitchen and space to store food. A list of nearby restaurants will be provided as well.

## Accommodations

Participants will be able to stay for free at the 1st Presbyterian Church. Cots will be provided, but please provide your own bedding. Air mattresses are permissible. The nearby College of St. Rose will provide free shower facilities.