



We build strength, stability, self-reliance and shelter.

## **Black Lives Matter**

*DuPage Habitat for Humanity issued the following statement regarding the ongoing protests*

**Wheaton, IL (June 9, 2020)** — While the entire globe is dealing with a virus that has spread across borders, the past few months have put a spotlight on a second pandemic, one of racial inequity that has plagued our country since its inception. The murder of George Floyd has catalyzed Black America into leading the protests we see nationwide, but this is just the latest atrocity against African Americans in this country.

In a joint statement, Adrienne Goolsby and Jonathan Reckford of Habitat for Humanity International said, “These protests aren’t just about the killing of George Floyd. They’re about Breonna Taylor, who was killed in her own home during a no-knock raid in Kentucky. They’re about Ahmaud Arbery, who was shot dead while jogging in his own neighborhood in Georgia. They’re about Christian Cooper, whose safety was jeopardized simply for asking a white woman to follow posted rules in Central Park. They’re about Trayvon Martin, Eric Garner, Sandra Bland, Rodney King and Emmett Till. They are about Klan members in the 1960s burning down Clarence Jordan’s vegetable stand and firing guns into homes of families at Koinonia Farm outside Americus, Georgia. They’re about decades and centuries of individual and systemic racism that precede and infuse the founding and life of our nation.”

DuPage Habitat for Humanity grieves the tragic deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Sandra Bland (a resident of our local community), and countless others whose lives were unjustly and inhumanely taken due to police brutality and the racial injustice that remains resilient in this country. We stand in solidarity with Black Lives Matter and those demanding and advocating for swift justice. We recognize the unique pain of the Black community.

Habitat’s foundation at Koinonia Farm was built upon the idea of racial equality, and we are an organization that embraces all people regardless of race, religion, and socio-economic status. And while we have led the charge for inclusivity in housing, we recognize that we still have work to do. We commit the organization to continue examining our internal structure to ensure racial equity and having hard conversations about how to live up to our stated mission and values fully. DuPage Habitat will not settle for the status quo, and we will challenge ourselves to live into our mission every day of building a world where everyone has a decent place to live.

The Bible explicitly addresses this throughout its teachings. One verse throughout much of Habitat’s messaging comes from Micah 6:8, “He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” Biblical scholars say that this means God’s law is to be just to your neighbor; to not only help those who are disenfranchised and stand by their side, but to take joy in it as it is God’s will. [Gill, John, John Gill’s Exposition of the Bible, <https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/micah-6-8.html>.]



We also renew our commitment to dismantling the lack of racial equity in homeownership across DuPage and Chicago South Suburbs by helping more Black families build and purchase homes. DuPage Habitat believes that closing the racial homeownership gap will help to create an Illinois where everyone can thrive.

You may wonder why society has continuously failed to address this racial inequity pandemic, why there is no race to find a cure. Instead, periodically, when an especially egregious action occurs that makes national headlines, it becomes part of the national conversation for a news cycle. Instead, most put on a different kind of mask, one of inaction and indifference. This cannot continue. We must change the way we live to deal with this crisis of humanity.

Below are a few actions that we can take to help change police practices that were inspired by the Black leaders at Black Live Matter, and the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and based on the work of the Task Force on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing.

1. Donate to the [NAACP Legal Defense Fund](#), [Black Lives Matter Chicago](#) and [The Chicago Community Bond Fund](#).
2. Contact your local mayor and local municipal legislative officials and tell them you support the [NAACP Demands](#), which call for sweeping police reform federal legislation.
3. Learn history. These resources explain how years of housing policies that have inhibited racial equity continue to impact us today:
  - [Racism's Toll](#)
  - [Fair Housing and Equity Assessment: Metropolitan Chicago](#), [Why Cities Are Still So Segregated](#),
  - [Race, Town, and Gown: A White Christian College and a White Suburb Address Race](#)
  - [The Disturbing History of the Suburbs](#).
4. Speak up. Don't let the changing news cycle end the conversation. Reach out to friends, family, and neighbors and have a conversation about the racism in our community that led to the murder of George Floyd and our resolve for building the equitable community that we want to see.

### **About DuPage Habitat**

Driven by the vision that everyone deserves a decent place to live, DuPage Habitat for Humanity began in 1995. DuPage Habitat for Humanity has partnered with people in our community, and all over the world, to help them achieve the strength, stability and self-reliance they need to build a better life for themselves and for their families. Through local support, DuPage Habitat has helped over 640 people across the DuPage County. Through financial support, volunteering or adding a voice to support affordable housing, everyone can help families achieve the strength, stability and self-reliance they need to build better lives for themselves. DuPage Habitat homeowners help build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage. Through shelter, we empower. To learn more about DuPage Habitat for Humanity visit [dupagehabitat.org](http://dupagehabitat.org).

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