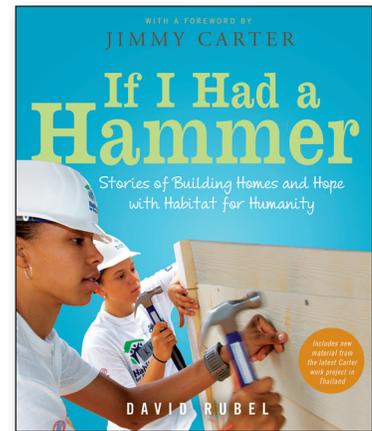


# If I Had a Hammer

Stories of Building Homes and Hope with Habitat for Humanity

by David Rubel with a foreword by Jimmy Carter



Dear friend,

Thank you so much for hosting this event to promote *If I Had a Hammer: Stories of Building Homes and Hope with Habitat for Humanity*. From the moment I first heard the concept for this book, I was extremely pleased that we were going to tell the Habitat story to young people. It is amazing what students who are excited about helping families have done to further our mission. Engaging them at a young age is crucial if we are to raise up another generation of supporters around the world who are as passionate about serving as President and Mrs. Carter are.

*If I Had a Hammer* has been named a Nautilus Silver Award winner in the category of elementary children's fiction and nonfiction. The Nautilus Awards recognize "books that promote spiritual growth, conscious living, and positive social change." As I wrote in the afterword to the book, I hope that the stories and photographs will inspire readers to take action so that they might make a difference in the world.

I am confident that the accompanying activity guide will provide even more exciting ways to connect with young people and to further encourage them to support Habitat for Humanity projects.

Thank you again for making the special effort to show boys and girls how wonderful it is to develop a spirit of generosity and to reach out to our neighbors both down the street and around the world.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Jonathan T. M. Reckford'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Jonathan T. M. Reckford  
CEO, Habitat for Humanity International



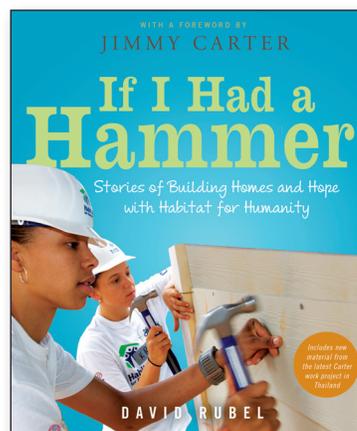
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HC: 978-0-7636-4701-8 • PB: 978-0-7636-4769-8 • Age 10 and up



*President Jimmy Carter's compelling anecdotes inspire a personal look at Habitat for Humanity that is sure to fire up a younger generation of volunteers.*

"I can walk down the aisles of airplanes, talking with people, and invariably the number-one thing that everybody says is, 'Tell me about Habitat.'"

—President Jimmy Carter

Somewhere in West Virginia, a thirteen-year-old girl now invites friends home without embarrassment. In a Brazilian village, children no longer sleep beneath a table when the heavy rains come. For a quarter century in more than ninety countries, Habitat for Humanity has built homes with and for the people who need them, aided by more than a million multigenerational volunteers. Two of the most devoted are former president Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalynn. And now this captivating account, abundantly illustrated with photos, relays their favorite stories with special resonance for young readers. Exploring everything from creative home design (like using window bars in India to keep out monkeys) to the emotional rewards of helping to build a house from the ground up, this is an essential resource for inspiring future youth volunteers.

**David Rubel** is the author of the *Scholastic Encyclopedia of the Presidents and Their Times* and the *Scholastic Atlas of the United States*. He lives in Chatham, New York.

**Jimmy Carter** served as the thirty-ninth president of the United States from 1977 to 1981 and was the recipient of the 2002 Nobel Peace Prize. A prolific author, he has written more than twenty books. He lives with his wife, Rosalynn, in Plains, Georgia.



Habitat welcomes the involvement of people of all ages in support of our mission. Volunteer work on an active build site can begin for young people between the ages of sixteen to eighteen, but there are many other ways for younger volunteers to support Habitat's work. To find out more about how you can get involved at any age, visit [www.habitat.org](http://www.habitat.org).

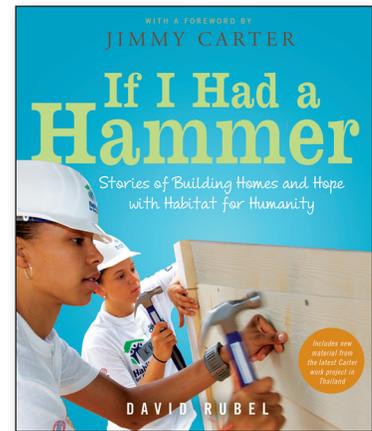


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## Paper Houses

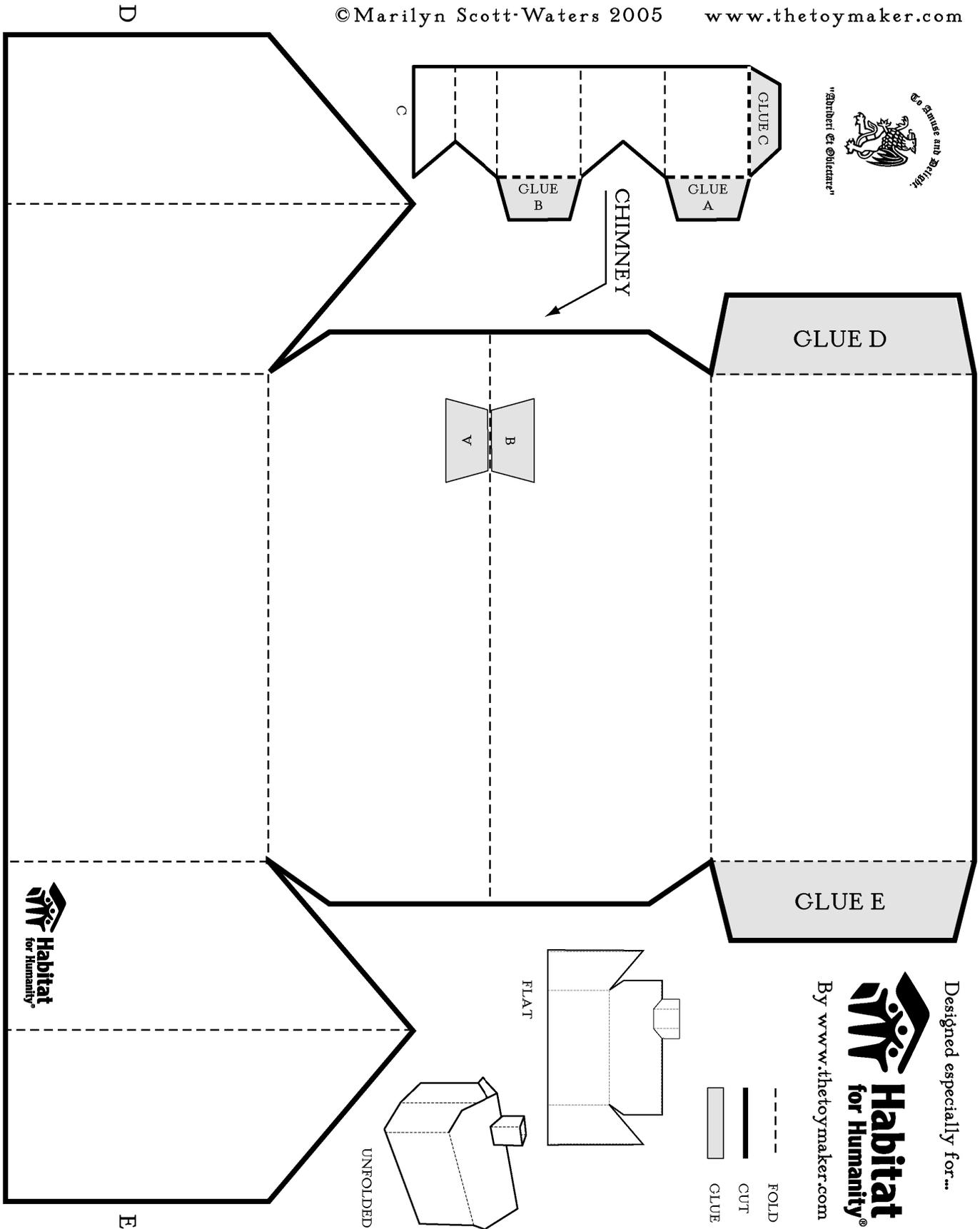
*If I Had a Hammer* “will inspire junior carpenters to grab a hard hat and learn to build,” says *Atlanta Parent* magazine. In lieu of actual building, engage kids in printing, coloring, and decorating paper houses. When they’re done, invite them to write a letter explaining why they support Habitat for Humanity’s efforts to help families in their community live in safe and decent homes. Have kids mail their letters, along with their paper houses, to local public officials.

## Directions

1. Distribute copies of the template on the next page and have kids use it to create a paper house. Instruct them to cut out the template, color and decorate the house, and fold the paper to fit into an envelope.
2. Ask each child to write a letter to a local elected official telling him or her that they care about housing! For inspiration visit [www.habitat.org](http://www.habitat.org).
3. Mail the kids’ letters to local officials.
4. Need inspiration? New York City Habitat for Humanity adapted the paper house project for their advocacy campaign. You can watch a video about it at [www.habitatnyc.org/advocate/videos/PaperHouseAIA2010.swf](http://www.habitatnyc.org/advocate/videos/PaperHouseAIA2010.swf) before you get started on your own project. To best support affordable housing in your community, you may wish to work in partnership with your local Habitat affiliate.
5. Please visit [www.habitat.org/youthprograms](http://www.habitat.org/youthprograms) for more Habitat activities for young people of all ages.



"Gather 'Er @eleazar"



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Designed especially for...



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