

Market Research: Expansion of Habitat for Humanity Workshops

Includes:

Final Report

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Habitat for Humanity Workshop Relaunch

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Introduction:

Habitat for Humanity is a national organization that promotes affordable homeownership for low-income families. Local Habitats across Canada, engage volunteers, donors, and potential homeowners in building and rehabilitating homes. Habitat also provides homeowner education classes on financial literacy, budgeting, home repair, and maintenance. The organization's impact extends beyond shelter provision, promoting happiness, health, and financial stability. Habitat for Humanity Peterborough & Kawartha Region (PKR) is interested in re-launching a workshop series for the public and partner organizations.

Workshops were found to be a liked and powerful tool for community engagement, fostering collaboration, discussion, and skill-building. This report outlines a series of workshops designed to empower individuals with practical skills and knowledge, promote community involvement, and support various community initiatives.

Workshop Overview:

The workshops should accommodate 10 to 20 participants, maintaining a ratio of approximately 5-to-1 attendees to helpers for optimal engagement and support. The participation fee can range from \$50 to \$200, with most workshops priced at \$100 to \$150. The preferred method for conducting a workshop is to commence with a demonstration, followed by practical hands-on activities, with assistance provided as necessary.

Workshop Topics and Details:

Home Repair Workshops:

- Topics include changing door locks/knobs, painting techniques, plumbing basics, electrical repairs, drywall patching, and appliance maintenance.

Tiling Fundamentals:

- Participants learn tiling techniques through demonstrations and hands-on practice.

Power Tool Starter:

- Introduction to popular power tools with demonstrations and practical tips.

Basic Home Maintenance Rotating Stations:

- Participants rotate through stations covering plumbing, electrical, drywall, weatherization, cabinet hardware, carpentry, and appliance maintenance.

DIY Home Decor (see Appendix A for examples):

- Family-friendly DIY projects to foster creativity and collaboration.

Upcycling Furniture Workshop (see Appendix B for examples):

- Participants bring in old or thrifted furniture pieces and learn techniques to refinish, repaint, or repurpose them into stylish and functional pieces. Topics could include sanding, painting, staining, upholstery basics, and decorative techniques like distressing or decoupage.
- Buy an item from the ReStore and refurnish it to your liking.

Woodworking Basics combined with DIY Projects:

- Fundamental woodworking skills such as measuring, cutting, sanding, and assembling wood pieces. Participants could then choose from a selection of simple DIY projects like building a small shelf, picture frame, or planter box.

Creative Recycling Crafts (see Appendix C for examples):

- Repurposing everyday items like jars, bottles, or cardboard into useful or decorative items for the home. Techniques could include painting, decoupage, weaving, and embellishment with beads or other materials.

Indoor Plant Care and DIY Planters:

- Gardening tips with DIY crafting by teaching participants how to care for plants and create their own decorative planters. Topics could include choosing the right plants for different environments, repotting, propagation, and creative container ideas using recycled materials.

Family DIY Workshop Series:

- Series of workshops designed for families to attend together, with projects suitable for all ages and skill levels. Ideas could include building birdhouses, making personalized photo frames, creating custom doormats, or decorating terracotta pots.

Vintage Restoration Techniques:

- Explore methods for restoring and preserving vintage or antique furniture and household items. Topics could include repairing scratches and dents, refinishing wood surfaces, reupholstering, and maintaining delicate materials like brass or silver.

Potential Partnerships:

Local Home Improvement Stores:

- Home Hardware
- Home Depot
- Lowes
- Kingdon Timber Mart

Construction Companies and Contractors:

- Local Builders and Contractors: Collaborating with local construction companies and contractors could provide Habitat with skilled labour, expertise, and workshop resources.

Local Community Foundations:

- Community foundations could be potential donors for Habitat workshops
- Service Clubs (Rotary, Lions Club, etc.)

Educational Institutions:

- Colleges and Universities: student volunteer programs, research collaborations, or fundraising initiatives
- High school upper-year shop students could be involved in running workshops as part of their volunteer hours.
- Fleming carpentry

Local Trades and Craftsmen:

- Carpenters, plumbers, electricians, and other skilled professionals, can provide valuable expertise for workshops on home maintenance, repair, and renovation. These partnerships can offer hands-on training sessions to homeowners and volunteers, empowering them with practical skills.
- Local artists

Kids Camp Activities:

Birdhouse Building (Appendix D):

- Children can learn basic woodworking skills by constructing birdhouses. Provide pre-cut pieces of wood, nails, hammers, and paint for decoration. Could teach them about bird species and habitat conservation as part of the project.

Miniature Garden:

- Build miniature gardens using small containers, soil, plants, and decorative elements like rocks, pebbles, and miniature figurines.

Recycled Crafts (see Appendix C for examples):

- Encourage eco-friendly creativity by providing recycled materials like cardboard, paper tubes, bottle caps, and fabric scraps. Kids can make art pieces, sculptures, or even functional items like pencil holders or jewelry with the materials.

DIY Instruments (see Appendix E for examples):

- Simple musical instruments like drums, shakers, or guitars use empty cans, rice or beans, and rubber bands. They can decorate their instruments and then have a jam session.

Building Bridges:

- Build bridges using materials like popsicle sticks, tape, and glue. They can experiment with different designs and learn about stability and weight distribution.

Paper Mache Creations:

- Paper mache sculptures using newspaper strips and a paste made from flour and water. They can create animals, masks, or abstract shapes and then paint them.

Cardboard City (Appendix F):

- Work together to build a cardboard (or wood) city, complete with buildings, roads, and vehicles. They can design and decorate their structures and then play with toy cars and figures in their cityscape.

Nature Crafts:

- Make leaf rubbings, pinecone animals, or rock paintings. Nature walks to collect materials and inspire creativity.

Constructive Play with Building Blocks:

- Stations with various building materials such as LEGO bricks, wooden blocks, or magnetic tiles. Could incorporate challenge cards with specific building tasks to complete.

Rube Goldberg machine (Appendix G):

- stem challenge

Conclusion:

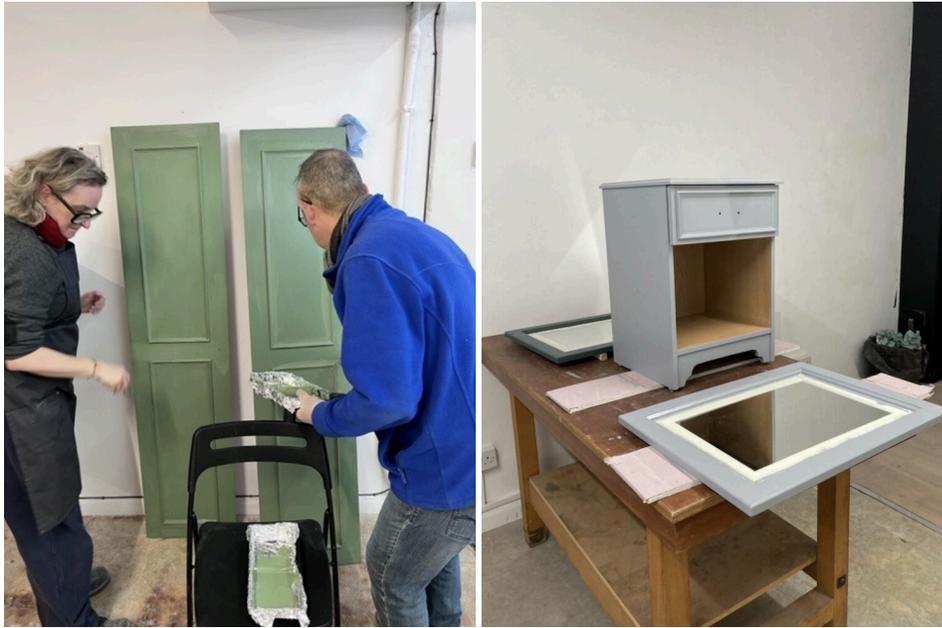
The relaunch of the Habitat for Humanity Workshop series represents a significant stride towards empowering the PKR community through education, skill-building, and collaboration. With a diverse range of topics spanning from home repairs to creative recycling crafts, these workshops provide valuable opportunities for individuals to gain practical knowledge and enhance their abilities all while making some new friends. Partnerships with local businesses, construction companies, educational institutions, and skilled professionals, can enrich the workshop experience but also strengthen community ties and support sustainable development initiatives. As Habitat for Humanity expands its range of workshop opportunities and cultivates fresh and existing partnerships, they are empowering individuals, fostering collaboration, and making a positive difference in the lives of those they serve.

Appendix A:



Habitat for humanity of Mahoning Valley. Home Improvement | Habitat for Humanity of MV. (n.d.). <https://habitatmahoning.org/restore/diy-projects>

Appendix B:



Furniture upcycling. Habitat for Humanity GB. (2023, February 1).
https://www.habitatforhumanity.org.uk/furniture_upcycling/

Appendix C:



16 creative ways to reuse plastic – plastic upcycling ideas. (n.d.).
<https://www.countryliving.com/uk/create/craft/a19861275/how-to-recycle-plastic-alternative-creative-ways/>

Berardi, T. (2021, April 16). *Crafts using recycled materials.* Budsies Custom Gifts Blog.
<https://www.budsies.com/blog/arts-crafts/crafts-using-recycled-materials/>

Appendix D:



Build a kid-friendly birdhouse. Canadian Home Workshop RSS. (n.d.).

<https://canadianhomeworkshop.com/2356/project-plans/build-a-kid-friendly-birdhouse>

Appendix E:



Sarah. (2023, September 1). *42 splendidly creative homemade musical instruments - how Wee Learn.* How Wee Learn - Out of the box learning ideas, playful art, exploring nature, and simple living - that is How We Learn!

<https://www.howweelearn.com/spectacular-homemade-musical-instruments/>

Appendix F:



Petit Architect Design for Kids Ltd. (2023, February 17). *How to create your own recycled city out of cardboard*. Petit Architect.

<https://petitarchitect.com/blog/2023/1/31/creating-your-own-paper-city>

Appendix G:



Rube Goldberg Machine. Stem Marin. (n.d.).

<http://adamrosenbaumsanmarin.weebly.com/rube-goldberg-machine.html>