

**MEDIA INFORMATION**



**MILLARD FULLER**  
— LEGACY BUILD —

**2019**

**Beauregard, Alabama**



**FullerCenter.org**



## 2019 MILLARD FULLER LEGACY BUILD SITES

The 2019 Millard Fuller Legacy Build is being hosted by the Chattahoochee Fuller Center Project, which also hosted the very first Millard Fuller Legacy Build in Fuller's hometown of Lanett, Alabama, in 2009. This year's build is focused on helping families who were impacted by the March 3, 2019, tornado that struck the Alabama community of Beauregard. The 11 new home builds taking place Sept. 29-Oct. 4 are in various locations of Lee County. Construction will take place approximately 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday with house dedications planned for Friday, Oct. 4.

<b>Family</b>	<b>House sponsor</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>House captains</b>
Dean	Fuller Center International	102 Lee Rd. 721 36804	Landmark, Landmark
Caldwell	Church of the Highlands	307 Lee Rd. 38 Opelika	Daniel Holland, Anthony Stoll
Polk	Church of the Highlands	319 Lee Rd. 38 Opelika	Michael Dilworth, Chuck Ingraham
Melton	Episcopal Churches	146 Lee Rd. 2054 36804	Jim Tomacek, Peter Myer
Rivera	Hallmark Channel	Dover Street, Opelika	Randy Smith, Riley Belcher
Wilson	Hallmark Channel	1030 Lee Rd. 39 36804	Barry Stuck, Charles Bon
Dupree	Hallmark Channel	7763 Lee Rd. 166	A.J. Jewell, Bob Pack
Adams	Cornerstone Foundation	Dover Street Opelika	Doug Dewberry, Ronnie Garrett
Wilborn	Rotary District 6860	2128 Lee Rd. 165 Salem, Al.	Mark Butler, Peter Salemme
Robertson	Faith Community-Beauregard	124 Lee Rd. 721	Doug Stephens, Bryce Kujat
Johnson	Cornerstone Foundation	Dover Street Opelika	Steve Graber, Eldon Graber

Dinners for volunteers will be provided each night at Providence Baptist Church (main host), 2807 Lee Road 166, Opelika, AL 36804. Providence is also providing free lodging for volunteers who do not wish to purchase hotel rooms.

### Key contacts

**Chris Johnson, Fuller Center Vice President of Communications (706-315-7116):** Chris will be making the rounds from site to site throughout the week and will be available to help set up interviews and visual opportunities as needed.

**Kim Roberts, Chattahoochee Fuller Center Project Executive Director (706-518-9942):** Kim will be extremely busy with the many details of running this build, so please contact Chris Johnson instead if possible.

**David Snell, Fuller Center President (229-942-2861):** David will be working on job sites during the week alongside volunteers, but he will be happy to take a break for interviews.

**Linda Fuller, Fuller Center (and Habitat) co-founder (229-942-2000):** Linda, who is now in her late 70s, will be volunteering throughout the week and will happily take time for an interview.

**Stacey Odom-Driggers, Fuller Center Vice President of U.S. Programs (229-343-4393):** Stacey will be volunteering on site throughout the week and can provide operational details about the build.

## ABOUT MILLARD FULLER

Millard Fuller founded Habitat for Humanity in 1976 and served as president of the organization for 29 years. After Habitat's board of directors dismissed Millard and wife Linda Fuller over philosophical differences, they founded The Fuller Center for Housing in 2005 as a return to the simple, effective, grass-roots, Christian principles with which they had originally launched the world's affordable housing movement.

Millard Fuller passed away on Feb. 3, 2009 at the age of 74. He was laid to rest at Koinonia Farm in Americus, Ga., the birthplace of Habitat and The Fuller Center. "His final years leading The Fuller Center and getting back to our roots were some of the happiest and most joyous years of his life," Linda recalls.

Fuller spent decades traveling and speaking worldwide and earned international recognition for his work advocating decent, affordable housing for all. In September 1996, former President Bill Clinton awarded Fuller the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor. Clinton said, "I don't think that it's an exaggeration to say that Millard Fuller has literally revolutionized the concept of philanthropy."

From humble beginnings in Alabama, Millard Fuller rose to become a young, self-made millionaire. A graduate of Auburn University in Auburn, Ala., and the University of Alabama Law School in Tuscaloosa, he and college friend Morris Dees (who later would found the Southern Poverty Law Center) began a marketing firm while still in school. Fuller's business expertise and entrepreneurial drive made him a millionaire at age 29. But as the business prospered, his health, integrity and marriage suffered.

These crises prompted Fuller to re-evaluate his values and direction. After he renewed his marriage and committed his life to Christ, the Fullers sold all of their possessions, give the money to the poor and begin searching for a new focus for their lives. This search led them to Koinonia Farm, a racially integrated Christian community near Americus, Ga., where people were looking for practical ways to apply Christ's teachings.

With Koinonia founder Clarence Jordan and a few others, the Fullers initiated several partnership enterprises, including a ministry in housing. They built modest houses on a no-profit, no-interest basis, thus making homes affordable to families with low incomes.

Homeowner families were expected to invest their own labor into the building of their home and the houses of other families. This reduced the cost of the house, increased the pride of ownership and fostered the development of positive relationships. Money for building went into a revolving fund, enabling the building of even more homes.

In 1973, Fuller moved to Africa with his wife and four children to test this housing model. The housing project they began in Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of Congo) was so successful that Fuller became convinced the model could be expanded and applied all over the world. Upon his return to the United States in 1976, Fuller met with a group of close associates. They decided to create an independent, non-profit organization that would apply this new housing model, and Habitat for Humanity was born.

The ministry the Fullers founded has an economic philosophy based upon what Fuller calls the "economics of Jesus." The no-profit, no-interest components of The Fuller Center come from a passage in the Bible (Exodus 22:25) that says those lending money to the poor should not act as a creditor and charge interest.

In January of 2005, Millard and Linda Fuller were fired from the organization they founded and had nurtured for 29 years. Rather than dwelling on the end of a career, Millard Fuller immediately began planning for the next phase of his life's work. In April 2005, he and Linda and a group of like-minded partners founded The Fuller Center for Housing as a return and re-commitment to the proven effective grass-roots, Christian principles with which they had started their affordable housing ministry decades earlier.

Fuller's mission was his life. Every breath he drew was utilized to improve the quality of life of those who are unfortunate enough to live in the worst of places. Linda, his wife of 49 years and the co-founder of both Habitat and The Fuller Center, said that Millard would not want people to mourn his death. Instead, he would be more interested in having people put on a tool belt and build a house for someone in need.



**The Millard Fuller Legacy Build honors this remarkable life of service.**

# FULLER CENTER FOR HOUSING FAQs

## WHAT IS THE FULLER CENTER FOR HOUSING?

The Fuller Center for Housing is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that seeks to eradicate poverty housing by promoting partnerships with individuals and community groups to build and rehabilitate homes for people in need.

## HOW DO YOU ACCOMPLISH YOUR WORK?

The Fuller Center creates partnerships within communities that bring together churches, schools, businesses and civic organizations to build decent, affordable homes in partnership with people who are unable to secure adequate housing by conventional means.

The Fuller Center works in collaboration with our covenant partners, other service-oriented organizations and countless volunteers to build and repair homes. All homeowners work hand-in-hand with volunteers to build their own homes, which are then sold to them on terms they can afford, based on the Biblical idea of no-profit, no-interest loans.

With some smaller renovation projects, an innovative payment program called The Greater Blessing Program is utilized, whereby recipients promise to repay the loan amount without signing an actual mortgage agreement. They decide the monthly amount they can afford to repay and the period of time that it will take to repay the cost of repairs. There is no legal obligation to repay these loans. It is a leap of faith in the basic goodness of humankind and is proving to be very successful.

We are committed to good stewardship and work hard to keep our administrative costs low and to select our recipient families wisely. This helps to ensure that the vast majority of your tax-deductible gifts go toward building and repairing homes for those in need.

## ARE YOU A CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATION?

Yes. The Fuller Center is an ecumenical Christian organization that bases its work on what Fuller Center founder Millard Fuller called, "The Economics of Jesus" and "The Theology of the Hammer." We work in partnership with people around the world, of all faiths and backgrounds, to build God's Kingdom on earth by improving and transforming lives.

## DO YOU HAVE TO BE A CHRISTIAN TO BE AFFILIATED WITH THE FULLER CENTER?

No. We welcome all volunteers who share our basic belief in giving dignity to all by helping them own a home. We believe Jesus would not want us to place religious requirements on beneficiaries, so we don't.

## WHERE DOES THE FULLER CENTER STAND ON ISSUES OF INCLUSIVITY?

Knowing that God is love, and valuing the worth of every human being, The Fuller Center for Housing does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, age, gender, sexual orientation or sexual identity in joyfully welcoming people from all walks of life as volunteers or in selecting beneficiaries for our services.

## HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED AND HELP?

There are several ways to become involved. As a tightly run, cost-conscious organization, we are always in need of people's time, talents and treasures. Just click on the "JOIN US" link at **FullerCenter.org** to learn about more unique ways to help this ministry serve others. We have listed just a few of your options below:

**Volunteer:** Individuals committed to building homes can join one of The Fuller Center's upcoming builds taking place in various parts of the country. Find a covenant partner in your area and contact them about ongoing and upcoming projects. No experience is necessary.

**Donate:** We welcome all donations to fund our programs. Tax-deductible contributions can be mailed to: The Fuller Center for Housing, P.O. Box 523, Americus, GA 31709. You may also make a donation online at **FullerCenter.org**. In-kind donations of food for volunteers, building materials and services are also greatly appreciated.

**Share the message:** Tell your family, friends and colleagues about The Fuller Center and its work. Create a fundraising page. Direct people to The Fuller Center's website. Ask for printed materials to pass out at your office or church. Talk to your church leaders about sponsoring a family or forming volunteer teams. Become a fan of The Fuller Center on Facebook and follow us on Twitter, YouTube & Instagram.

# FULLER CENTER FOR HOUSING TIMELINE OF MAJOR EVENTS

The affordable housing movement started by Millard and Linda Fuller dates back to the late 1960s, but here is a glance at some key moments in the history of Millard Fuller's final ministry — The Fuller Center for Housing.

**February 2005:** After being ousted from Habitat for Humanity, the Fullers — joined by David Snell and Ken Henson — launch The Fuller Center for Housing as a return to the grass-roots, Christian principles they developed decades earlier.

**July 2005:** Home construction begins in Nepal.

**December 2005:** First U.S. homes built in Shreveport, Louisiana. "Building on Higher Ground" initiative fights housing shortage caused by influx of refugees from Hurricane Katrina. Work goes on to transform "hopeless" Allendale neighborhood from poverty-stricken and crime-ridden to neighborhood of choice today.

**2006:** First Millard and Linda Fuller Blitz Build held in Shreveport with 10 new houses built.

**2007:** Work begins in El Salvador. Second Millard and Linda Fuller Blitz Build takes place, again in Shreveport.

**2008:** Inaugural Bicycle Adventure awareness and fundraising ride led by Ryan Iafigliola runs 3,300 miles from San Diego to Savannah. The annual event becomes Fuller Center's most productive annual fundraiser in subsequent years.

**November 2008:** Third Millard and Linda Fuller Blitz Build held in El Salvador. This will be Millard Fuller's final blitz build.

**February 2009:** Millard Fuller dies unexpectedly and is buried at Koinonia Farm. Board votes to continue pursuing Millard's dream of eliminating poverty housing and names David Snell president.

**August-September 2009:** Inaugural Millard Fuller Legacy Build kicks off in his hometown of Lanett, Alabama, with President Jimmy Carter and Morris Dees the keynote speakers at opening dinner.

**2012:** Launch of Save a House/Make a Home program in response to glut of foreclosed and vacant properties in U.S. Initiative takes donated "toxic assets" off hands of banks and property owners and renovates them into like-new homes for families in need — which also boosts communities around them.

**March 2012:** Global Builders program hits 1,000-participant mark on trip to Haiti.

**2013:** With \$300,000 gift from Pink Floyd's Roger Waters and more celebrity support from volunteers including Grammy-winner John Mayer, four-home veterans project completed in Shreveport.

**April 2013:** More than 20 homes repaired during Millard Fuller Legacy Build helping residents of Atlantic City, N.J., who were impacted by SuperStorm Sandy.

**February 2014:** Global Builders program passes 2,000-volunteer mark when 68-member team from Ontario works in Nicaragua.

**June 2014:** Spring Street in Americus, Georgia, renamed "Millard Fuller Boulevard" in event with keynote speakers including President Jimmy Carter.

**July 2014:** Bicycle Adventure crosses \$1 million all-time fundraising mark.

**October 2014:** Completion of 56-home Lambi Village in Haiti.

**April 2015:** Strong earthquake rocks Nepal with epicenter just 30 miles from where Fuller Center is building in Trishuli. The 11 Fuller Center homes built before the quake emerge unscathed, leading to increased efforts in the area.

**June 2015:** Completion of first Lind-A-Hand Build — a one-week women-led blitz in Lanett, Alabama, Millard's hometown.

**January 2016:** Partnership begins with New Story Charity, which will result in more than 250 homes (so far) in El Salvador and Bolivia. More to come!

**August 2016:** Fuller Center awarded highest-level Platinum rating for transparency from charity watchdog GuideStar.

**April 2017:** 20th Habitat for Humanity affiliate in U.S. transitions to Fuller Center, a trend that will accelerate into the present day.

**2018:** More than 1,000 volunteers work during the year with Fuller Center Disaster ReBuilders in Texas, helping families impacted by previous year's Hurricane Harvey.

**May 2018:** Partner established in hurricane-ravaged Puerto Rico.

**June 2018:** President David Snell attends Fuller Center of Armenia's 10th anniversary celebration, honoring organization's most productive building partner with more than 650 families helped into simple, decent homes over the decade.

**July 2018:** Nation's premier charity watchdog Charity Navigator finally evaluates Fuller Center, awarding the highest-level "exceptional" four-star rating.

**December 2018:** Fuller Center ends year with 75 covenant partners across the U.S. and 20 international covenant partners.

**January 2019:** Disaster ReBuilders begin Florence recovery work, establishing a base in New Bern, N.C.

**April 2019:** Fuller Center begins tornado recovery projects in Beauregard, Ala.

**September 2019:** Millard Fuller Legacy Build brings hundreds of volunteers to work in Beauregard, building 11 new Fuller Center homes in one week.