Frequently Asked Questions

- **What is The Fuller Center for Housing?**

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

- **What is The Fuller Center's vision?**

  The United Nations estimates that more than 1 billion people around the world live in substandard housing — including millions in the United States. The Fuller Center for Housing, faith driven and Christ centered, promotes collaborative and innovative partnerships with individuals and organizations in an unrelenting quest to provide adequate shelter for all people in need worldwide.

- **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 for people who are unable to secure adequate housing by conventional means.

  The Fuller Center works in partnership 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 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.

  The Fuller Center is committed to keeping administrative costs low to ensure that the maximum amounts of funds go toward building and repairing homes for people who need them.

  Where are you currently building homes?

As of August, 2008, The Fuller Center has active covenant Partners in 45 communities in the United States. Inquiries come almost daily!

Internationally, The Fuller Center has Covenant Partners in place or forming in Nepal, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, El Salvador, The Netherlands, The Democratic Republic of the Congo, The Republic of the Congo, Australia, the Cook Islands, Peru, India, Armenia, Ghana and Sierra Leone.

How do you choose cities or regions in which to build?

We don't do the choosing – communities that recognize need in their regions approach The Fuller Center to help them address their concerns. The need is great. The Fuller Center will go where we are asked to help.

How can an individual get involved?

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!

1. Volunteer – Individuals committed to building homes can join one of The Fuller Center's upcoming builds taking place in various parts of the country and overseas. You can find a "build" by going online at www.fullercenter.org. Then encourage others to volunteer!

2. Donate - We welcome all donations to be used to fund our programs. Tax-deductible contributions can be mailed to The Fuller Center for Housing, PO Box 523, Americus, GA 31709, or can be made online at www.fullercenter.org. In-kind donations of building materials and services are also greatly appreciated.

3. Spread the Word – Tell your family, friends and colleagues about The Fuller Center and its work. Visit the Fuller Center website at www.fullercenter.org and send them an online postcard. Visit www.millardfuller.com, too. Put a bumper sticker on your car to tell the world about us. Send letters to everyone on your Christmas card list about the work of The Fuller Center and its partners.

4. Prayerfully consider starting a Fuller Center Covenant Partnership or campus program in your community. For more information, contact our Director of Partner Development, Kirk Lyman-Barner at kirk@fullercenter.org or give him a call at (229)-924-2900.

- **What is the role of a Fuller Center Covenant Partner?**

Covenant Partners are local organizations that sign an agreement with The Fuller Center to work in partnership to build or renovate houses for families in need in a particular area.

While a connection with The Fuller Center is of great help to local organizations in terms of expertise, information sharing, training, funding, and name recognition, the real work takes place at the local level, where funds are raised, volunteers are mobilized, families are selected and nurtured, and houses are built or rehabilitated.

- **How are families selected?**

  The criteria for being accepted as a partner family are determined at the local level. Some of our Covenant Partners are focusing on new construction, others are focusing on rehabilitations and promote our Greater Blessing Program, and still others do both new construction and repairs. If you are interested in information on applying for a house for yourself or someone you're concerned about, please look at our website to see if there is a Covenant Partner operating in your community.

  If there is not a group established in your community, prayerfully consider starting one. Engage members of your local church leadership or local contractors and contact us to learn how to launch a Fuller Center Covenant Partnership.

- **Are you a Christian organization?**

  We are! The Fuller Center is an ecumenical Christian organization that bases its work on what Millard Fuller called, "The Economics of Jesus" and "The Theology of the Hammer." We work in partnership with God and men and women around the world as we build God's Kingdom on earth by improving and transforming lives. We gladly invite and welcome volunteers and supporters of all faiths who share our basic belief in giving people dignity by helping them build and own a home.

- **Do you have to be a Christian to be affiliated with The Fuller Center?**

  Absolutely not! We work with people of all faiths who share our basic belief in giving dignity to all by helping them own a home. For example, many of our partners in Nepal are Hindus, and we work with Christians and Buddhists in Sri Lanka.

- **How are you different from Habitat for Humanity?**

  Since both organizations were founded by Millard and Linda Fuller and share the same goal of eradicating poverty housing worldwide, there are naturally many similarities. However, The Fuller Center is different in four key ways:

1. The Fuller Center seeks to empower local organizations, keeping a lean and efficient structure. By keeping salaries and operating expenses at a minimum, we ensure that a high percentage of the money we receive is at work building houses in local communities.

2. The Fuller Center continues the practice of building homes at no profit and charging no interest.

3. We feel strongly that government has a critical role in providing adequate shelter. However, while we gratefully accept government help in acquiring land or installing infrastructure, we do not accept government funds for house building.

4. In its repair ministry, The Fuller Center utilizes a unique repayment method which does not require the home as collateral. This innovation has allowed us to reach out to help the folks who are deemed "too poor to help" by the credit and financial standards of Habitat for Humanity and others.

- **Are you competing with Habitat for Humanity?**

  Absolutely not! More than one billion people live in poverty housing around the world. The worldwide housing situation is so grave that we need Habitat, The Fuller Center, and thousands of other such organizations. And since the need is so great, we believe God will provide enough resources to all these ministries to accomplish God's work.

- **What is the "Greater Blessing Program"?**

  This ministry completes repairs on owner-occupied houses and encourages recipient families to repay the cost of the materials over time, on terms they can afford, without interest and without the use of a mortgage. This gives families the opportunity to experience the *greater blessing* of giving. These repairs bring the house to an adequate, livable condition, allowing the residents to live safely in their own homes for a much longer time, *but without requiring the title to the property as collateral.* We provide payment envelopes in the "Greater Blessings Box," a small, hand-carved wooden box made at Koinonia.

- **Why did Millard Fuller leave Habitat for Humanity?**

  After a successful record of more than 28 years as founder and President of Habitat for Humanity International, the board of directors decided in 2005 that it was time to part ways with its founder and his wife, Linda, due to major differences, primarily about Habitat's vision and operating philosophy. Millard,

along with Linda, continues the mission to eliminate poverty housing around the world through this new organization, The Fuller Center for Housing.

- **Millard Fuller has experienced extraordinary professional success. Former President Bill Clinton said he "literally revolutionized the concept of philanthropy." Why did he form this new organization rather than just retire?**

  Through the dedication of thousands of committed people around the world, Habitat for Humanity sheltered more than a million people in need during Millard's time as its leader. Yet, throughout the world, more than 1 billion people continue to live in poverty housing, and 100 million are homeless. Millard's lifelong mission is to eliminate this shameful situation and he finds great joy in his life's work! Moreover, many people today start over at the age of 70. Millard still water skis, climbs mountains, and loves hiking. He says, "There's nothing in the Bible that tells you to retire to Florida with a fishing pole when you turn 70."