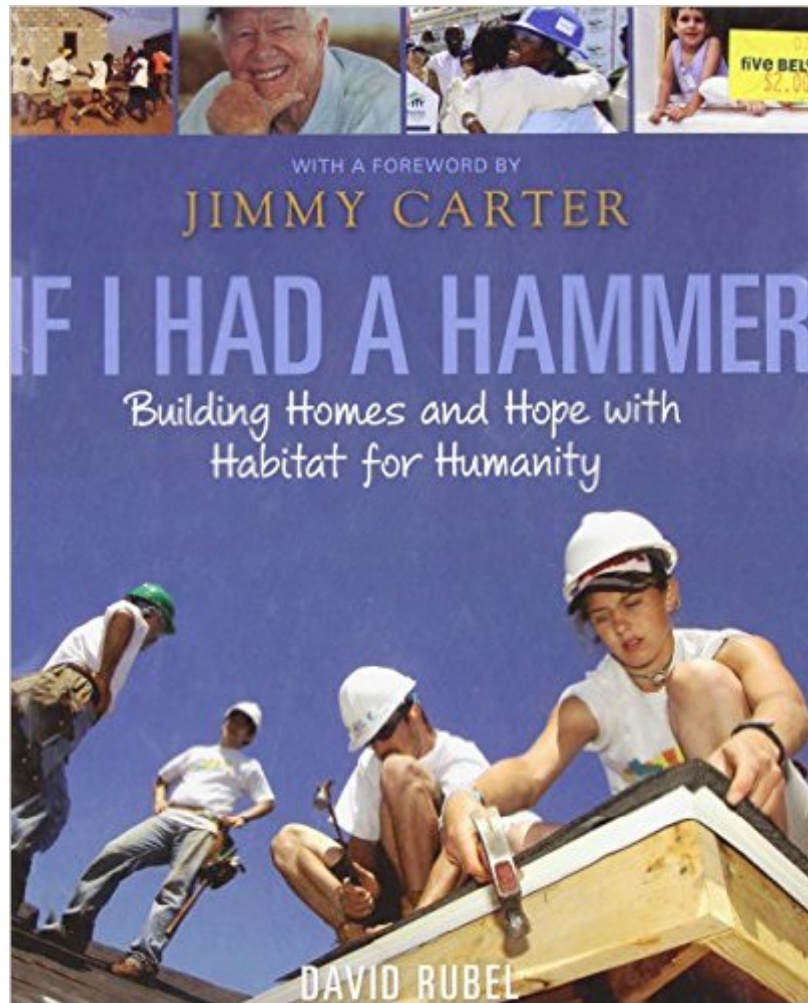


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# If I Had A Hammer: Building Homes And Hope With Habitat For Humanity



## Synopsis

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

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1150L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 160 pages

Publisher: Candlewick; 1 edition (October 13, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0763647012

ISBN-13: 978-0763647018

Product Dimensions: 7.9 x 0.7 x 9.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (8 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,529,459 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #114 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > House & Home](#) #317 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Social Activists](#) #321 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Homelessness & Poverty](#)

Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

## Customer Reviews

What a nice book to inspire our young mission workers who headed off to Tennessee this summer to work on some homes for Habitat for Humanity! Easy to read vignettes and colorful photos plus Jimmy Carter's inspirational words make it a wonderful accompaniment to service projects of all types.

This book is a compelling, affectionate, and easy-to-read introduction to Habitat for Humanity, the US-grown international organization that should be an inspiration to everyone -- and should be known about by every child and teen. The first chapter tells the interesting story of the creation of Habitat, from the early efforts of Millard and Linda Fuller and Clarence Jordan to the momentous involvement of Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter. Then chapters 2 through 6 describe the practical working of Habitat mainly through anecdotes featuring children and teens: why some families need houses and how they are selected by Habitat (chapter 2); why Habitat houses are designed the way they are (for community integration) (chapter 3); why Habitat attracts the volunteers it does (chapter 4); how Habitat houses are built (chapter 5); the benefits of Habitat service for volunteers (chapter 6); how Habitat addresses even such basic needs as those for water and sanitation (chapter 7); and how the Habitat ethos of service might even help to heal social conflict within communities (chapter 8). Please give this stirring book -- to children, libraries, and schools -- to help create the next generation of Habitat volunteers.

As a devoted supporter of Habitat for Humanity and the writer David Rubel, I was very much looking forward to *If I Had A Hammer*--and neither disappointed. What an enjoyable and insightful read! Rubel not only artfully weaves the history of this magnificent organization together in an easy-to-follow way, but he also captures the spirit and joy of the program. It is an inspiring story, and one that children and adults will appreciate. In these challenging economic times, *If I Had a Hammer* will remind you of all the potential out there if we share our talents.

I'm a great believer in the work of Habitat for Humanity, have actually worked as a volunteer on one of their projects in Honduras, so bought this book for my 10-year-old granddaughter upon the recommendation of the Habitat folks themselves. It had been described as a book that would have interest for 9-12 year-olds, and would have "a story line that would be interesting to 10-year-olds." What I found, however, was mostly a rehashing of the kind of publicity writing that appears routinely in the literature that Habitat sends out every now and then, with a mostly adult-level vocabulary, and no noticeable story line, though I must admit I lost interest before reading the whole book. It's a great idea, but they will have to do better to keep the interest of any 10-year-old that I know.

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