

Jim Pate
Executive Director
New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity

New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity (NOAHH) Executive Director Jim Pate began his association with Habitat for Humanity as a volunteer with the Memphis affiliate in 1984. After eight years of service there, he was recruited by Dallas Area Habitat for Humanity as Deputy Director in charge of all administrative functions. Two years later, he was promoted to Executive Director, and under his leadership, the affiliate grew from a 10-home per year affiliate to a 40-home per year affiliate. In 1998, Dallas Area Habitat for Humanity was ranked 6th in the country. During this time, Jim established the first formal prison chapter of Habitat for Humanity, the Hutchins State Jail Chapter, which has since grown and spread, becoming a nationwide initiative called the Prison Partnership Program.

During this time, his work with Habitat went beyond the local affiliates he was working with. In 1996, Jim led a delegation for the pre-building efforts for the first ever overseas Jimmy Carter Work Project (JCWP) in Vacs, Hungary. Three years later, he was asked to manage the General Santos site in Mindanao as part of the JCWP efforts in the Philippines that year, which built 50 homes in four and a half days using over 1000 local and international volunteers. Jim has since worked with many other JCWP projects, including working as a project manager for the Paju site in Korea in 2001 and serving on the international project management team during the blitz build week in Durban, South Africa, in 2002, where over 4000 volunteers and homeowner families built 100 homes in five days.

In May of 1999, Jim stepped down as the Dallas Area Executive Director and worked as an affiliate consultant with Habitat for Humanity International. He also served as a blitz project manager for several affiliates, including the Lubbock, TX, seventeen house blitz and the first two blitz projects for the North Central Texas Habitat Affiliate Council. He helped complete the work of the La Frontera Initiative in the Rio Grande Valley at the request of Habitat International, and soon thereafter was recommended as Interim NOAHH Executive Director in 2000. A year later, he accepted the position on a permanent basis, and once more his leadership was instrumental in directing the expansion of an affiliate as the New Orleans organization grew from a 5-home per year organization to a 10-home per year organization in 5 years.

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina and the federal floods, his experience became even more crucial as he guided the affiliate through exponential growth as a reaction to the increased need in the area. In the nine years since the storm, the affiliate has built over 400 homes, peaking at 95 in 2007. It remained the largest homebuilder in the state of Louisiana for many years, and over 100,000 volunteers have served with the affiliate since then. In 2008, the JCWP--rechristened the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Work Project (JRCWP)--came to New Orleans and the Gulf Coast. Under Jim's leadership, the affiliate has gutted 2400 homes, completed the 77-home neighborhood Musicians' Village and the Ellis Marsalis Center for Music, started new programs including the Habitat Urban Garden Initiative and an A Brush

With Kindness program for exterior home repairs, and contributed over \$300 million in economic impact to the New Orleans area. In 2013, the affiliate celebrated its 500th home built.

As the face of the affiliate, Jim appeared on Larry King Live in 2006, NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams in 2006, and This Old House for 10 episodes in 2008. He received the National Building Museum Honor Award for his role in conceiving and building Musicians' Village, and the St. Martin De Porres Award for "Recovery Heroes" from the Southern Dominican Province in 2012.

Jim also holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Emory University and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Tennessee.