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Habitat for Humanity: An Evaluation of Participants' Feelings about Home Ownership

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HABITAT FOR HUMANITY: AN EVALUATION OF PARTICIPANTS' FEELINGS ABOUT HOME OWNERSHIP

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Habitat for Humanity officially began in 1976 and was founded by Millard Fuller. It is an international social service organization whose main goal is to eliminate inadequate and poverty housing. This goal is achieved by helping low income families acquire their own home through sweat-equity and with the help of volunteer Habitat workers.

The purpose of this portion of the study is to evaluate the Habitat for Humanity project from the perspective of the families who participated. This segment specifically addresses the families' feelings about their experiences after moving into their home.

All twenty-six families in the McLean County area who have been homeowners anywhere from a few months to about ten years were interviewed. Statistical findings indicate that the families feel significantly better about living in their own home. Many other positive aspects about Habitat for Humanity were found such as: higher educational aspirations (for themselves and their children), an increase in overall happiness of their children and an improved outlook on their life.