

ACBHHH

Aluminum Cans Build Habitat for Humanity Homes

Not everyone can drive nails, but our entire community can recycle cans!

**Looking for a way to get involved with Metro Camden Habitat for Humanity?
Wondering how you can help the environment?**

***Then participate in the ACBHHH program and accomplish both at the same time,
because students CAN make a difference!***

Here's how the program works:

1. Collect empty aluminum beverage cans
2. Call 1-888-798-CANS to find an official recycling center near you. You can also look in the yellow pages under "Recycling" to find alternate recycling centers.
*S. Yaffa's Sons 619 Chestnut Street CAMDEN, NJ 08103 Phone: (856) 963-7074
Days/Hours: Monday to Friday 8am to 4pm, Saturday 8am to 11am*
3. Sell your cans to the recycling center.
4. Send your profits to MCHH P.O. Box 3311 Camden NJ 08101
Please include your school/groups name, along with how many pounds of cans you recycled.

Ideas for how to make this a successful activity:

- Hold a "cantest" between classrooms, grades, clubs, etc. to see who can collect the most cans.
- Do a can drive at a sporting event. Challenge the 2 schools to bring in as many cans to the event as they can. Offer reduced admission for x# cans brought in. Announce winning school before end of event.
- Set a goal for your project. Ex. Our school will raise enough cans to purchase 2 windows for a MCHH house. Or, our school will sponsor 2 elementary and middle schools and with our combined efforts we will purchase all the carpet for a MCHH house.
- Raise awareness – make sure participants know why you are recycling cans. You may want to pass out flyers with facts & figures on them at a can drive, educating participants about the need for simple, decent, affordable housing in your community, and how this event can help others in need. (MCHH can provide you with these sources of information).
- Most important thing to remember about the program – setting up a bin is the easy step, maintaining it is the important one. Outside can collection bins can attract pests so you would need to spray the area with bug repellent. Indoor bins must be kept just as clean – rinsing out the cans prior to selling them to a recycling center; changing the bags in the bins; cleaning around the area. Nobody would want to participate in a project that is messy or unattractive.

Get Creative

- Turn your can recycling bins into a mock-Habitat house
- Create a float or mini-house made out of cans to have at events and your official drop-off site.
- Come up with a mascot who can visit elementary schools, hand out flyers, attract attention to your project.
- Have other groups such as the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts to collect cans for you, or service a can collection site.

- Contact locations/events that will generate a lot of cans (raceways, carnivals, circus, etc.) and see if you can set up recycle bins at that event.
- Adopt a park, area, street, or even the MCHH Habitat neighborhood – help mother nature by keeping the area clean, and collect cans at the same time

Advertise

- Write an article for your school paper as to why recycling is important, how your school will be participating in the ACBHHH, what HFH is, what the goal of your project is, recruit interested volunteers to help you with your project.
- Advertise your can collection at local stores so that the community can participate in your can drive as well. Maybe they can put a poster near the soda isle stating where they can drop off their cans and why they should participate in this activity.
- Ask local grocery stores if they would print a advertisement on their receipts or coupon tape, advertising a can collection event with the date, time, location.
- Announce the project or advertise a “Cantest” on the morning announcements
- Contact a local radio station to see if they would make an announcement about your can collection event and telling people when/where to bring all their clean aluminum soda cans to your event.

Go Beyond the Norm

- Challenge a community to fill a recycling truck placed in a parking lot. Students in Gainesville, FL asked a Wal-Mart to host a truck for 12 months.
- Nassau, FL students partnered with an airport to have the food service operators drop cans into a collection bin after flights. The employers of the food service would alert the ACBHHH volunteers when the bins needed to be emptied.
- Create a mascot for elementary schools. Students relate better when a mascot is involved. Do a presentation to the children as to why recycling is important and how the proceeds of the collection will help families in need.
- Ask a teacher who deals with environmental issues to talk about recycling, and maybe integrate a trip to a recycling center to see how the process works.

Spread Out

- Ask local businesses, maybe your parents place of employment, preferably locations with lots of employees (more cans) if you can set up a recycling box in their break room.
- Ask local churches, fire departments, etc. if they could host a Can Drive.
- Ask individuals/families if they would be interested in adopting a bin – a clean bin & area is important!

Visit www.cansforhabitat.org to find out more information on how you can make use of this great FUNdraiser.

*Once MCHH becomes an established affiliate who has an active can recycling program, more opportunities become available to the affiliate, like applying for a grant to help build more homes, so your can recycling can generate more funds than you think.

**MCHH has can collection supplies available for those who wish to obtain a can collection kit.
Please contact Amy at volunteer@habitatcamden.org or (856) 963-8018.**

Fun Facts about Recycling Aluminum Cans

Did you know ... once an aluminum can is recycled it's back on the grocery shelf as another aluminum can in 60 days?

As the use of aluminum grows, it becomes even more important to recycle this reusable resource. In fact, recycling has proven so valuable that it has become a model success story both economically and ecologically. The more knowledge the public is equipped with about recycling, the more educated decisions consumers can make about choosing to recycling aluminum.



These facts will not only inform you of the benefits of recycling, but add fun to your daily recycling too!

- Enough aluminum cans were recycled last year to fill a hollow Empire State Building 24 times
- The 62.6 billion cans recycled last year alone would make 171 circles around the earth at its equator
- Over the past 10 years, the number of aluminum cans recycled has doubled.
- The average employee consumes 2.5 cans of soda each day at work.
- If one company, with 5,000 employees recycled all the cans they consume at work for Habitat, one home could be built a year.
- The aluminum industry pays approximately \$1 billion annually to recyclers. That money alone could help build 22,500 Habitat for Humanity homes a year for families in need.
- Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a television for three hours.
- By using recycled aluminum instead of virgin ore, aluminum manufactures save enough energy needed to supply electricity to a city the size of Pittsburgh for about six years!
- Since 1972 Americans have earned over \$25 billion by recycling aluminum beverage cans.
- If 2,750 households in your community recycle four aluminum cans a day, they can build a Habitat home for a family in need in just one year. That is equivalent to each person in a family of four recycling one can a day!
- Economically, aluminum recycling is helpful to Americans. A used aluminum can returned to a recycling center is worth over a penny to a consumer. Can recycling also created about 30,000 new jobs at recycling centers, aluminum companies and in the transportation support industries.

Additional information can also be obtained from [The Aluminum Association](#).

Top 10 Reasons to Recycle Aluminum

Why recycle aluminum? Recycling saves energy, creates income and helps our economy.

The reasons to recycle aluminum are endless, but these are the Top 10 Reasons to Recycle Aluminum Cans:

10. Because you "Can."
9. You can earn cash for cans.
8. Recycling aluminum uses 95% less energy than making new aluminum. The energy saved can power a TV for three hours.
7. You can help the environment one can at a time.
6. Aluminum is the most recycled beverage container.
5. Once an aluminum can is recycled, it can be part of a new can within 60 days.
4. There is no limit to the amount of times aluminum can be recycled.
3. We use over 80,000,000,000 aluminum soda cans every year.
2. The recycling industry employs tens of thousands of people.
1. ... and the Number #1 reason to recycle aluminum...
Money is donated to build more Habitat for Humanity Homes!

Adding it All Up

Help the environment while also helping to build more homes with those in need. In 1997, a unique partnership between The Aluminum Association and Habitat for Humanity formed *Aluminum Cans Build Habitat for Humanity Homes (ACBHHH)*. The goal of this national program is to recycle aluminum cans to raise much needed funds to build homes with Habitat for Humanity. There are currently nearly 400 affiliates participating in the program, and we grow every day! Money earned from recycling cans is donated to Habitat for Humanity to help build simple, decent houses with families in need.

When recycled, an aluminum can is worth about a penny.

Every penny helps and every can counts!

Amount of cans to collect to buy construction materials for a house:			
1	Can	=	A nail
28	Cans	=	A foot of molding to finish off the bottom of a wall or around a door
175	Cans	=	A 2x4 stud for building a wall
277	Cans	=	A box of staples to secure insulation to the walls
440	Cans	=	A bag of cement for stability
545	Cans	=	A can of expanding insulation to spray in small spaces
768	Cans	=	A sheet of drywall to put on a ceiling or wall
900	Cans	=	The cost of labor per sheet of drywall finishing
1100	Cans	=	A gallon of paint to bring color to a room
1296	Cans	=	A handrail to provide safety on the staircase
1700	Cans	=	A sheet of plywood to build an outside porch floor
2000	Cans	=	A sheet of plywood to build a floor
3000	Cans	=	A pick to dig holes for a fence
4500	Cans	=	A ceiling fan to cool a room
5000	Cans	=	A bedroom door for privacy
7000	Cans	=	A countertop for preparing food in the kitchen
12500	Cans	=	A storm door to keep the cold out of the house
15000	Cans	=	A window for a brighter future
25000	Cans	=	Carpet for a bedroom
30000	Cans	=	A bath tub for taking long, warm bubble baths
70000	Cans	=	A washing machine & dryer to save on trips to the laundry mat
100000	Cans	=	Kitchen cabinets to store food for a healthy meal
300000	Cans	=	Heating system to warm a family's heart and home
500000	Cans	=	Insulation for an entire house
7500000	Cans	=	Builds an entire Habitat for Humanity House