

Partner Ron Franklin Honored at Habitat for Humanity New York City and Westchester's House Party Celebration

Proskauer For Good on **October 23, 2024**

On October 22, Proskauer partner Ron Franklin was honored at the Habitat for Humanity of New York City and Westchester County's 40th anniversary celebration. Ron, a Habitat Board member, is co-head of the Firm's Finance Group and leads the Fund Finance practice. Over the years, he has volunteered around the world with Habitat and has distinguished himself at the Firm and in his community through pro bono work. At the event, Habitat CEO Sabrina Lippman, summed it up well when she noted that, "Ron's dedication goes far beyond funding — he actively volunteers on local build sites and abroad, demonstrating a deep commitment to our cause. As a devoted board member, his thoughtful leadership has been a guiding force, setting a tremendous example of service." Below, we asked Ron to reflect on his work for the organization and the importance of public service.

How did you become involved with Habitat for Humanity?

Back in 2007, I was planning to do some travel. But rather than just traveling as a tourist, I wanted to do something more meaningful. A friend suggested that I look into the Habitat for Humanity Global Village Program and I was inspired by the range of incredible opportunities I saw. Soon thereafter, I did my first of eight overseas builds.

How would you describe Habitat for Humanity to someone who has not heard of it before?

I would describe Habitat for Humanity as an organization that aims to transform communities and change peoples' lives by providing affordable homes to those in need.

What does the organization mean to you?

Habitat for Humanity is a vital part of our community. Having a home and a place where you know you're safe is critically important. I don't know how you can get a good education and take advantage of opportunities if you don't have that baseline safety and security.

Can you describe the dedication ceremony at the end of each build?

At the end of each build, there is a dedication ceremony to present the new home to its new family and celebrate the work of volunteers, donors and other supporters that contributed to the build. Helping people and seeing the smiles on their faces, the tears of joy, the expressed gratitude, and knowing that you have changed lives, is incredibly inspiring.

Why is public service important to you?

I grew up with the belief that you should help those in need. I want to raise my children with the same belief. I certainly hope my sons will follow in my footsteps in this regard - helping others wherever possible.

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