



Habitat
for Humanity®
of the St. Vrain Valley

Beloved Community Longmont



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What is the Beloved Community?



“The Beloved Community” is a term that was first coined in the early days of the 20th Century by the philosopher-theologian Josiah Royce, who founded the Fellowship of Reconciliation. However, it was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., also a member of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, who popularized the term and invested it with a deeper meaning which has captured the imagination of people of goodwill all over the world.

For Dr. King, The Beloved Community was not a lofty utopian goal to be confused with the rapturous image of the Peaceable Kingdom, in which lions and lambs coexist in idyllic harmony. Rather, The Beloved Community was for him a realistic, achievable goal that could be attained by a critical mass of people committed to and trained in the philosophy and methods of nonviolence.

Dr. King’s Beloved Community is a global vision, in which all people can share in the wealth of the earth. In the Beloved Community, poverty, hunger and homelessness will not be tolerated because international standards of human decency will not allow it. Racism and all forms of discrimination, bigotry and prejudice will be replaced by an all-inclusive spirit of sisterhood and brotherhood. In the Beloved Community, international disputes will be resolved by peaceful conflict-resolution and reconciliation of adversaries, instead of military power. Love and trust will triumph over fear and hatred. Peace with justice will prevail over war and military conflict.”

Principles of Nonviolence

Principle One

Nonviolence Is a Way of Life for Courageous People.

- It is not a method for cowards; it does resist.
- It is active nonviolent resistance to evil.
- It is aggressive spiritually, mentally, and emotionally.



Principle Two

Nonviolence Seeks to Win Friendship and Understanding.

- The outcome of nonviolence is the creation of the Beloved Community.
- The end result of nonviolence is redemption and reconciliation

Principle Three

Nonviolence Seeks to Defeat Injustice, or Evil, Not People.

- Nonviolence recognizes that evildoers are also victims and are not evil people.
- The nonviolent resister seeks to defeat evil not persons victimized by evil.

Principle Four

Nonviolence Holds That Unearned, Voluntary Suffering for a Just Cause Can Educate and Transform People and Societies.

- Nonviolence is a willingness to accept suffering without retaliation; to accept blows without striking back.
- Nonviolence is a willingness to accept violence if necessary but never inflict it.
- Nonviolence holds that unearned suffering for a cause is redemptive and has tremendous educational and transforming possibilities.

Principle Five

Nonviolence Chooses Love Instead of Hate.

- Nonviolence resists violence of the spirit as well as the body.
- Nonviolent love is spontaneous, unselfish, and creative.



Principle Six

Nonviolence Believes That the Universe Is on the Side of Justice.

- The nonviolent resister has deep faith that justice will eventually win.
- Nonviolence believes that God is a God of justice.

Steps of Nonviolence

Step 1: Information Gathering

- To understand and articulate an issue, problem, or injustice facing a person, community, or institution, you must do research. You must investigate and gather all vital information from all sides of the argument or issue so as to increase your understanding of the problem. You must become an expert on your opponent's position

Step 2: Education

- It is essential to inform others, including your opposition, about your issue. This minimizes misunderstandings and gains you support and sympathy.

Step 3: Personal Commitment

- Daily check and affirm your faith in the philosophy and methods of nonviolence. Eliminate hidden motives and prepare yourself to accept suffering, if necessary, in your work for justice.

Step 4: Negotiation

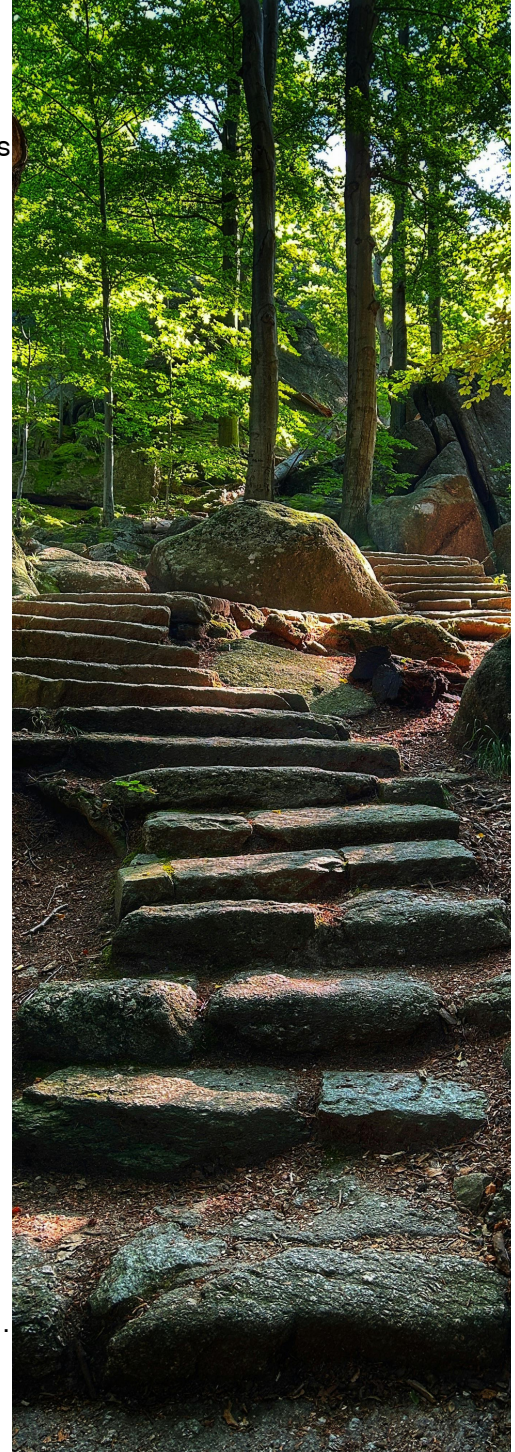
- Using grace, humor, and intelligence, confront the other party with a list of injustices and a plan for addressing and resolving these injustices. Look for what is positive in every action and statement the opposition makes. Do not seek to humiliate the opponent but to call forth the good in the opponent.

Step 5: Direct Action

- These are actions taken when the opponent is unwilling to enter into, or remain in, discussion/negotiation. These actions impose a "creative tension" into the conflict, supplying moral pressure on your opponent to work with you in resolving the injustice.

Step 6: Reconciliation

- Nonviolence seeks friendship and understanding with the opponent. Nonviolence does not seek to defeat the opponent. Nonviolence is directed against evil systems, forces, oppressive policies, unjust acts, but not against persons. Through reasoned compromise, both sides resolve the injustice with a plan of action. Each act of reconciliation is one step closer to the 'Beloved Community.'



Resources for Learning More



Nonviolence 365 Master Class



Strive for Freedom
by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?
by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Walking with the Wind: A Memoir of the Movement
by John Lewis



A More Perfect Union: A New Vision for Building the Beloved Community
by Adam Russell Taylor

Habitat for Humanity of the St. Vrain Valley as a Builder of the Beloved Community

Habitat for Humanity's roots trace back to Koinonia Farm, a place where Black and white neighbors lived, worked, and shared life together—grounded in love and equity. From this foundation grew a vision: that building homes is not just about shelter, but about taking care of one another. A home becomes the starting point for connection, dignity, health, education and community. We believe that thriving communities are built on interdependence—where everyone has a role, and everyone belongs. The Beloved Community is not just our aspiration; it's woven into who we are. Equity is in our DNA. Inclusion is in our DNA. Love is in our DNA. Habitat is bringing the Beloved Community to life, one home, one neighbor, one act of justice at a time.

For 50 years, Habitat for Humanity has been bringing people together to build more than homes—together we build bridges across differences. In a world that often feels divided, Habitat for Humanity of the St. Vrain Valley is committed to drawing upon our history, our strong brand, and proven ability to unite people for this work.

Habitat for Humanity of the St. Vrain Valley aims to **build:**

- **Homes** and advocate for affordable and accessible housing as the foundation of a just society.
- **Partnerships** by bringing diverse groups of people into communication and friendship.
- **Knowledge** of the principles and steps of nonviolence so they can guide our decisions and those of the community.
- An inclusive and diverse **coalition** of community members working to build the Beloved Community in Longmont.

Living the Principles of Nonviolence Speaker Series

Courage



Rita Liu

Understanding



Carmen Ramirez

Justice



***Father Teri
Harroun***

Transformation



***Minister Glenda
Robinson***

Love



***Rev. Dr. David
Barker***

Hope



***Dr. Reiland
Rabaka***

First and Third Tuesdays starting January 20, 2026
Live Audience and Live Streamed

Days of Service

FEBRUARY 14 DR.MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BUILD

MARCH 14 WOMEN BUILD

APRIL 11 SALAM BUILD

MAY 9 BELOVED COMMUNITY BUILD

JUNE 13 NAMASTE BUILD

JULY 11 ALL-ABILITY BUILD

AUGUST 8 HEROES FIRST RESPONDERS BUILD

SEPTEMBER 12 MANOS UNIDAS BUILD

OCTOBER 10 PRIDE BUILD

NOVEMBER 14 VETERANS BUILD

Volunteers 16+ are invited to register for a day on our construction site, building homes.

For questions contact Volunteer Services

303.682.2485 ext. 106 or volunteer@stvrainhabitat.org

www.stvrainhabitat.org/volunteer

Increasing Understanding

Beloved Community Talks

Held the Friday evening before each Build at our ReStore, these talks explore housing-related topics through the lens of different community experiences. Housing is a national crisis, but its impact varies across demographics. These gatherings offer space to learn, share, and seek solutions together.



Beloved Community Tables

Connection starts with conversation. Beloved Community Tables are informal gatherings where people from diverse backgrounds share a meal or coffee. Volunteers choose the location, date, and time—Habitat promotes the event and supports the conversation. Participants cover their own food or drink



Beloved Community Summit

After studying the principles of nonviolence in a community setting, Habitat will hold a summit of committed leaders to co-create the vision of a Beloved Community in Longmont with help from the King Center. This is scheduled for May of 2026.



Join Us

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