



Building Hope

Newsletter of the Warren County Habitat for Humanity

Project Status:

We are just weeks away from breaking ground on the next project, a veteran build on Pleasant Valley Road in Washington. Read on to meet the partner family.

Coming Up:

Save the date, June 3, for the ReStore's Fifth Anniversary Sale and Celebration!!

In Our Partners Section:

WCHFHH proudly supports Pedals for Progress and the impact they have on those in third world countries.

The team at Absolute Home Mortgage Corporation will hold its Fourth Annual WCHFHH benefit on June 6.

Dedication Day!

Their day had finally come! They had waited over a year, and put in hundreds of hours of work, but on a Sunday in March, it all came to fruition. Two Habitat partner families and dozens of well-wishers attended the dedication ceremony for the Port Colden duplex that is now home for a family of six, and a single mother and her son.



"This is an amazing day," gushed Pete, partner Dad of the family of six. "We took a shot in the dark and applied, we weren't sure if we would qualify, but we did. Added his wife Robin, "most surprising is how so many people who don't even know you do things for you. Half the workers I haven't even met and yet they were here every week working on our home."

Tammy, a partner Mom now living on the other side of the duplex, expressed amazement and gratitude. "This is quite a blessing for us. At times, we were staying with different friends or families, on couches, and in basements and spare bedrooms," she emphasized. "Now we have the security of our own space."

Melissa Flynn of the Family Support Committee thanked the Washington Woman's Club and all others who donated housewarming gifts of small appliances, kitchen items and housewares. Dozens of volunteers attended the dedication ceremony. Vic Bozzuffi, Construction Supervisor, was happy that so many members of the build team were able to attend. Construction of the duplex was a new experience for the team as it was a departure from the simple, one story structures they usually build. The complexity of the architecture was necessary to fit in with homes in the neighborhood, but presented quite a challenge for his team.



in Honduras through these efforts."

John Rolak, President of the WCHFHH Board of Directors, officiated. "This is a big day, not only for our partner families, but for our affiliate because we have so many volunteers who contributed to making this day possible," he explained. "These are the thirteenth and fourteenth units we've built here in Warren County. However, through the Christian principle of tithing to Habitat for Humanity International, twenty-six homes have also been built

Ben Eskow, Executive Director, recounted the effort involved in providing decent, affordable homes such as these in Port Colden. "When you're talking about a home like this, there's a lot that gets put into it," he explained. "Plumbers, electricians, roofers, foundation workers, sheet rockers, legal and financial professionals, fundraisers. We get help from churches, outside organizations, donors, sponsors. The list goes on and on. It really takes an army to pull off something like this."

The work of this Habitat affiliate continues, as they plan to break ground in May for a veteran family build. But this day belonged to Tammy, Robin, Pete and the children. Pete summed up the emotions of the day. "It's very, very, exciting. Unbelievable."

Meet the New Partner Family

Warren County Habitat for Humanity would like to introduce its newest partner family into our home building program!



Bob and Heather are the parents of a six year old girl and a one year old boy and currently reside in Washington. Robert is a parts manager at a local auto body shop and Heather is employed at a wildlife refuge.

WCHFHH relies on donations of property on which to build the Habitat homes. This particular property, on Pleasant Valley Road in Washington, was donated with the understanding that the home would be built in partnership with a family which has served its country. Applications were limited to families where a member was either a veteran or an active duty military member of the armed forces.

Heather served six years in the Army National Guard and spent a yearlong tour of duty in Iraq

where she earned eleven awards and medals.

The WCHFHH Family Selection team considers applicants living in inadequate or substandard housing conditions (unsafe, unhealthy, or overcrowded conditions), or expending more than 30% of their gross income on housing. Prospective partner families must have an income that will allow them to make the monthly payments required on the no-interest Habitat mortgage, and other living expenses, but not high enough to qualify for a conventional home mortgage.

They must be willing to fulfill the requirements of Habitat homeownership by putting in the mandatory "sweat equity" hours in the building of their own house, completing 250 hours of work per adult household member (18 and above). And families must have the ability to save money for a small down payment and closing costs, and participate in programs to learn and practice home repair, maintenance, budgeting, and other life skills.

Heather and Bob have met or agree to meet all conditions set forth and have been approved by the WCHFHH Board. We welcome Robert, Heather and the children and look forward to starting this exciting new project!

VOLUNTEERS WANTED!



Habitat for Humanity would simply not exist without its volunteers. And Warren County steps up. Last year, 342 people donated their time to WCHFHH, contributing a total of at least 13,550 volunteer hours!

Right now, we are looking for these specific skills to strengthen our team:

Grant Writer: Organizations providing grants to non-profits require completed application forms, proposals, and narratives explaining the need and how the funds will be used. Strong written communication skills are required.

Public Relations: WCHFHH needs PR content writers, campaign developers, photographers, videographers, and social media enthusiasts to help spread the news about our mission, families, projects and successes.

If you are ready to help out, call the office at (908) 835-1300 #1 and you will be referred to the right person to get you started.

Support the ReStore

The ReStore is Habitat's retail outlet, located at 390 Route 57 West, Washington, NJ, 07882. The mission of the ReStore is to raise funds to help Warren County Habitat for Humanity build homes for qualified local low income families and reduce waste by recycling or reclaiming materials that would otherwise be discarded.

Tax deductible donations of furniture, décor, household goods, building supplies, rugs, appliances, and many other items are prepped and set out for resale to the public.

Proceeds from the retail sales are then used to fund Habitat program expenses such as home construction and rehabs. See what it's all about. Donate, shop or browse at the Habitat ReStore!

ReStore Associates needed: All forms of retail store activities are performed, including loading and unloading, merchandise refurbishment and staging, cashier, floor rep, and maintenance/janitorial.

ReStore Hours

Tuesday: 9-5
 Wednesday: 9-7
 Thursday: 9-5
 Friday: 9-5
 Saturday: 9-5
 Sunday-Monday: Closed

Call: (908) 835-1980

Volunteer Spotlight

Dianne Borgeson, our work site volunteer coordinator, is stepping down from that position. In that role, she was key to informing construction volunteers of schedules and tasks and linking them with the construction manager for an efficient and enlightening build day experience.

Dianne has been involved in this affiliate of Habitat for Humanity since 1998, a year before it was sanctioned by Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI). Recently, Dianne recalled the early days of WCHF. "There was a core group of founders who saw the need for affordable housing in the county and worked with HFHI to test if an affiliate was feasible," she recounted. "They gave us the committee structure. I was the Chairwoman of the Public Relations Committee. They also needed someone to coordinate these diverse teams, and I volunteered to do that. The teams put in a lot of work but it was all worthwhile when we dedicated the first Habitat home in Warren County."

All of us at Warren County Habitat for Humanity value the tremendous contribution she has made and want to extend our best wishes to Dianne. We thank her for her amazing service to the community and to WCHF.

An Awesome Beams & Dreams Evening!

Continuing a tradition that goes back to the earliest days of WCHF, the Beams and Dreams auction event was held on Saturday, April 22nd. This year's version of the signature fundraising event raised the bar for fun and philanthropic support.



Centered around dinner at the Hawk Pointe Golf Club in Washington, the event featured a live auction with rather unusual items, gift basket raffles, a silent auction, and a 50/50 drawing which paid out \$6,000 to the winners. Major sponsors included HFI Truck Center, an anonymous donor, Elizabethtown Gas, Home Instead Senior Care, Investors Bank, and Eii Electrical Contractors. And magician David Morey captivated those in attendance with his

astounding feats of sleight-of-hand.

Ruthann Brown and Kathy Halpin co-chaired the group that planned the evening. This year, sponsors and donors raised a record amount of more than \$36,000 to be used on our veteran build. Ruthann thanked the sponsors and volunteers so integral to the auction's success. "We had major contributions this year from corporate sponsors," she acknowledged. Added Kathy, "Our volunteers pushed to the last minute, selling tickets, getting donations and putting together baskets. It was a great team effort."

The funds come at a particularly timely period this year. "We're hoping to break ground for this veteran build at Pleasant Valley Road in May," explained Ben Eskow, WCHF Executive Director. "Many of the major expenses are front loaded in the build schedule. This gives us a chance to get construction underway almost immediately. Heather and Robert are understandably excited to start working on their new home as soon as possible."

To inquire about helping with future events, call the office at 908-835-1300, #1 and ask for a meeting with JJ Norment, our Resource Development Manager.

WCHFHH Values its Partners and Sponsors

Pedals for Progress As an organization that embodies our mission statement of building communities and hope, Warren County Habitat for Humanity proudly supports Pedals for Progress and the impact they have on those living in third world countries. Their approach, as noted on their website, is simple:



Every year, affluent Americans buy 18 million new bicycles and discard millions of old ones, abandoning many more unused in basements, sheds, and garages. Most of these end up in our already overburdened landfills. Meanwhile, poor people overseas need cheap, non-polluting transportation to get to jobs, markets, customers, and schools.

Pedals for Progress has received, processed and donated over 148,000 bicycles, 3,400 used sewing machines, and \$10.8 million in new spare parts to partner charities in 38 developing countries. Pedals for Progress isn't just donating used bicycles: It's also helping developing world economies by promoting self-sustaining bicycle repair businesses.

Whether you can donate a bicycle, a sewing machine, or funds to help cover shipping, you'll be making a difference in someone's life! Donations may be dropped off at the ReStore.

Absolute Home Mortgage Corporation In the spring of 2014, Manny Rizzuto of Absolute Home Mortgage Corporation in Hackettstown approached Executive Director Ben Eskow, with a proposal to run a golf event benefiting Habitat. Ben agreed to work with AHMC and the first Golf Outing at PVCC was held at Panther Valley Country Club in June of that year.

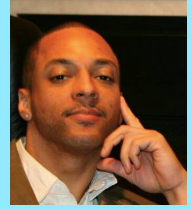


AHMC offers a full line of products and services for business and residential real estate owners. The yearly event they have developed has enjoyed significant support from real estate professionals in the Hackettstown area, many of whom are partners or clients of AHMC. Over the years, the total dollar amount contributed to Habitat has exceeded \$12,000, contributing significantly to the

homes built with the last three Habitat partner families.

Manny, Stephanie Speal, Bob Forte and the rest of the team at AHMC will now host their fourth golf event on June 6th, once again at Panther Valley. If you'd like to support AHMC and Habitat in this effort, please refer to the News & Events page at warrenhabitat.org.

Welcome JJ Norment



Jason (JJ) Norment has accepted the position of Resource Development Manager at WCHFHH. The position coordinates activities designed to raise funds to build Habitat homes.

JJ will be responsible for overseeing the appeals, events, sponsorships, grants, and partnerships which raise the funds for construction.

JJ has previously volunteered on the Beams and Dreams Committee. He is the founder and CEO of Lil' Fruityz, a children-focused company supporting causes such as anti-bullying, autism, and childhood diseases. He brings entrepreneurial experience and passion to this position and will be focused on new and exciting community partnerships.

Welcome to the team JJ! We're excited to have you on board as we continue our work and mission in the Warren County community.

You can help:

We are currently looking to fill several roles relating to fundraising and public relations. If you are interested, please call the Habitat office at (908) 835-1300 #1. You will then be contacted by someone from the team.