



Building Hope

Newsletter of the Warren County Habitat for Humanity

WHAT'S NEW:

Partner Family
Selected

Six Year Anniversary
sale at the ReStore
was a huge success.
June 2nd the entire
store was 50% off,
followed by a 30% off
sale from 6/5 - 6/9

COMMUNITY:

Beams & Dreams
Weekend of Hope
Women Build

PARTNERS:

The National Kitchen
& Bath Association
Absolute Home
Mortgage Corp

PEOPLE:

Comings and Goings

Visit the website at
warrenhabitat.org

Habitat Veterans Build Dedication



In April of 2017, the Warren County Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors selected and approved the partner family for its upcoming build. The family search had been narrowed by the land donor's request that the parcel should be used to house the family of a veteran. Heather Freeman and her children were selected to be the partner family of the home to be built on Pleasant Valley Road in Washington, NJ.

Heather's six-year tour of duty in the Army National Guard, including a year in Iraq, qualified the family to partner with WCHFH on this construction. The WCHFH team applied to Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI) for the project to be part of its Veterans Build Initiative. The application was accepted, ground was broken on June 3rd and the WCHFH Habitat Veterans Build was born. It enjoyed the full support of HFHI and its national Veterans Build Initiative corporate partners.

On Veterans Day, WCHFH honored all veterans with a ceremony at the Habitat Veterans Build work site. Heather was one of nine people on the construction team, all of them veterans, whose service to the community was preceded by their service to the nation.

A crowd of over seventy-five supporters, Veterans, community leaders, homeowner families and friends gathered for the dedication ceremony which was held on Sunday, May 20th for a Veteran family.

Now, with completion of their home, Heather, Zoey and Marshall happily accepted the keys that will officially fulfill their dream of homeownership. "There is so much to be excited about," said Heather. "There are a lot of things people might take for granted. The closet space, the great kitchen layout, a yard and the ability to even have a garden. The kids are excited to have their own rooms."

The family wishes to thank the hundreds of volunteers, donors and supporters who made that day a reality.

Meet the New Partner Family!

On a bright Sunday afternoon, a Groundbreaking Ceremony was held on a parcel of land in Harmony Township donated by Wanda and Dave Osmun, Sr. It was the first opportunity for the WCHFH community to meet the family that will partner with WCHFH to build their Habitat home at that site.



Family Support chair Melissa Flynn introduced the crowd to Nicole Banfield of Alpha. Nicole is a single mother who has lived in Warren County for the past twelve years. Her daughter, Sage, and her son, Giovanni, were also introduced to a gathering of over sixty volunteers, partners and well-wishers.

Nicole, a single mother living in Alpha, is employed at Global Healthcare Management. "I am so thrilled and grateful that Habitat gave us this opportunity," she enthused. Sage attends Warren County Community College and is pursuing a career in healthcare, while Giovanni is a sixth grader at Alpha Public. Nicole's mother, Camille, also attended and presented her daughter with useful gifts to get her started on her year long journey of building their home.

"The selection of this family was confirmed at the Board of Directors meeting, on Wednesday, and by Sunday, they've already put in ten 'sweat equity' hours!" exclaimed Patti-Sue Rolak of the Family Selection Committee. Sweat equity is work that adult family members are required to complete toward construction of their home.

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 WCHFH, contributing a total of at least 13,550 volunteer hours!

We seek to bolster our team with these skills:

Youth Chair

Building relationships with youth by connecting with school, sports or church advisers. Engaging youth in volunteer opportunities.

Family Support Chair

Responsible for liaison and support of the Partner Family, Their advocate on the WCHFH team.

If you'd like to be considered for one of these positions or if you know someone who might be able to help, call the office at (908) 835-1300.

Support the ReStore

The ReStore is Habitat's retail outlet, located at 384 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 volunteers needed: All forms of retail store activities are performed, such as 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

Donations of time and money will ensure that Nicole, Sage and Giovanni take ownership of their home in the spring of 2019. For photos and more info, search for [#HarmonyHabitatHome](#) on Twitter.

New Partnership! WCHFH and the NKBA!

WCHFH has entered into a partnership with the National Kitchen and Bath Association. The NKBA is the world's leading trade association for the kitchen and bath industry. It provides tools, research, certification, and events to thousands of professionals. The trade association is headquartered in Hackettstown.

At a ceremony on Sunday, April 22nd, ground was broken on the next WCHFH build in Harmony Township. Nicole Banfield was introduced as the Partner Mother for the Habitat Harmony home.



Jason Solomon, Senior Manager at the NKBA, addressed the gathering. "We're super excited about partnering with Habitat for Humanity of Warren County on this project," he began. "We have a vision where everyone has access to safe, beautiful and efficient kitchen and bath spaces. And because of this

project, we'll get a chance to live that vision."

Each year, the NKBA supports students through its Student Design Competition. The program promotes growth and experience for the students. This year, the NKBA has agreed to make the design of the kitchen and bath of the Harmony Habitat home the focus of their competition! While that's great news for the students, it's even greater news for Nicole. She will be a part of the team that selects the winners.

In addition to offering the student competition, the NKBA supports its professional members. One example is the network of peers, tools and resources it offers, all designed to support professional growth. Most of the students will have no or little professional experience. Therefore, the NKBA will provide mentors.

Two celebrity designers will support the students. That support will be provided by Jennifer Bertrand and Chip Wade (see photo). Jennifer and Chip can be seen on their HGTV programs, “Paint-Over” and “Curb Appeal: the Block”, respectively.

Track progress of this project by searching for [#NKBAandHabitat](#) on Twitter.

Beams and Dreams 2018 Raises over \$30,000!

If you attended the third annual Beams & Dreams event on Saturday, April 21st, you participated in a very successful and timely event. Beams & Dreams is the signature fundraising event for WCHFH, and it preceded by one day the groundbreaking of home number sixteen for the affiliate.

Once again, Kathy Halpin and Ruthann Disotell co-chaired the group that planned the evening at the Hawk Pointe Country Club in Washington. The evening featured dinner, a silent auction, gift basket raffles, a live auction with exceptional items and experiences, and a 50/50 drawing which paid out \$6,000 to the winners.



Major event sponsors included HFI Truck Center, Elizabethtown Gas, Home Instead Senior Care, Brandt Box and Paper Company, and the John Johnson Automotive Group.

Entertainment was provided by ventriloquist Taylor Mason. Mason and his puppets brought meaning to the evening’s objective, which was to “raise the roof with laughter.”

Kathy and Ruthann gave credit to the team of dozens of volunteers who solicited donations, sold event and raffle tickets, and to all who gave their time to make the night a successful event. “They donate many hours, especially during the last few weeks and their efforts are greatly appreciated,” she noted. “And to see the end result of their efforts and the great start this gives to the construction team is very fulfilling for them, and for us,” she concluded.



Ben Eskow, WCHFH Executive Director, highlighted the timeliness of the event. “We’re actually breaking ground tomorrow for our next home construction in Harmony,” he explained. “The sponsors and donors have been very generous tonight. The proceeds from this event will allow us to proceed with confidence at this critical time of the construction cycle,” he continued.

Ben offered a sincere “thank you” to all who made this event a resounding success!

HHW Weekend of Hope, June 23rd thru 25th

Another successful Day of Help!

On April 28, 2018, thirty-five volunteers collaborated to clean and make small repairs to nine homes in Warren County. Thank you for the wonderful response from the WCHFH volunteer brigade! Fifty+ leaf bags were filled, three Smoke and one CO Detector were installed, and six smoke detectors received new batteries. In all, three hundred and fifteen volunteer hours were manned! Both homeowners and volunteers experienced blessings throughout the day.

Hope in the Hills offers a second opportunity to volunteer, the Weekend of Hope, June 23rd - 25th. Volunteers, age fourteen and older, are needed to work on resident homes within the Warren Hills sending district in southern Warren County, NJ. The Weekend of Hope is for minor home repairs such as painting, porch / deck repair, yard work and other small projects.

The following fees will cover the cost of Friday's dinner, Saturday's breakfast, snacks and a t-shirt. \$10 students / \$20 adults.

Hope in the Hills of Warren, a community extension of Warren County Habitat for Humanity, seeks to improve the living conditions of the elderly, low-income and disabled persons within the community.

Spotlight: Women Build



Warren County Habitat for Humanity
Women Build 2018



[National Women Build Week](#) is a Habitat for Humanity program that encourages women nationwide to devote at least one day to help build decent and affordable housing in their local communities. This year, Women Build week was celebrated by WCHFH volunteers at the home under construction on Pleasant Valley Road in Washington.

Thirty women participated in the event, painting doors and trim, landscaping the yard, and providing general cleanup at the site. "It was heartwarming to see so many women show up, work hard and support our partner family," related Sue Eiler, one of the event organizers. "A special thanks," she continued, "to

Lowe's for their donation and to the Lowe's employees who generously volunteered their time to help. Every time they drive by this house, they can look at the beautiful lawn and know that they helped to create a special place where our partner family will spend years together making good memories."

If you'd like to know more about how you can help promote affordable housing in Warren County, call the office at (908) 835-1300.

Pedals for Progress



WCHFH supports Pedals for Progress by supplying bikes and sewing machines. The ReStore collected and donated 60 bikes, 34 sewing machines, and covered the shipping costs as well. This collection has been sent to Vietnam and Guatemala to improve transportation, educational, employment and healthcare opportunities.

WCHFH is excited to partner with The Chess Club at Warren Hills High School "to supply economic development aid by recycling bicycles and sewing machines in the U.S. and shipping them to the

people of the developing world." Bikes, sewing machines and financial donations are accepted year round at the ReStore, 384 Route 57, Washington NJ. Consider giving so others can broaden their opportunities. Please make donation checks payable to "Pedals for Progress."

Upcoming Events

June 12th. Absolute Home Mortgage Corporation Benefit Golf Event. For the fifth consecutive year, AMHC will host a golf event at Panther Valley Golf Club for the benefit of the WCHFH construction fund. Golf donations are \$160 per golfer or \$600 per foursome. For more information, contact: Daniella Rizzuto, 973-407-0139, drizzuto@amhcloans.com or visit the AHMC website at www.golfouting2018.weebly.com

June 23rd thru 25th. Weekend of Hope.

August 11th. Oakwood Lanes in Washington will be hosting a Bowling Event to support WCHFH. Call 908-835-1300 for information.

Comings and Goings

Warren County Habitat for Humanity welcomes **David Dempski** as the newest Board member. David, his wife and three children reside in Washington Township. David served on the Washington Township Committee, including three terms as mayor and previous service on the township Land Use Board. David was active in the Washington Township Youth Association for ten years as an officer, sports director, and coach. He is currently involved with the Warren County Agriculture Development Board.

"Home ownership is a foundation of the American Dream and creates a powerful connection to the community. Habitat for Humanity makes the dream a reality. Being able to help make the dream real presents an exciting opportunity to be involved. I would like to get involved on the Board, contribute to the strategic vision, and help build homes." – David Dempski.