



BUILDING HOPE

Warren County Habitat for Humanity Newsletter 1st Quarter 2022

Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities, and hope.



Veterans Honored at WCHF Community Center

Warren County Habitat for Humanity hosted a Veterans Day luncheon in recognition and appreciation of the Veterans within our community. As part of the event, Rick Houston, a retired Veteran of the U.S. Navy and our Habitat Veteran partner for our Veteran Build in Pohatcong Township, spoke to the attendees about what it means to him to be a Habitat partner. Rick also drew the winners of the Veterans Build 50/50 raffle. The proceeds of this fund raiser go directly to supporting the building of his new home.

Our 1st prize 50/50 Winner is George Januzzi, 2nd Prize Winner is Alicia Allen, and 3rd Prize Winner is Jennifer Knittel. Congratulations to our winners! Thanks to all who helped by purchasing tickets and helping with event preparations.



More photos on page 7.
All photos on this page by Cathy Miller.



BUILDING HOPE

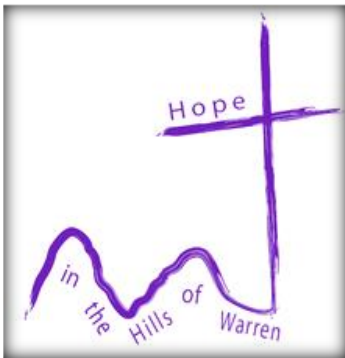
Warren County Habitat for Humanity Newsletter 1st Quarter 2022

This is a quarterly publication. Submit your news and photos to lorijo.jamieson@gmail.com. Thank you!

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2022 Hope in the Hills Event Being Planned for May 14 and 15 - Homeowner Applications Being Accepted Now!



Hope in the Hills of Warren is a community extension of Warren County Habitat for Humanity, seeking to improve the living conditions of the elderly, low-income and disabled persons in our communities. For qualified homeowners, Hope in the Hills helps alleviate the burden of worrying about small tasks and safety concerns left unaddressed. As teenage volunteers learn technical skills and engage with their neighbors in need, Hope in the Hills continues its mission of building a community where God’s love is put into action.

In 2021, HHW sponsored a Weekend of Hope for minor home repairs, with labor and materials free to qualifying households. Work was undertaken by volunteer teams of teenagers and adults, representing many Christian denominations and different community organizations. A total of 63 volunteers [45 adults, 18 youth] provided 726 volunteer hours over the 2 days, completing 64 tasks at 20 locations/homes.



For 2022, a similar event to that undertaken in 2021 is being planned for the weekend of May 14-15, 2022. We are all still facing very uncertain times and have many questions and concerns regarding the Coronavirus pandemic. A priority for Hope in the Hills has always been safety. For the well-being and safety of homeowners and our volunteers, we again have made the decision to only tackle external tasks [painting, yardwork, minor external repairs] during the Hope in the Hills event being planned for 2022.



Hope in the Hills of Warren is a chapter of Warren County Habitat for Humanity. WCHFH is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, building homes for qualified families in need in Warren County.

Our Mission Statement: Seeking to put God's love into action, Hope in the Hills of Warren brings youth and adults together to restore homes, community, and hope.

[Click here for a 2022 Homeowner Application Form](#)

Homeowner applications may be submitted up to and including March 15, 2022.

QUESTIONS? You may call the Habitat for Humanity office at (908) 835-1300 - Monday through Friday, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. You can send an email to hopeinthehillsvolunteers@gmail.com. We are also on **Facebook** (Hope in the Hills of Warren) and **Instagram** (hhw.hopehills).



The foundation has been laid for the Stefano Build on Beidleman Road! Photos from December 2021, and Tuesday, January 4th. A huge thank you to Northeast Precast and Superior Walls for your diligence and dedication!

Warren County Habitat for Humanity Receives Generous Support from Visions Federal Credit Union, T-Mobile, State Farm, Home Depot - The past two months have brought Warren County Habitat for Humanity (WCHFH) an incredible amount of community support. From grants to donations, Warren County Habitat has received tremendous support from its Annual Appeal consisting of dozens of small donations from the local community. Support was also realized from Visions Federal Credit Union (Visions), T-Mobile and State Farm in the form of significant grants.



Representatives from the local Visions branch surprised Warren County Habitat on December 9th, 2021 with a check for \$10,000.

Visions Federal Credit Union - Visions announced in December that they would be donating a total of \$100,000 to various Habitat for Humanity affiliates across New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. This effort was a part of their inaugural “Big Give” campaign, where Visions donates a large amount to organizations that focus on community service. Warren County Habitat for Humanity was one of the ten recipients of the gift and is incredibly grateful for the opportunities it will open to them.

T-Mobile Hometown Grant - In late December, WCHFH was one of the first national recipients of a T-Mobile “Hometown Grant.” The purpose of this grant was to help finish construction on the Warren County Community Center, which has been an ongoing project since 2017. The idea for the first ever Community Center constructed and operated by Habitat for Humanity was born of the need for support services that embrace low- to moderate- income families. Paid for completely with donations and support from the local community, our beautiful community center will serve Veterans, children and low income families from Warren County.



Representatives from T-Mobile presented a check for \$50,000 to Warren County Habitat representatives on December 16th, 2021.

State Farm representatives Rod and Erin joined WCHFH at the ReStore on January 11th, 2022 for a day of volunteerism and to present a check for \$5,000. They eagerly assisted ReStore employees and volunteers on their day of service by organizing and moving furniture, restocking hardware and organizing donated clothing items. State Farm’s day of service was prompted by a grant awarded to WCHFH to go toward their Critical Home Repair program. Aside from building homes from the ground up, WCHFH’s Critical Home Repair program is essential for ensuring that those who already have their own homes in Warren County remain safe and healthy.



Home Depot - Warren County Habitat for Humanity was a grateful recipient of “Operation Surprise”, Home Depot’s annual program that gifts money to

local non profits. These funds came to us from the Home Depot in Phillipburg. In addition to a \$1,000 check, they also gifted us a brand new dishwasher for the community center.



Warren County Habitat for Humanity relies on community support to implement and grow each of their programs. To learn more, visit www.warrenhabitat.org or call our office at 908-835-1300. To volunteer, complete a volunteer survey on our website for the program(s) you’re interested in. You’ll then be contacted by our Volunteer Coordinator.

The Stefano Home Groundbreaking Ceremony - December 4, 2021



Ben Eskow, Executive Director



Cara Vega, WCHFH Family Relations Chair, shares stories about Amber, Donna and Steve's journey to becoming a Partner Family.



Donna's friend Marilyn presents a cheery gift.



Amber and friend share the excitement of the event.



Jean Spann from Warren Garden Club presents a plant to Donna.



A dedication prayer is led by Pastor Peter Jamieson.



And Pugsley calmly observes it all!



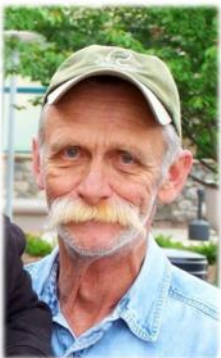
Grab those "golden" shovels: "Ready, Set, Throw!"



Since the Groundbreaking, work has begun. Thanks to these amazing volunteers for sharing their time and talents in so many important ways!

Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build hope: Ruthann and Tom's Story

They were looking at divorce papers. The loss of his job during an economic collapse left Tom in a state of depression, wondering who would hire a sixty-year-old with no computer skills. His encampment on the couch left Ruthann to keep the boat afloat with per diem funeral work as a life celebrant with her firm, Celebration of a Lifetime. Knowing she would not be successful in meeting this need solo, and believing pride would keep Tom from seeking help, Ruthann moved to an apartment in Washington where she could afford to support herself and wait for him to hit bottom.



Tom finds a new sense of purpose and a new life at WCHFH

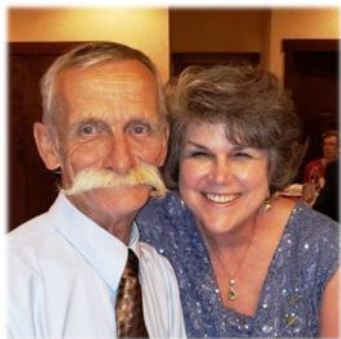
A year later, he was still stuck. Ruthann made a plan to move to Arizona to live with her son, but God had other plans. The two ended up in a marriage retreat, where Tom pleaded, "God, I'm broke. I can't fix me. Can You fix me?" Seeing a light at the end of the tunnel, they began dating.

It was then that Warren County Habitat for Humanity called him and asked if he would be willing to volunteer as a second man on the donations truck. The driver came to the house to pick up Tom, they made their rounds, unloaded at the ReStore, and he was given a ride home. His life began to have purpose. This volunteerism helped him to make new friends who were sincere in wanting the best for him. Eventually, he would finally renew his driver's license and get his own truck back on the road.

As time passed, Tom was offered a paid position working in the loading/unloading area. When there was an opening for Donations Coordinator, he offered to try to fill the void. That's when someone noticed Tom's people skills in answering the phone. He had a congenial, helpful manner that was just what Habitat needed. This post offered him his own desk and a computer, on which he began learning about email and spreadsheets. Habitat even sent him to Warren County Community College to learn more about the program, Excel.

Tom was at the ReStore when it transitioned to its current location, and is the ReStore's second longest-running employee, behind Brian Schubert. Everyone knows the man with the magnificent handlebar mustache and a twinkle in his eye. He can be found at his desk in the front of the store or out back adding some muscle to loading and unloading vehicles.

Crediting the ReStore for saving Tom's life, Ruthann wanted to give back, and stepped up when the annual fundraiser needed a chairperson. She coerced her friend, Kathy Halpin, to co-chair and they brand-



A new Tom and Ruthann, at a banquet where she was awarded Warren County Businesswoman of the Year.

ed a new super-event known as Beams & Dreams. For 6 years, they have worked to raise funds for WCHFH by offering dinner and a show, a 2-level tricky tray, a live and silent auction, and a 50/50, garnering over \$30,000 each year. Ruthann has also created advertising slideshows for the ReStore, worked on a Women Build project and has served as Chair of Faith Relations Committee, gathering area pastors together for Pastor Appreciation Month.

Ruthann continues to work, writing and presenting personalized biographical funerals at the location of the family's choice through www.celebrationofalifetime.com. She also lectures on funeral service and sells her own oak leaf memorial pin (www.oaktags.com), representing the family tree, to funeral homes across the country.

The house in the beginning of this story did not survive the challenges of this marriage, but with the help of prayer and opportunity through Habitat, the people in that house not only survived the storm but are thriving. Ruthann says, "I like this guy more than the one I said, 'I do' to!" Tom and Ruthann celebrated their 30th anniversary last October. ~ by Ruthann Disotell



Ruthann emcees Beams & Dreams in 2015

Warren County
Habitat for Humanity®
ReStore



Shop. Donate. Volunteer.

384 Rt. 57, Washington, NJ 07882
908-835-1980

ReStore Shopping Hours:

(Closed Sunday & Monday)

**Open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
& Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.;**
Wednesday: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**Join Our Rewards Member Program
& save even more money!**

- For every \$200 spent get **\$5 off** your next purchase.
- Receive notifications of **upcoming sales** via email
- Receive 10%, 15% or 20% off of all purchases every 2nd Thursday of the month.



Not yet a member? Sign up for free by filling out a card at the register!
Next Rewards Member Discount Days: FEBRUARY 10 - MARCH 10

Donations Drop-off Hours:

(Closed Sunday & Monday)

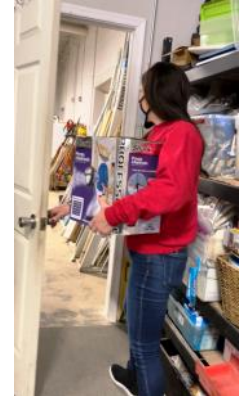
Tuesday through Saturday 9:30- 2:00

No appointment necessary, just drive around back. We will help you unload!

Have a donation in mind but not sure if we'll accept it? Please email photos to: donations@warrenhabitat.org

To schedule a truck pickup, please call 908-835-1980

State Farm Supports the ReStore! We had so much fun working at the ReStore with Erin and Rod from State Farm Insurance on January 11th. Thanks so much to State Farm for their generosity. Their gift of \$5,000 will help with our Critical Care Program. Thank you for supporting the program that builds homes and hope!



Erin and Rod from State Farm pitch in and help unload and organize donations at the ReStore.



Remember, you don't have to lift a hammer to help build homes!



Consider spending your decorating dollars at the ReStore! See our newest inventory on Facebook: www.facebook.com/WCHFHStore.

ReStore Volunteers require no special skills and may fit their hours to their own schedule. Walk-ins are welcome! Positions Include: General help, retail store activities including loading and unloading merchandise, refurbishment, staging, cashier, floor rep, and maintenance/janitorial.

For more information, please call 908-835-1980.

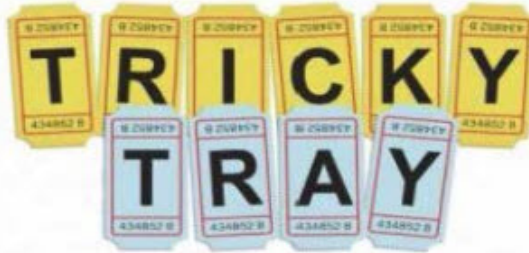
Truck Driver Position - A valid driver's license and a "clean" driving record for the past three years is required. CDL is not required. The vehicle is an automatic box truck. Driver must be able to lift and load up to fifty pounds. This position is responsible for the pick-up of merchandise from donors, safely packing the merchandise in the ReStore truck, returning to ReStore and unpacking merchandise. Driver must ensure donors and customers are given excellent customer service at the ReStore. Part-time, \$13 - \$15 / hour. **For more details, call 908-835-1980 or visit <https://www.warrenhabitat.org/job-opportunities/>**



More 2022 Warren County Habitat for Humanity Veterans Day Celebration, Luncheon and 50-50 Drawing Photos



Photos by Cathy Miller and Lori Jo Jamieson



Saturday, April 9, 2022

Warren County Technical School
1500 Route 57, Washington, NJ 07882

Tickets sold only at the door

Admission \$20

(Includes 2 sheets of Level 1 tickets)

Doors open @ 5pm

Calling begins @ 7pm

Must be 18 or older to attend

Bring your own food/drink – NO ALCOHOL

❖ **2 levels of prizes**

❖ **50/50 raffle**

❖ **Door Prizes**

For additional information, please email: ReStore@warrenhabitat.org