

BUILDING HOPE

Warren County Habitat for Humanity Newsletter 2nd Quarter 2022

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



Hope in the Hills of Warren: Weekend of Hope

May
14-15,
2022



Volunteers Needed!

Join us for a rewarding opportunity to serve your local community! Bring friends, sports teams, church groups and family for a life changing experience.

Projects can include:

Window washing, gutter cleaning, minor porch or deck repair, yard cleanup, and small outdoor cleaning or repair jobs.



Visit warrenhabitat.org >
Programs to sign up!



All volunteer community service hours will be certified by WCHFH and Hope in the Hills.

Youth and Adult Applications are available for download or to complete online at <https://www.warrenhabitat.org/programs/hope-hills-warren/> (scroll page)

All applications must be received by May 1, 2022

QUESTIONS? Call WCHFH office at (908) 835-1300, #10 - Monday through Friday, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm., or send an email to hopeinthehillsvolunteers@gmail.com.

Progress Update in Pictures - the Stefano Home



Photos by Cara Vega

Habitat for Humanity helps refugees on the move from Ukraine and those in need of shelter

WARSAW, Poland (April 5, 2022) — As millions of refugees flee violence in Ukraine, Habitat for Humanity continues responding in neighboring Poland, Romania, Hungary and Slovakia to help meet the shelter needs of both families on the move to other destinations and those seeking a place to live for at least the next few months.

In Romania, where many refugees are transiting through the country to other parts of Europe, Habitat for Humanity has secured hotel accommodations for more than 1,000 refugees and is distributing 3,000 emergency travel kits. Habitat Romania has given out the kits, which include power banks, at two border crossings and is now focusing on distributions at the Bucharest train station.

Habitat for Humanity Poland, meanwhile, is operating a housing help kiosk at one of Warsaw’s main transit stations through a partnership with the city, matching refugees with mid-term accommodations listed in a city database of 4,000 households willing to host families as well as apartments and homes secured through other means. Habitat Poland’s ReStore in Warsaw furnishes units where Habitat is placing refugees while also acting as a source of furniture, bedding and household supplies for host families who have opened their homes to displaced families. From its transit station kiosk, Habitat Poland also helps refugees who are moving on to other locations by covering hotel stays so they can regroup and prepare for the next leg in their journey. But even as we meet refugees’ immediate shelter needs, Habitat is coordinating closely with government officials and partners to find mid- and long-term housing solutions.



“The people of Europe have been incredibly generous in opening up their homes to refugees,” said Rick Hathaway, Habitat’s vice president for Europe and the Middle East. “But we know cities such as Warsaw are filling up and thousands of additional refugees are arriving from Ukraine daily. So Habitat for Humanity is looking several months down the road and identifying what must be done now to meet that critical future need.”

Habitat Poland, for instance, is offering housing and construction expertise to governments and other partners to explore the feasibility of repurposing so-called empty spaces such as unused schools and factories that can serve as shelter for refugees. And in Warsaw, Habitat plans to expand a “social rental program” it piloted with the city over the past four years. The rental program acts as a mediating agent, leasing units and then renting them at affordable rates to tenants who can’t afford the free-market rates. Habitat ensures rents are paid and that units are returned in a condition no worse than at the beginning of the lease. We are now tailoring the program for refugees, who will need a larger subsidy at the outset as they look for jobs and grow more integrated into communities. And we plan to share the model with other cities in Poland that may want to create their own social rental agencies.

Habitat Hungary, meanwhile, is facilitating transitional accommodations of refugees in and around Budapest, helping mediate between landlords and refugees, including legal agreements for use of the apartment, as well as translation services and transportation. Habitat expects to manage 100 rental units in the city that can accommodate families for six months or more.

Habitat has addressed shelter needs in Central and Eastern Europe since 1992, working in Poland since 1992 and in Romania and Hungary since 1996. Habitat’s regional offices for Europe and the Middle East are based in Slovakia.

Those who wish to support Habitat’s disaster response efforts in the countries bordering Ukraine and other communities around the world can donate to our [Disaster Response Fund](#).



Contact: Erika Boyce
Habitat for Humanity International 404-420-6732
newsroom@habitat.org www.habitat.org/newsroom



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.

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

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

- For every \$200 spent
get \$5 off your next
purchase.
- Receive notifica-
tions 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 the next time you're in!



Time really does fly when you're having fun!

Save the Date & Help Us Celebrate!

Our 10th Anniversary Sale is happening on

Saturday, May 21st

9am to 5pm

**EVERYTHING
IN THE STORE IS**

**50%
OFF**

**Metal & Clothing
Drop-off**

**Refreshments
for Sale**

50/50 Raffle



Child ID by
Warren County
Prosecutor's Office

**Washington
Fire Department**



pedals for progress™
Putting used bikes to good use

This Quarter's Rewards Member Discount Days Are:

APRIL 14th - MAY 12th - JUNE 9th

Pick a discount card to reveal

10%, 15%, or 20%

off your purchase.*

**Not redeemable for cash. Must be used at time of purchase.
Must be a rewards member to receive discount.*

**Rewards Member Discount Day is always the
2nd Thursday of every month.**

Habitat for Humanity in Warren County Promotes Long-Time ReStore Supporter and Volunteer to General Manager

By TAPINTO PHILLIPSBURG STAFF Published March 24, 2022. Reprinted with permission.



Michael Chobot, New General Manager at the ReStore.

(photo by LJ Jamieson)

WARREN COUNTY, NJ - Warren County Habitat for Humanity is proud to announce the promotion of Michael "Scrappy" Chobot to General Manager of the ReStore located in Washington NJ. Mr. Chobot is a long-time volunteer of Warren County Habitat, having been with the organization for ten years. He can be seen reorganizing the entire ReStore and on the truck picking up ReStore donations. Mr. Chobot's son, Michael Jr., is a proud Habitat for Humanity homeowner as of this past October. Warren County Habitat for Humanity has helped to change the lives of the Chobot family, but because of Mr. Chobot - Warren County Habitat itself has transformed.

Michael Chobot first got involved with Warren County Habitat ten years ago when he walked through the doors of the ReStore, simply looking to shop. At the time, he had been searching for a hands-on project he could do with his son to serve the local community. When Warren County Habitat Executive Director Ben Eskow mentioned a need for help picking up donations, Michael felt this was where he and his son were meant to serve.

When speaking of his team of employees and volunteers at the ReStore, Mr. Chobot says, "we're doers, we get things done. There were a lot of times over the years where a lot of people said we couldn't do something, like challenging donation pickups, but we overcame. When there's a problem, the Habitat team will find a solution."

Michael brings plenty of retail, business, recycling, and furniture/equipment experience to Warren County Habitat. Since joining Habitat, he has helped reorganize the store, change its overall look, and has brought a new outlook to management. The ReStore is run as a team effort; Michael makes a point to involve and consider ideas from each employee and volunteer. "Our motto is to serve as a 'we' and not a 'me'," he says.

"Scrappy always brings an energetic perspective wherever he goes," Executive Director Ben Eskow commented. "He's devoted so much to Habitat over the years, that it was clear he was the one for the job."



Grand Opening Fundraiser Saturday, May 7th, 3 pm to 6 pm

384 Rt 57, Washington, NJ 07882

We're located inside The Chapel, right next to the WCHFH ReStore

**Entertainment by Chiz Rider, Doug Miller
Hours d'oeuvres and Desserts**

**Suggested Donation: \$10. Register by text or phone
at 908-310-0116 or online at Communityblend.org**

Community Blend is a new faith-based, non-profit organization. Our goal is to provide a warm, friendly atmosphere where people can find respite, a place to work remotely, or gather with friends. Free Coffee. Wi-Fi, snacks, books.

We are open on Good Friday, April 15th. Have some coffee/tea and a specialty dessert. Sanctuary open for quiet time. Come reflect, rest, renew. "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28

On Saturday, March 26th, when neighbors left for work, there was nothing but a foundation on this site.



By noon, Rick Houston's modular home was standing tall!!! Thank you to [LDM Homes](#) for making this project the huge success that it is. We can't wait to put the finishing touches on it and welcome Rick to his new home!



Last Saturday, a work crew cleaned up the property, filling a dumpster with demolition and construction scraps. At right is an official crew coffee break shot!

It's Official! WCHFH's Community Center is OPEN!



Ribbon Cutting was officiated by Mel Thiel, Executive Director Washington BID. Ben Eskow, WCHFH Executive Director did the official cutting.

On April 6th, WCHFH's Community Outreach Director, **Jason Norment**, welcomed a large, enthusiastic crowd gathered to celebrate the long-anticipated Grand Opening of the Community Center in downtown Washington. Speakers included WCHFH Board President, **Donna Detrick**, who gave us a history lesson of the building, including vintage maps and photos. Board Vice President, **Kathy Halpin** told us about the building's more recent uses, with **Chris Motzenbecker** Construction Supervisor thanking everyone for their hard work and commitment to the vision.

No event would be complete without a rousing, inspirational message from WCHFH's Executive Director **Ben Eskow**. He gazed out over the group, saying "just taking you all in. .. we're looking at this as a lighthouse and as a beacon of hope." He reminded them of the Community Center's goal: "to provide a place of purpose where the community gathers together to learn, grow and thrive."



Special speakers praised the project's outcome and complimented the super team. Speakers included **Ethel Conry**, Deputy Mayor of Washington Borough; **Bob Adams**, President Hackettstown & Newton Medical Centers and Senior Vice President at Atlantic Health System, and **Shari Leone**, Community Development Liaison for Visions Federal credit Union. Also present in the audience was **Todd Fox**, Habitat for Humanity International Consultant

After **Okaysions Katering's** tasty lunch, many people lingered to socialize, share inspiration and ideas, and just enjoyed spending time together in the beautiful venue. Tours were conducted for anyone interested in viewing the building's several spaces available for rent.

The team at Warren County Habitat for Humanity is overwhelmed by the level of support received from so many people and places. Thanks to all for joining in this journey! If your group would like more information on renting space in the Community Center, see the Community Center page at warrenhabitat.org/cc, call us at 908-835-1300, or email office@warrenhabitat.org.

[View WFMZ coverage of the Grand Opening event HERE!](#)



VOLUNTEER WITH WARREN COUNTY HABITAT!

How Can You Help?

Build Team

Various construction tasks:
lifting boards, tools,
other supplies

Framing

Hammering

Various group projects as
needed

- Supervisor will determine tasks based on experience

ReStore

General Salesfloor

Maintenance

Landscaping/Grounds

Maintenance

Item Upcycling

Unloading Donations (must
be able to lift heavy items)


Clothing Dept. Upkeep

Hope in the Hills

On May 14-15, 2022, we will be hosting our annual Hope in the Hills program, where adults and youth partner to perform outdoor home maintenance projects and small repairs. Projects will consist of painting, yard clean up, repairing fences and ramps, window washing, and more! **Visit warrenhabitat.org/programs to fill out an application.**

Follow and message us on our social media to get started!

 @warrencountynjhabitat

 @warrenhabitatforhumanity

