

August 2025

31 Belvidere Avenue  
Washington, NJ 07882

82 Mount View St.  
Newton, NJ 07860

Co-editors

Barbara Shaffer

Ilene Schwartz

## These may be the lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer, but Habitat NWNJ has been busy in our community!

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### Longtime Volunteer and ReStore Manager Receives Keys to His Own Habitat House

On May 10, 2025, the sun shone over Harmony Township as around one hundred friends, family members, volunteers, and community members gathered to celebrate an achievement years in the making. Michael "Scrappy" Chobot, a familiar face to anyone involved with Habitat for Humanity Northwest New Jersey (Habitat NWNJ), was surrounded by his family as he gratefully accepted the keys to his new Habitat home.

Michael's Home Dedication ceremony was more than a celebration—it was a full-circle moment. A volunteer, employee, and now homeowner, he has been part of the Habitat NWNJ community for over a decade. From his early days helping to pick up donations with his son, to becoming the ReStore's General Manager, he has devoted himself to the mission of building homes, communities, and hope. Being selected for a Habitat home allowed him to dive into the mission even more: attending homeownership workshops, finding new ways to volunteer, and even working alongside the volunteer construction crew to build his own home.

"First and foremost, I want to thank the Almighty God for everything and all things," Michael reflected as he addressed the crowd. "I'm sitting here in my tears of joy as I sweep across this turnout today... it's huge, bigger than I remember them. Each and every one of you touched my

spirit in some way. I'm always about happy memories.... Even in the hardest times we can find joy in challenges. I especially want to thank the ReStore. You guys put up with me much more than anyone else."

Michael Chobot is the kind of person who has a way of leaving a lasting impression, no matter how small the interaction. While he expressed his gratitude for his friends and family leaving an impact on him, everyone in attendance, including volunteers, staff, Board Members, and even regular ReStore customers reminisced on how Michael had touched their lives as well.

For Michael, the journey to homeownership was a tale of determination. He applied once before and was not selected, but his hope remained strong. When the next application period opened up, he applied again and was chosen from a blind lottery. He will now share his new home with his son Matthew and daughter Kimmy.



Michael's story is a powerful reminder of Habitat's commitment to giving a "hand up, not a handout." While he was the first employee selected under the affiliate's homeowner eligibility policy, his application underwent the same rigorous, unbiased selection process required of all applicants—including credit checks, home visits, and review by a selection committee. His success was earned through perseverance, a strong work ethic, his steadfast faith and unwavering belief in Habitat NWNJ's mission.

As the ceremony came to a close and guests began to catch up and share hugs, laughter, and memories, one thing was certain: this house is more than four walls and a roof. It's a dream realized, and a well-earned homecoming for one of Habitat NWNJ's own.



## Fabulous 2025 Tricky Tray

On May 29th, Habitat NWNJ sponsored our “Hope for the Future” Tricky Tray, a well-attended evening of chance, hope and excitement at the rustic Camp Sacajawea in Sparta, NJ. With over 200(!) donated baskets available, there was a prize available for every preference. The energy in the room rose as each ticket was dropped into the baskets, which ranged from self-care baskets to a Coach or Kate Spade bag, games and toys, holiday-themed gifts and décor, tickets to local attractions and so much more! Every dollar raised was designated towards new home builds in Sussex and Warren Counties.

With thanks and gratitude to Camp Sacajawea for donating the use of their delightful main hall and outdoor area for the event for the second year in a row, Habitat NWNJ was pleased to perform several repair projects at the facility.



## Watch for Us Around Town!

Helping to host a Habitat NWNJ presentation table at local events serves our community in several ways:

You can help serve as a source of information to the surrounding towns about Habitat’s presence, ReStore, current and future builds, home repairs, fund-raising events, volunteer opportunities and how to qualify and apply for services.

You would help give the local community an opportunity to donate monetarily for Habitat’s causes and provide information on how to donate goods.

Look for our Habitat NWNJ table at the following upcoming events

July 26-Aug 2 Warren County Farmers’ Fair

August 7 Sussex County Fair

August 16 Wantage Day

September 6 Hardyston Day

October 11 Stillwater Fall Festival

If you would like to volunteer to help at any of these, please contact Barb at (973) 940-0503.





## SPOTLIGHT ON— ReStore



### 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Anniversary Sale a Resounding Fund-Raising Success!

On May 31st, the ReStore on Route 57 in Washington held its 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Anniversary Sale. The ReStore, known for its already high-ly discounted prices on furniture, home décor, hardware, lighting and more, of-fered shoppers 50% off the entire store for the day. Customers also enjoyed snacks, door prizes and mystery bags that were available to purchase for just \$10. The ReStore, or the “store that helps build homes”, plays an essential role in funding Habitat NWNJ’s mission of building homes and hope. This annual event re-sults in an extreme increase in both funds raised and foot traffic, serving both the community as well as the organization.



## Get Involved in SUSSEX and WARREN COUNTIES

### Get Involved

#### ReStore Retail Space Needed

**ReStore Value:**

<https://habitatnwnj.org/shop>



#### Active Home Build in Wantage

(392 County Rd. 565)

#### ...and in Washington

(Drake Court/Mine Hill Road)

**Volunteer Sign-Up:**

<https://habitatnwnj.org/get-involved/volunteer>



#### Home Repair Program

throughout Sussex and Warren

**Donate:**

<https://habitatnwnj.org/donate>



#### Habitat NWNJ Contacts

**Kyle Stuber (Director of Development):** [kyle.stuber@habitatnwnj.org](mailto:kyle.stuber@habitatnwnj.org)

**Pam Vreeland (Chief Operating Officer):** [pam.vreeland@habitatnwnj.org](mailto:pam.vreeland@habitatnwnj.org)

## **Family Selection**

Have you dreamed of having your own home but feared it would always be out of reach? Building safe, decent housing for low income, working families is at the core of the Habitat for Humanity mission. If you meet the qualifications, you may be able to apply for one of the homes we will be building soon. Our projects at 392 County Road 565 in Wantage and Drake Court/Mine Hill road in Washington Township will soon be ramping up – please watch this space for notification when the application period opens, or periodically check <https://habitatnwnj.org/homeownership/> to monitor the status of Family Selection.



## Tee Up For A Cause

The “Tee Up for a Cause” Golf Tournament, a day of camaraderie, sunshine, and shared purpose was held on June 2nd at Architects Golf Club in Lopatcong. The event supported both Habitat NWNJ and Community Blend, another local nonprofit committed to improving and enriching peoples’ lives. Volunteers and golfers from far and wide came together to enjoy a day of friendly competition and fundraising, complete with breakfast, lunch, and raffle-style prizes where the more one donated, the bigger their chance of winning became. Every swing and every cent helped to fuel the construction of homes and the creation of opportunities across Northwest New Jersey.





# FESTIVAL *of* TREES



**December 11th, 2025**  
**5:30pm – 8:30pm**



**Rossi Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram**  
**410 Route 31 South, Washington NJ**

The annual Festival of Trees, hosted by the Rossi Auto Group, has become a prominent event celebrating the season. 100% of the proceeds benefit two local, highly respected non-profit organizations.

Sponsor or join us today!  
[www.rossifestivaloftrees.com](http://www.rossifestivaloftrees.com)



## Habitat for Humanity Northwest New Jersey

31 Belvidere Avenue  
Washington, NJ 07882  
Phone: (908) 835-1300

82 Mount View St.  
Newton, NJ 07860  
Phone: (973) 940-0503



Visit us at  
[habitatnwnj.org](http://habitatnwnj.org)

### What is Habitat?

Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit organization that aims to provide affordable housing for families in need all around the world. Founded in 1976 by Millard and Linda Fuller, the organization has grown to become a global movement that has helped millions of people access safe and decent housing.

Habitat for Humanity Northwest New Jersey, Inc. was established in 2025 by a merger of the Sussex and Warren County chapters. We are a 501(c)3 non-profit Christian organization whose ministry was founded on the belief that safe and decent shelter is a basic human need.

We use donated labor and materials from the community, homeowners' sweat equity, and corporate gifts-in-kind to make safe and affordable housing a reality. We improve the communities we work in by gathering and welcoming volunteers, new homeowners and supporters.

**OUR MISSION:** "Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together by building homes, communities and hope."

If you would like more information about us please call (908) 835-1300 or (973) 940-0503.

### Donations

We would like to thank everyone who has donated to us in any way. The **cost of materials has sky-rocketed** so much that every little bit (no matter how small) would be greatly appreciated.

Our **ReStore location in Washington (NJ)** at 384 Route 57 West accepts donations according to the schedule posted at [www.warrenhabitat.org/shop/](http://www.warrenhabitat.org/shop/)

**There is currently no Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Sussex County. We are actively seeking a new location.** We would need a space in commercial zoning, with

at least 10,000 square feet and highway frontage. Good access to parking and loading/unloading would be helpful. If you are, or become, aware of such a space looking for an occupant, please let us know! We are **accepting donations of construction materials** at our Newton location.

We are also looking for **donations of pieces of property** (land and/or houses) in Sussex and Warren Counties so that we can continue to build affordable housing.

If you would like more information on how to help, please email

[office@habitatnwnj.org](mailto:office@habitatnwnj.org), phone (973) 940-0503 or (908) 835-1300, or send mail to Habitat for Humanity Northwest NJ, 31 Belvidere Avenue, Washington, NJ 07882

### Sign up for our Newsletter

Keep current on our progress by signing up for our newsletter and visiting us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/warrencountynjhabitat](http://www.facebook.com/warrencountynjhabitat)

or our website  
[habitatnwnj.org](http://habitatnwnj.org)

E-mail:  
[office@habitatnwnj.org](mailto:office@habitatnwnj.org)