



A Message from our Executive Director

Happy New Year! Thank you for making our nonprofit such a success in 2024. Here are some quick highlights:

At the start of 2024, the **Aberdeen ReStore** added clothing sales to the inventory and created **Barb's Boutique**, which has already become a very popular and successful venture.

We held our **Dream Builders Ball** in April at the beautiful Bulle Rock Residents' Club Ballroom and featured musical performances by local students.

Several schools participated in our annual **Collegiate Challenge** where college students volunteered at our home builds and at the Aberdeen ReStore during their school breaks.

During May/June, our 7th annual **Women Build** event at the Liberty Street home saw record-breaking success, with more volunteer teams and funds raised than ever before. This year, we're "doubling the Women Build excitement" as teams take on the challenge of constructing a duplex. Look for more information in our February newsletter.

We had several companies volunteer with us through sponsored private team builds. Two churches, the **Bel Air United Methodist Church** and **St. Margaret Parish**, participated in a larger-scale fundraising effort -- a **"Hammers Up!"** sponsored panel build,



Yvonne Golczewski

NOTABLE DATES

Jan. 1: Closed in observance of New Year's. Habitat Susquehanna's Bel Air Office and the Aberdeen ReStore are both closed on that Wednesday.

Jan. 20: Closed in observance of MLK Day. Habitat Susquehanna's Bel Air Office is closed. (The Aberdeen ReStore is always closed on Mondays.)

SAVE THE DATE

Apr. 5: Dream Builders Benefit 2025. 6:30 - 10 PM. Bulle Rock Residents' Club Ballroom, Havre de Grace.

Here are the latest details of this event:

The [Dream Builders Benefit](#) fundraiser

each for the ninth year in a row.

In November, our annual Cecil-held fundraiser, **Habitat Harvest**, raised more funds than any of its previous years.

We welcomed home Amanda, Brittany, Keyonna, Eureka, and Candy during their **Home Dedication Ceremonies**.

To date, we have provided decent, affordable shelter to 132 Habitat families/individuals, and eight Habitat Homeowners have paid off their mortgages. Thank you for helping to move our mission forward!

To view our FY2024 Annual Report, please visit our [website](#).

will have a military & veteran focus.

The DBB will offer discounted tickets to active/retired military personnel and veterans.

Our guest speaker will be **Veronica Stocks**, an Air Force veteran, who has been a Habitat Homeowner since 2013.

The **229th Army Band** will be performing at this event.

The food will be catered by **Evolved Hospitality Group / The Local**

To purchase tickets or sponsorships to the Dream Builders Benefit



Jimmy Carter, 39th president of the United States and winner of the 2002 Nobel Peace Prize. A champion for affordable and decent housing, he and Rosalynn Carter donated their time and leadership each year to build and improve homes with Habitat around the world.

Habitat Susquehanna remembers President Carter's life of service

President Jimmy Carter was a true friend to Habitat for Humanity and worked tirelessly to make the world a better place. He helped families build and repair homes, shone a light on the tremendous global need for decent and affordable shelter, and brought hope and opportunity to communities around the world.

Welcome home, Candy!

Congratulations to **Candy** who celebrated the culmination of everyone's hard work and contributions during a home dedication celebration in December at Booth Street, Elkton. This is a house built by the students of the **Cecil County School of Technology** and completed by Habitat volunteers. Candy went to settlement before the holidays, meaning her family was able to celebrate their first Christmas in their new home! Visit our Facebook page for the [photo album](#) and details of the ceremony.

To learn more about our [Homeownership Program](#) and how to



Check out our [Facebook photo album](#) for pictures of the home dedication ceremony taken by [Laura Ames Photography](#).

apply, visit our website.

Seeking volunteers in the New Year

There are lots of ways you can support Habitat Susquehanna, and not all of them require picking up a hammer. For instance — in taking a page out of the **Bulle Rock Habitat for Humanity Club's** volunteer playbook — here are some great ideas to consider. In addition to volunteering at our build sites, the members of this Habitat Club:

- held a tool drive to collect and donate tools for our builds
- donated the proceeds from their pulled pork sandwich fundraisers (pictured)
- raised funds for us through ticket sales from organizing a Home & Garden tour
- donated gift cards and sold raffle tickets on behalf of our galas
- collected silent auction items for our fundraisers
- provided sponsorship to fundraisers such as the Dream Builders Ball and Habitat Harvest
- organized Stuff the Truck events encouraging residents doing spring cleaning to donate items to the Aberdeen ReStore (a truck was provided for pick-up of items)
- manned a craft fair table and donated the proceeds (pictured)
- held information meetings to share news about the Habitat Club
- served as members of our Events Committee



For information on how you could become a volunteer for Habitat Susquehanna, contact [Michele Louderback](#), Community Engagement Manager.

Evergreen Garden Club beautifies gardens in time for home dedications

For years they have been creating and preparing gardens at our Habitat houses as a "welcome home" gift to Habitat Homebuyers during the celebration at their home dedication ceremonies. Members of the [Evergreen Garden Club](#) most recently volunteered at our Booth Street, Elkton, home -- which was the 22nd Habitat house they have



supported through their untiring efforts.

They not only work in extremely hot and cold weather, their job requires a lot of heavy lifting and transporting of materials using their own vehicles; incurring the cost of gas to travel at times to locations far from their own homes; and, sometimes purchasing plants using their own money.

They have often partnered with [SiteOne Landscape Supply](#) to receive donations from them of landscaping and gardening items, such as trees, seed, straw, mulch, compost, and plants for use at these Habitat houses.

We are so appreciative of the Club's beautification efforts, which do not go unnoticed by our Habitat Homebuyers, staff, board members, and other visitors to these homes.



Top photo at Liberty Street, Aberdeen (L to R): Lee Ann Anderson, Beverly Jones, Patrice O'Connor, Alena Schwaber, Phoebe Durst, and Karen Matthews.

Bottom photo at Booth Street, Elkton (L to R): Lynn Crothers, Alena Schwaber, Patrice O'Connor, Phoebe Durst, Ann Bennett, and Karen Matthews.

The [Evergreen Garden Club of Harford County](#) has been in existence for more than 75 years. Interested applicants are asked to attend three meetings to better understand the group and meet the members, before a vote is taken regarding their membership status.

Staff news

Kudos to the following who have work anniversaries this month:

Cathy Herlinger: 9 years

Jim Diel: 5 years

Welcome to our newest employees, Aberdeen ReStore's Donation Ambassadors **William Hines** and **Patricia Shaw**, and Construction Site Supervisor **Greg Oates**!

Homeowner news

Home for the Holidays: In December, **Eureka** went to settlement on her Liberty Street, Aberdeen home, and **Candy** went to settlement on her Booth Street, Elkton home, making them our 131st and 132nd Habitat houses, respectively!

Milestone Anniversaries: Congrats to two of our families who mark milestone anniversaries as Habitat Homeowners this month:

Percy: 20 years

Michele: 15 years

Help fund our affordable housing program in your community

Ready to make an impact in the new year? Donate your old car to qualify for a tax deduction and help build affordable housing in your community. With free towing, tax benefits, and an eco-friendly way to give back, you'll make a difference locally.

By donating a car to Habitat's **Cars for Homes**™ vehicle donation program, you help Habitat Susquehanna build and rehabilitate houses in partnership with families in Harford and Cecil Counties, such as **Amanda's**, one of this past year's Habitat Homebuyers (*photographed with one of her sons at her home dedication ceremony, and Jim Diel, our Construction Site Supervisor, who is handing her the house keys*).

Visit the Cars for Homes [website](#) to learn more about this national vehicle donation program, or call 1-877-277-4344.



Start Your Vehicle Donation
Today

Cars for Homes Qs & As

Q: My car doesn't run. Will you still accept it?

A: Your vehicle donation does not have to be running, but it must be whole and have four inflated tires so it can be moved by our towing operators.

About half of our donated cars are sold to licensed dealers at wholesale auctions and are reused for transportation. The other half are typically transported to auto salvage yards where all reusable car parts, batteries, tires and fluids are removed.

Sponsor Spotlights

Thank you to the following generous sponsors this month:





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Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna | 205 S. Hays Street | Bel Air, MD 21014 US

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