



A Message from our Executive Director

Thank you to all of the Women Build teams who are supporting us in building homes, communities, and hope! These teams are not only volunteering at our build site but are fundraising for the two homes they are helping to build.

Women Build 2026 began shortly after our foundation was set. As in past years, Women Build teams were among the first volunteers on site to start building from the foundation up. This year, the teams are building a duplex on Norman Avenue in Aberdeen. One unit of the duplex will be the future home of **Yonas** and **Ayal**, parents of an eleven-year-old boy. The other unit will be purchased by **Abeba**, mother of a teenage daughter.

Below is a list, in alphabetical order, of the Women Build 2026 teams.

NOTE: Where applicable, custom team names appear in *italics*, accompanied by the associated business or organization noted in parenthesis.

The participating teams are:

Allan Myers

Allstate

Hearts & Hammers

Image360

Janney MACWIN

Messy Buns & Nail Guns



Yvonne Golczewski

NOTABLE DATES

July: Christmas in July at the Aberdeen ReStore. Christmas items are 50 percent off throughout the month of July. Stay tuned to the ReStore's social media pages for announcements of possible days set aside for 75 percent off those items. Happy shopping!

Jul 3: Independence Day closure. Habitat Susquehanna's Bel Air Office is closed on Friday, July 3, in observance of Independence Day.

Jul 4: Independence Day closure. The Aberdeen ReStore and the build sites

Ryan, LLC

***She Builds Community* (Victor Bravo)**

Stellar Home Group

**STE MRAS - W@W (Middle River
Aerostructure Systems Women at
Work)**

***Women's Veteran Group* (Women's
Army Corps Veterans Association,
Chapter 70)**

Women Build activities and fundraising continue through July 31. The winners of our fun contests, the "Tacky Hammer" award, recognizing the highest fundraising team, and the "She Nailed It" award, honoring the top individual fundraiser, will be announced in our August newsletter. We'll also share a link to a Women Build photo album so you can look back on the many moments, milestones, and volunteers who made this year's campaign so special.

Women Build is still underway, with several teams scheduled to volunteer throughout July. We invite you to follow along by watching our Facebook Live videos on these upcoming build days: Allstate on July 2, Image360 on July 11, and *She Builds Community* (Victor Bravo) on July 16. Be sure to follow our Facebook page to stay current on the progress of this duplex and the inspiring work of our Women Build volunteers.

There's still time to be part of Women Build 2026! Donations to the Women Build campaign will directly support the construction and building materials needed to complete this duplex for two families.

If you would like to help build homes, communities, and hope, we invite you to make a gift through our Women Build [donation page](#).

To watch a televised interview with members from one of the teams, and with the two homebuyers who were working at the build site alongside the Women Build volunteers, visit the

are closed in observance of
Independence Day.

Jul 5: Join Us as Walkers in the Independence Day Parade. It's not too late to join us as a walker! Come out and support Habitat Susquehanna and the **Bulle Rock Habitat for Humanity Club** as walkers in the Havre de Grace parade, and represent the Habitat homes we have built/rehabbed to date! We would love to have you participate with us, and bring our mission to a new audience! Contact [Michele Louderback](#) for details.

Jul 14: Staff Team-Building Day. The staff from the Aberdeen ReStore, build sites, and Habitat Susquehanna's Bel Air Office will be participating in a team-building day. The ReStore will be closed in order for staff members to attend.

SAVE THE DATE

Aug 22: BBQ Chicken Dinner Fundraiser. Each year, the Hopewell United Women in Faith members hold a BBQ Chicken Dinner to raise proceeds to support their local and community missions, which includes the money spent on bedding that they donate to our Habitat homebuyers, and present to them during their home dedication ceremonies. This is a pick up/take out event (not seated) at Hopewell UMC, 2600 Level Village Road, Havre de Grace. Point of contact is Linda Shifflett at 410-939-2113 or 410-868-1021 (or text).

Sep 18: Sunset Cruise for a Cause. Our next event will be a fundraiser to help purchase the needed construction materials for students to build Habitat houses at their technical high schools.

The cruise is leaving from Chesapeake City, and the Cecil County School of Technology Principal, **Dr. Nicole Parr**, will be our guest speaker. WMAR's **Kristy Breslin** will be our emcee. Tickets and sponsorships are on sale now.

I want to purchase
tickets/sponsorships to the

[WMAR-2 News website](#) for the television segment and accompanying article.

Sunset Boat Cruise and/or make a donation to support the "Habi-Tech" Program

WMAR-TV news crew visits Women Build

For the third year in a row, **Kara Burnett**, reporter at WMAR-2 News Baltimore, came with her Good Morning Maryland team members — made up of **Kristy Breslin**, **Megan Knight**, **Kristi Harper**, and **Tranise Foster** — to work alongside our Women Build volunteers and report on our progress at the build site at Norman Avenue, Aberdeen.

We appreciate all of their efforts to highlight our mission and encourage volunteers to help us complete this duplex!

[CLICK HERE](#) to watch the WMAR-2 News broadcast about Women Build



Clockwise from top left: Kristy Breslin (center) with homebuyers Abeba and Ayal; Kara Burnett with Construction Site Supervisor Ron Odachowski; and, the WMAR-TV team in front of the duplex.

Linh goes to settlement on our 139th Habitat house

Congratulations to Linh, mother of two, who officially went from homebuyer to homeowner when she went to settlement at the end of June!

The [photo album](#) of her home dedication ceremony was posted to Facebook with pictures by our very talented volunteer photographer, **Laura Ames Photography**.

During the home dedication ceremony, Linh gave a very moving speech that encapsulates the reason why we do what we do. We are reprinting it here:

Excerpt: "First, our family would like to thank you for being here today; we appreciate your kindness, patience, and support. Today is one of the happiest and most meaningful days of my life! Two years ago, I applied to Habitat for Humanity with hope and faith in my heart. Today, standing here as a

"During my first visit to this neighborhood, it felt unfamiliar. My pastor reminded me that God gave me this home, and he would protect my family. Since then, as the walls and the roof were constructed, this house has now become a home. Thanks to the love, kindness and support of the volunteers who helped to build it. The hard work, encouragement, and enthusiasm of the volunteers who worked beside us, touched our hearts. You came in with caring hands and compassion, and for that we have profound gratitude!

"I am also thankful to my family and friends who gave me encouragement and helped me to complete the required hours and responsibilities. This journey has not always been easy, but your continued support gave me strength to keep moving forward.

"This home represents teamwork, sincere kindness, and community. It represents the willingness of people coming together to help one another,

homeowner, I feel overwhelmed with gratitude, joy, and excitement for the future! Owning a home is more than having walls and a roof. For my family, it means safety, stability and a place where love, memories and dreams can grow. It is also a new beginning and a dream come true! I would like to express my deepest thanks to Habitat for Humanity and everyone else who made this possible. Thank you to the staff, volunteers, donors, sponsors, and supporters. They provided kindness, their time and skills. By building this house, it also gives hope for other families like mine. There are also some very special people who I would like to recognize today. This journey would not have been possible without their support.

“Thank you to [Homeownership Program Manager] Heather, who guided and accompanied me from the very first step to the final one. From orientation, income approval and employment verification, to coordinating with different departments to assist in reaching settlement. Your patience and support has meant so much to me!

“Thank you also to [Construction Site Supervisors] Jim, Greg, and Ron, who taught me many construction skills while I learned along the way. They also fixed my mistakes, and cleaned up after me while displaying kindness and patience. I truly appreciate your guidance and encouragement.

“Lastly, thank you to [Community Engagement Manager] Michele for your weekly updates, obtaining volunteers, and for arranging the food sponsors. Your “behind the scenes,” hard work, made such a big difference and it helped everything to come together.

which demonstrates then that only amazing things can happen!

“I thank God for making this dream come true and for bringing so many wonderful people into our lives through this journey. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank all of you for believing in families like ours. We will treasure this home, and create many lifelong memories here!”



Top photo: Linh (at right in pink top) is pictured in front of her future home with many of the Habitat Core Volunteers who worked on rehabbing the house.

Bottom photo: Linh and her mother at the home dedication day ceremony.



To watch a video of the interior of Linh's house, filmed on her home dedication day, visit our [Facebook page](#).

Framing a home can help frame a future

Did you know that your donations can help supply the materials, tools, and resources needed to support the efforts of students at two technical high schools? We have a partnership with the **Harford Technical High School** and the **Cecil County School of Technology**. These students, under the supervision of their teachers, are building a Habitat house every two years. The "Habi-Tech" Program provides STEM (and other) education while supporting the need for affordable homes in our community.

Our next "Habi-Tech" home will be transported from the CCST to its final, permanent location on Booth Street, Elkton, around the second week of July! Once at Booth Street, Habitat volunteers will work together to complete the home.



Please donate to help support the "Habi-Tech" Program, which was conceived 22 years ago. To date, these students have built 11 Harford County and six Cecil County "Habi-Tech" homes!

[Click here to donate!](#)

Thank you for your contribution, which will be directed to where it can make the biggest difference!

Staff news

Congratulations to Yvonne and Ola who mark work anniversaries with us this month! They are pictured at our most recent Dream Builders Benefit (DBB).

Photo credit: Osben Toulson



Executive Director **Yvonne Golczewski** (at left) is pictured with Board Secretary and Habitat Homeowner Juél Capellán, who was the guest speaker at our DBB event. Yvonne has been with Habitat Susquehanna for nine years.

Director of Development **Ola Boswell** is pictured with Maryland magician Lowell Sheets (also known as The Magic Bartender), who performed magic tricks at our DBB event. Ola celebrates four years with our nonprofit this month.

Habitat homeowner news

Meet our newest approved Habitat homebuyer, **Abeba** (in center, wearing gray top, next to her friend)!

We surprised her with the news that her application to the Homeownership Program was approved. She is pictured with (from left to right): CFO **Damien Smith**, ED **Yvonne Golczewski**, and Homeownership Program Manager **Heather Gibson**.

Since the day of that photograph, Abeba has accepted one unit of the duplex currently being built at Norman Avenue, Aberdeen, and has already begun her 250 partner hours as part of her homeownership journey.



Partner hours include working at our build site alongside our volunteers; taking financial education classes to help build financial independence; taking a first-time homeowner course; and, taking a home maintenance class. All of these hours are completed by Habitat homebuyers before their move-in day.

Board news

During our May board meeting, **Ryan Alban**, formerly Vice President, was voted in as President of the Board of Directors. Board member **Larry Burley, Jr.** was voted in as Vice President. These positions will take effect at the start of our new fiscal year (July 1st).

During our June board meeting, the board approved a new candidate for membership, **Mary Pat Hanlin**. If you have a heart for our mission, contact our Executive Director Yvonne Golczewski at ygolczewski@habitatsusq.org to express your interest in joining our board or one of our committees.

Board member **Michelle Brusio** will lead the Community Outreach and Engagement Committee. If you are a dedicated community volunteer who has an interest in sharing information about Habitat Susquehanna to the general public, contact Yvonne at ygolczewski@habitatsusq.org and ask about joining this committee.

Board member **Sandra Hopkins** led one of our Women Build teams, Hearts & Hammers, in fundraising for and volunteering at the duplex being built at Norman Avenue, Aberdeen. Listen to an interview she gave during her group's build day there, which was posted on our [Facebook page](#) in June. She also very generously was the lunch sponsor for both teams that day. We appreciate her invaluable support!

Consider donating your unused car to help support affordable housing in our local community

Moving and not taking your car with you? Donate it instead. Skip the hassle of selling or transporting your old vehicle and turn it into something meaningful. Your car donation helps support affordable housing programs for local families in your community. Make your move a little lighter and your impact a little bigger.

Visit the Cars for Homes™ (CFH) [website](https://www.habitat.org/carsforhomes) to learn more about this national vehicle donation program, or call 1-877-277-4344.



CLICK HERE to donate your car to Habitat

Sponsor Spotlights

Thank you to the following generous sponsors this month:





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