



SPRING 2023 BUILDING ON FAITH newsletter

Habitat is driven by the teachings of our Christian faith. We witness the power and love of Christ as we build simple, decent, affordable houses in partnership with all people. We offer faith groups a powerful way to put their faith into action, and many faith partners support us in our communities through their generous donations, prayers and volunteers.

A Message from our Executive Director

Our Spring issue highlights one of our popular ways to fundraise -- the panel build. A panel build is a sponsorship opportunity where a group of volunteers get to build the walls (interior or exterior) of a Habitat home. We bring the supplies to wherever is most convenient for the volunteer group -- for instance, in a church parking lot. or at one of our build sites. We call the event "Hammers Up!"

My favorite part is right after the panel build is completed, and the walls have been raised to take pictures before being trucked over to the construction site. There's a little window of time when the volunteers have the opportunity to sign the wood framework of the home with their blessings and well wishes. It's a nice feeling to know that these written prayers and other messages of support will remain a permanent part of a Habitat homeowner's walls.



Yvonne Golczewski

Hammers Up!

If your place of worship (or faith group or business or organization) would like to participate in a Hammers Up build day, contact our Director of Development **Ola Boswell** at oboswell@habitatsusq.org.

This year, we have **Bel Air United Methodist Church** ready to participate in June, and **St. Margaret's Parish** will be joining us in October!

If you are interested in other team build opportunities, or have questions about volunteering in general, contact our Volunteer Coordinator **Michele Louderback** at mlouderback@habitatsusq.org.



Speaking opportunities

Phyliss Mosca, Donor & Faith Relations Manager, was recently invited to speak at the **Hopewell United Women of Faith** meeting at **Hopewell United Methodist Church**. Both Hopewell UMC and the Hopewell United Women have been strong, longtime supporters of Habitat Susquehanna's mission.

Phyliss shared information about the Habitat programs we offer to the local community, such as the [Financial Literacy](#), [Homeownership](#) and [Repair](#) programs.



If you would like Phyliss (pictured, at far right, with the Hopewell United Women of Faith) to be a speaker at your next faith group meeting, contact her at pmosca@habitatsusq.org.

Acknowledgments

Since our last published newsletter's thanks, we've received a monetary contribution from **Wright's AME Church** towards the "Habi-Tech" house built by the Cecil County School of Technology. **Fallston United Methodist Church** provided lunches for Collegiate Challenge (an event where students from all over the country volunteer with Habitat Susquehanna as an "alternative" spring break). Thank you for these donations!

In addition, between March to the present, members from **Mountain Christian Church** and students from **Notre Dame Preparatory School**

volunteered with us at our Habitat build sites and/or Aberdeen ReStore.

Our thanks go to **Rev. R. Kevin Brown, Sr.** from Wright's AME Church for giving the prayer over our build site during our Elkton groundbreaking ceremony (at the lot for the Cecil "Habi-Tech" house), and to **Pastor Donald Barkley** from Mountain Christian Church for giving the house blessing at our home dedication ceremony in Havre de Grace.

We also want to make a special mention about the **Word of Life International Outreach**. This church is one of the 11 teams that were formed to support our **Women Build** efforts this year. (It's the only church that was involved as a Women Build team; the other teams are businesses or organizations in the local community.) Thanks to this year's 11 Women Build teams, we were able to raise more than \$67,000 towards three Habitat homes that will be purchased by single mothers Felicia (Elkton), Yaraly (Aberdeen), and LaTera (Havre de Grace)! After having fundraised in April, the Women Build teams are now volunteering at the build sites on various scheduled days in May.

We want to give thanks to all of our faith partners throughout our 30-year history for volunteering with us, and for the financial blessings which help Habitat Susquehanna provide a "hand up" to a neighbor in need. We thank you for giving of your time, for being God's hands and feet, here to serve others and show them His love. Thank you for supporting the need for decent shelter in our community. Please keep the ministry of Habitat for Humanity in your prayers.

Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna brings strength, stability and self-reliance through affordable housing in Cecil and Harford counties.

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