



2021 Rockefeller Center Christmas tree lumber donated to Habitat Susquehanna

Habitat Susquehanna is pleased to announce our affiliate has received lumber milled from the 2021 Rockefeller Christmas tree. After the holiday season, and every year since 2007, **Tishman Speyer**, the owner and operator of Rockefeller Center, donates lumber milled from the tree to help a family build their Habitat for Humanity home.

Habitat Susquehanna builds and rehabilitates homes in Cecil and Harford Counties. Last year's 79-foot Norway Spruce came from Cecil County. It is the first donated Rockefeller Center Christmas tree to come from Maryland.

Our plans are to use the lumber in a "Habi-Tech" house recently built by the students of the **Cecil County School of Technology** (Manor Road, Elkton), and at the duplex on Erie Street, Havre de Grace.



We are grateful for the special partnership between **Habitat for Humanity International** and Tishman Speyer that provided this wonderful opportunity.

We are especially appreciative of the Cecil County family who lovingly donated their tree, knowing that it would help local families build new lives in their Habitat homes.

Meet our current homebuyer

The story of LaTera by Yvette Valentin, Director of Homeowner Services



LaTera first applied for the Homeownership Program about 10 years ago. Her credit did not meet our criteria and she was referred to one of our community partners for financial coaching.

She said she had no idea what was on her credit report at the time and with the tools she was given from the financial coach she set up payment plans with debtors, successfully disputed some erroneous entries, learned how powerful paying bills on time can be, opened her first credit card account and learned how to use credit in a financially healthy way, and says these are all things she wants to instill into her kids, friends, and family members.

Now that LaTera is an approved homebuyer, she says she has gained so much confidence by working her sweat equity with some of our core volunteers who are so patient and professional, teaching homebuyers and other volunteers hands on work at our active construction sites.

LaTera and her girls currently live in a one-bedroom, second-story apartment where she not only has to carry her 60 lb. daughter up and down stairs, but also their laundry, groceries, and any specialized equipment needed for her daughter. When asked what this home will mean for her and her girls, LaTera said she's scared and excited all at the same time. Just to be able to sit outside and look up at the stars would be so wonderful! Her youngest daughter would be able to play in their backyard while her oldest daughter would have enough room to move about on her own.

With the modifications that will be made for her oldest daughter's disabilities, her grandmother (who is also wheelchair dependent) will now be able to come to her house and visit. "They are even talking about having Thanksgiving here next year!" LaTera said.

LaTera wants her girls to be proud of their mom and she wants to be able to leave them a legacy. To our supporters she says: “ You are helping families. There are so many opportunities that this will provide – the sky is the limit!”

Our mission would not be possible without the support of our generous donors, sponsors and volunteers. YOUR help gives a family a foundation to build a future! For more homebuyer stories, visit our [website](#).

Habitat Holiday House Tour (self-guided)

Dec 17 | 4-7PM

This is a rain, snow or shine event!

Celebrate the joy of the season with the Habitat Holiday House Tour on Saturday, December 17th, from 4pm-7pm. Hosted by **Adkins Letschin Home Group of Long and Foster**, this is a self-guided tour of historic and traditional Bel Air homes that will be decorated for the holidays and open for touring to all ticket holders.

Tickets are \$20 per person and can be bought in advance [online](#), or in person at the Habitat Susquehanna office on the day of the event from 3:30 to 5:30PM.



NOTE: While you're touring Bel Air's beautiful holiday-themed homes, enjoy dinner/drinks at **Sean Bolan's** in downtown Bel Air which is offering 10% off your bill and will donate an additional 10% to Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna (wristband must be shown and only valid for day of event).

We're looking for volunteers!



BUILD SITES

The weather may be getting colder, but our work continues! Fortunately, some of our build



ABERDEEN RESTORE

Our Aberdeen ReStore is in need of volunteers! We can accept groups up to 10, school

sites will be focused on interior work so volunteers have the option of being indoors. There's no experience required to volunteer on site. We provide all the equipment for the day. Individuals just need to be 16 years or older. This opportunity is great for students looking for service hours or people wanting to give back to the community with like-minded volunteers.

Visit our [website](#) to sign up. For questions, contact [Michele Louderback](#).

students needing service hours, or individuals who just want to come in and help us out!

Our volunteers sign up through our [website](#) for a variety of tasks: unloading/loading donations and purchases, sorting donations, cleaning/organizing the store, and cashiering (must have experience).

For questions, contact [Ashley Hall](#).

Housing is healthcare campaign

We believe that with the help of the healthcare community, we can create housing security and wellness by raising enough funds to equal the cost of one or two Habitat home builds. On average, we build six new homes each year. We also provide financial literacy services benefiting over 100 people. In the next year, we will also provide critical repairs for 50 households. By donating to this campaign, you will be partnering with us to improve the health of the community as well as supporting us in our mission of building strength, stability, and self-reliance.



[Visit our website](#)

Sponsor Spotlights

Thank you to the following generous sponsors:

TRUIST FOUNDATION: The Truist Foundation awarded us \$20K towards our Financial Literacy Program! This program provides one-on-one financial coaching, credit repair, budgeting, and employment support resources to low-income members of our community. To date, over 800 individuals have benefited from our Financial Literacy Program. The component of financial literacy is one of the measures put in place to ensure families acquire the necessary skills to be successful homeowners.

Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI): Having a safe, decent home has a life-changing impact on families. HFHI awarded us \$10K in funding towards our home build at Ohio Street, Havre de Grace. The homebuyer, LaTera, is a single mother of two. One of LaTera's daughters requires special care so this

home build will involve accessibility modifications, including installing ramps and a lift. (*See LaTera's homebuyer story at the top of this issue*)

CHESAPEAKE SERVICE CENTER: The **Chesapeake Service Center** in Elkton gave an in-kind donation of \$1,015 in hauling and transportation services for two oversized trailers. The trailers were brought from Pennsylvania to the **Cecil County School of Technology**. During the course of the school year, the high school students (under the guidance of school instructors) build one Habitat home -- in two halves -- on top of these trailers. Then, the house is moved to its final, permanent location where the finishing touches are made by Habitat Susquehanna's volunteers. To date, Habitat Susquehanna has overseen the construction of four "Habi-Tech" homes in partnership with the CCST. (The fourth house is soon to be moved to Manor Road, Elkton. The homebuyer is Felicia, whose story was featured in the [August issue](#) of our newsletter.)

When you give to Habitat, your support changes lives every day!



YOU'RE INVITED!

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY SUSQUEHANNA'S

DREAM BUILDERS BALL

30TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

APRIL 22, 2023

**BULLE ROCK RESIDENTS' CENTER BALLROOM
1200 BULLE ROCK PARKWAY, HAVRE DE GRACE, MD 21078**

6:30PM TO 10:00PM

TICKET PRICE: \$130

COUPLE PRICE: \$250

TABLE PRICE (10 TICKETS): \$1,150

Live Classical Music Performance by Bel Air Music Studios International
Baccalaureate Musicians, Waltz Lesson (no partner needed), DJ, Dancing,
Commemorative Anniversary Video, Silent Auction, Dinner, Drinks, and More!

It's Habitat Susquehanna's 30th anniversary! Join us in honoring and
commemorating 30 years of opening doors for our community.

Your support will help us launch our next 30 years of service!

For sponsorship information please see page 2

Event Tickets & Sponsorships

