

Contact:

Cathy Herlinger
Habitat for Humanity
Susquehanna
410-638-4434 ext 7235 | cherlinger@habitatsusq.org
www.habitatsusq.org

Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna representatives to meet with Maryland's federal policymakers about the critical need for affordable homes at virtual legislative conference

BEL AIR, MD (February 11, 2021) — Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna will join hundreds of local Habitat organizations and home affordability advocates this week for Habitat for Humanity's annual legislative conference, held virtually for the first time: **Habitat on the Hill 2021: For home, from home.**

The three-day event, normally held in Washington, D.C., gives advocates an opportunity to convene with congressional leaders, address and discuss actionable solutions to the underlying policies and systems that hinder access to housing affordability and rally with one another.

As Habitat, through our national [Cost of Home](#) advocacy campaign, deepens our role in addressing the home affordability challenges that have been further exacerbated by COVID-19, Habitat on the Hill will focus heavily on historic and systemic racism in housing policy, and how the pandemic's economic disparities have created a critical need for immediate and long-term housing relief.

"In some way, 2020 has impacted us all," said Karen Blandford, Executive Director, Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna. "However, the past year was particularly hard for many Americans who were already struggling with a growing housing crisis amidst a global pandemic. Through this conference, we hope to affect change that will be felt throughout our community and the nation."

Habitat Susquehanna representatives (Blandford and Grant Coordinator Yvonne Golczewski) will meet with the staff of Senator Ben Cardin and Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger to urge them to invest in housing affordability as part of any future economic recovery and infrastructure measure by prioritizing foreclosure prevention, neighborhood revitalization and housing production for low-income homeowners. These investments are critical for preventing major losses in homeownership and in wealth for communities of color, as well as expanding access to new affordable homes for all.

Joining Blandford and Golczewski for virtual meetings with policymakers on Capitol Hill will be Katie York, a ten-year Habitat homeowner, resident leader and member of the Habitat Susquehanna Board of Directors, who will tell the story of how she became involved with Habitat's Homeownership program. Her story is the story of millions of Americans who make impossible choices every day.

"Although it has only been a few weeks since newly elected leaders took office, Americans cannot continue to wait for housing solutions," said Blandford. "Our leaders have a job to do. Housing must be a priority for not only our federal policymakers but also at the local and state levels as well."

Speakers at the conference include John A. Powell, Director of the Othering and Belonging Institute at the University of California, Berkeley and Yamiche Alcindor, PBS NewsHour White House Correspondent and recipient of the NABJ Journalist of the Year Award.

Each year, Habitat on the Hill is made possible by the support of Habitat for Humanity's partners. The Home Depot Foundation is returning as this year's premier sponsor and has sponsored Habitat on the Hill

for five years and donated more than \$47 million to Habitat for Humanity International, including this year's contribution of \$2 million to help build, repair or rehabilitate Veterans' homes. To date, The Home Depot Foundation has invested more than \$350 million in support of Veterans in need.

Join the conversation using [#HabitatOnTheHill](#) and [#CostOfHome](#) as Habitat works toward its campaign goal to create policies that will allow at least 10 million American families have access to a stable, affordable place to call home.

###

About Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna, Inc.

Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna, Inc. is an ecumenical Christian housing organization devoted to building, renovating and repairing houses in partnership with the community in Cecil and Harford counties. Since its inception in 1993, Habitat Susquehanna has served over 700 families through its Homeownership, Repair and Financial Literacy programs. For more information, call 410-638-4434 (Harford County) or 410-398-3399 (Cecil County), or visit www.habitatsusq.org.

About The Home Depot Foundation

[The Home Depot Foundation](#) works to improve the homes and lives of U.S. veterans, train skilled tradespeople to fill the labor gap and support communities impacted by natural disasters. Since 2011, the Foundation has invested more than \$350 million in veteran causes and improved more than 48,000 veteran homes and facilities in more than 4,500 cities. The Foundation has pledged to invest half of a billion dollars in veteran causes by 2025.

To learn more about The Home Depot Foundation visit HomeDepotFoundation.org and follow us on [Twitter](#) @HomeDepotFound and on [Facebook](#) + [Instagram](#) @HomeDepotFoundation