



A Message from our Executive Director

Happy New Year! Since our December newsletter was in the form of a Christmas card (instead of the usual monthly update), we didn't want to miss the opportunity to thank all of the donors who participated in our Giving Tuesday campaign, Christmas appeal, and end-of-year giving. At Habitat, only four percent of our building materials are donated, leaving 96 percent of the cost to be raised through generous supporters like you.

We had a busy year in 2023. Our home dedication ceremonies started with Juél's in January, when we also marked the completion of our first subdivision. From then, all the way through December, we welcomed home "Ruth," Julia, "Kokeeta," Felicia, LaTera, and Yaraly.* These single mothers shared a common wish for their children, that they have a safe place to grow up. It is always a moving experience to be a part of someone's homeownership journey, to be able to give thanks and recognition to the generosity of the house sponsors and volunteers, and to witness the love and gratitude that fills the rooms of these Habitat homes.

We held uplifting "Hammers Up!" events with **Bel Air United Methodist Church** and **St. Margaret Parish** -- the eighth time that each of these churches contributed to our mission both financially and with volunteers through a sponsored panel build. **Mountain Christian Church** gave



Yvonne Golczewski

We were part of overseeing the construction and transportation of two student-built Habitat homes -- one by the **Cecil County School of Technology** (the 4th one) and one by the **Harford Technical High School** (the 10th one in our 20-year partnership with that school).

In 2023, our **Aberdeen ReStore** marked its seventh anniversary supporting our local housing projects, as money made from ReStore sales goes back into funding our mission.

At the end of the year, I was invited, along with representatives from other Habitat affiliates, to a **Tithe Champions Trip** to Kenya. I was able to meet a few of the Habitat partner families supported by our regular tithing. It was an inspiring learning opportunity to visit some of their

us a donation through its "Explosions of Good" initiative whose goal is to help nonprofits make a big impact in the local community. Many other churches and faith groups contributed to our success last year, and their partnerships served as a reminder of how God's love is put into action.

Our 6th annual **Women Build** helped raise funds towards three Habitat homes, and approximately 100 team members volunteered to help build them. The homebuyers were all single mothers. By holding fundraisers (such as Women Build), receiving sponsorships, and having volunteers build our Habitat homes, Habitat Susquehanna is able to keep construction costs low and create an opportunity for someone who could not afford a home the traditional way.

***Homebuyers' names in quotation marks indicate those who required confidentiality in their privacy as victims of domestic abuse.**

clean water projects, and to volunteer at a house build site, as these Habitat homes are built for the elderly, widows/widowers, child-headed households, orphans and vulnerable children, and HIV/AIDS-affected.

These are just a few of the many highlights that marked our 30th anniversary year.

Thank you to our staff, Board of Directors, sponsors, donors, volunteers, and other advocates for making strength, stability and self-reliance a reality for more families every day. We look forward to the opportunities and possibilities ahead as we create new beginnings, and open new doors, in 2024!

NOTABLE DATES IN JANUARY

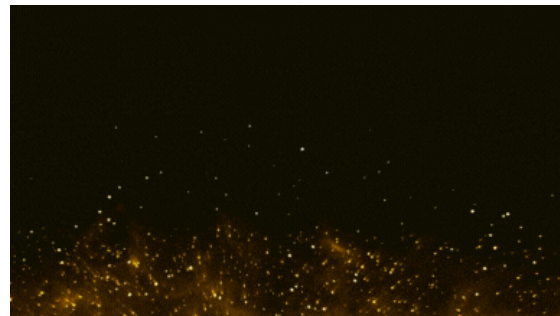
Jan. 1: The Habitat Susquehanna office in Bel Air will be closed on New Year's Day. (NOTE: The Aberdeen ReStore and the build sites are always closed on Mondays.)

Jan. 2: The Habitat Susquehanna office in Bel Air and the Aberdeen ReStore will be open. (The build sites will be closed.)

Jan. 15: The Habitat Susquehanna office in Bel Air will be closed in observance of **MLK Day**.

SAVE THE DATE

April 13: Dream Builders Ball 2024. For details, sponsorship opportunities and tickets, visit our [website](#).



FY23 Annual Report is out

Learn how Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna has helped people in your community build or improve the place they call home. You can find our FY23 report on our [website](#) (including our past years' reports).

Did you know? In this month...

Homeowner milestone

anniversaries

January 2008: The announcement was made that Harford Habitat (the precursor of Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna) would take over emergency repair and accessible ramp work formerly done by the disbanded local affiliate of Rebuilding Together (the nation's largest all-volunteer home rehabilitation organization).

January 2012: Habitat Susquehanna held the Inaugural Community Builders' Celebration as a way to formally celebrate and thank its volunteers.

January 2016: Home dedication ceremony was held on 3rd Street in Aberdeen for Avni and his family.

January 2020: According to a social media post that month, the **Bulle Rock Habitat for Humanity Club** members volunteered at our duplex build site in Havre de Grace, held a Tool Drive (to collect and donate tools for our builds), collected silent auction items (for our upcoming fundraiser), and organized a networking event to update people about what we do at Habitat Susquehanna (to recruit volunteers).

Having a safe, decent home has a life-changing impact on families. The following Habitat homeowners celebrate "milestone" anniversaries (i.e., length of time in their Habitat homes celebrated in 5-year increments):

Shaleigh B. (15 years)

Donna M. (15 years)

Veronica S. (10 years)

Heather N. (10 years)

NOTE: These are the December milestone anniversaries, as there were none for January.

Staff "workiversaries"

Congrats to our staff members who are marking work anniversaries with us this month (listed in date order):

Cathy Herlinger, Communications Manager (8 years)

Jim Diel, Site Construction Supervisor (4 years)

Sponsor Spotlights

Thank you to the following generous sponsors this month:



Maryland

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AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Nora Roberts
Foundation



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The Greater Bel Air
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1998



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