

July 2024

[www.habitatsusq.org](http://www.habitatsusq.org)

GREEN & BLUEPRINTS

A newsletter to keep you informed.



## A Message from our Executive Director

What is a Habitat ReStore, and more importantly, did you know we have one in Aberdeen? Habitat ReStores are independently owned discount home improvement stores operated by local Habitat for Humanity organizations. While we have one ReStore, other Habitat affiliates may have more than one, or none at all. Money made from our ReStore's sales goes back into our mission, and is used to help families build a better future.

Our **Aberdeen ReStore** accepts donations and sells a constantly changing inventory of diverse, high-quality merchandise to the public at a fraction of the retail price, while diverting reusable household items and building materials from area landfills.

As July 15th is **National Give Something Away Day**, we encourage you to clean out your closets and garages, and consider donating your excess household goods and building materials to our Aberdeen ReStore.

Did you know that this is the first year that our ReStore has started accepting **clothing**? If you plan to donate, make sure your items are laundered first and in good shape.

Special ReStore deals during the week:

\* Tuesdays are sales on the **Barb's Boutique** items (clothes, shoes, purses, hats);



Yvonne Golczewski

## NOTABLE DATES IN JULY

**Month of July: Christmas in July at the Aberdeen ReStore.** Check out the holiday items for sale by visiting our ReStore at 1013 Beards Hill Road, Aberdeen. Store hours are Tuesdays to Fridays from 10 AM to 6 PM, and Saturdays from 9 AM to 4 PM. The ReStore is closed Sundays and Mondays.

**JUL 4: Independence Day.** The Habitat Susquehanna office and Aberdeen ReStore are closed in observance of the federal holiday.

**JUL 14: National Tape Measure Day.** Our volunteers are always breaking out (and wearing) measuring tapes at the build sites! They have helped us build or rehab 128 homes to date! Now that's a



\* Wednesdays are sales on **Wall Art** such as pictures and mirrors;

\*Thursdays are sales on **electronics** (including TVs and microwaves) and **housewares** (dishes, dish sets, glassware, artificial flowers, pots, pans, cookware, kids' toys and games, utensils, figurines, baskets, items in the collectible case); and,

\*Fridays are sales on **furniture**.

In addition, on Tuesdays and Fridays, **military and first responders** get 10 percent off all donated items.

Lastly, don't forget to check out our popular annual "**Christmas in July**" section at the ReStore. We had so much inventory that this year, we started this sale back in June!

true "measure" of success.



Photo: "Core" volunteer Art Pokorny showing his tape measure suspenders while working at the Stokes Street build site (on left) and during a lunch break volunteering at the Deen Avenue build site.

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## Welcome home, Brittany!

We recently held a home dedication ceremony for **Brittany** (pictured in center between **Ben Marsh**, Site Construction Supervisor, and Brittany's daughter) at her Deen Avenue, Aberdeen house. According to **Michele Louderback**, Community Engagement Manager, over 2,200 volunteer hours were spent on this rehab project!

Visit our Facebook page for the [photo album](#) and to view Brittany's emotional (video) [thank you speech](#) at the event.



Photo credit: Laura Ames Photography

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## Women Build teams raise over \$75,000+ in peer-to-peer fundraising, and volunteer at Eureka's future home

Thank you to the Women Build 2024 teams that fundraised and helped build Eureka's home on Liberty Street, Aberdeen! The teams (listed in the order they volunteered at our build site) were:

[Janney MACWIN](#)



[Allan Myers](#)

[Emmett Fitness](#)

[Image 360 Harford](#)

[Tar Heel Construction](#)

[Hammer Time Heroes \(Compass Home Group\)](#)

[Harford LeadHERship Academy 2023](#)

[Unstoppable Good from Mountain Christian Church](#)

[Altus Group](#)

[Stellar Home Group](#)

[Trinity Lutheran Church](#)

[Word of Faith](#)

[Cummings Cares \(Cummings & Co. Realtors\)](#)

[Racquets to Wrenches](#)

Watch the progression of the home build through the Facebook Live videos that were taken by **Michele Louderback** (who coordinated the entire Women Build 2024 event). Each team's Facebook Live video can be viewed by clicking the links above. (Again, they are listed in order of their build dates.)

We also posted a [Facebook photo album](#) of the teams and a few action shots.

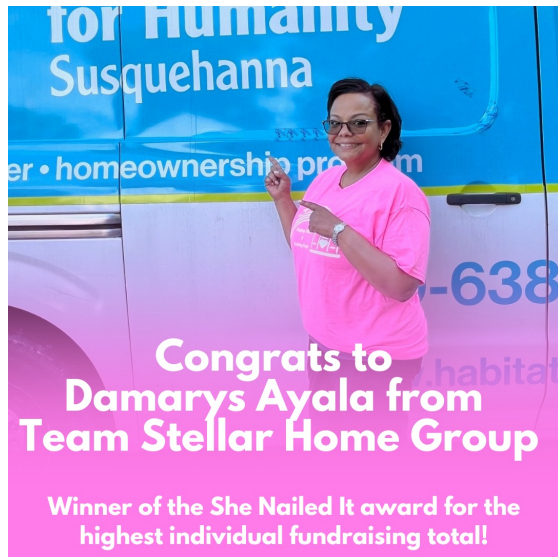
We would like to thank the **Manzone family** for generously donating \$17,000 to help us reach (and exceed) our Women Build fundraising goal of \$60,000! Together, our Women Build teams and the Manzone family raised over \$75,000 (and counting!) to help pay for building materials and costs for Eureka's home.

Additionally, we give thanks to **Chick-fil-A Aberdeen** and **Pats Pizza & Grill** in Havre de Grace for supporting our efforts by providing sponsored lunches to several of our Women Build teams.



## Congrats to Team Janney MACWIN

Winner of the coveted Tacky Hammer Award for the highest team fundraising totals!



We were very excited when television reporters from **WMAR-2 News Baltimore** (pictured below) came to one of our build days to report on our event and participate next to our volunteers from Trinity Lutheran Church. The "Good Morning Maryland" story aired on June 27th and you can view it [here](#).

For an update on the progress of our fundraising efforts for this campaign, and to donate towards this home build, visit our [website](#).





Site Construction Supervisor Jim Diel shows WMAR's Kara Burnett, Kristy Breslin, Brin Moulton, and Tranise Foster the build site at 15 Liberty Street, Aberdeen, where Women Build teams and core volunteers have been hard at work.

## "Core" volunteers thanked with orange tees and lunch

Community Engagement Manager **Michele Louderback** brought lunch and new tee shirts in thanks to Habitat Susquehanna's longtime volunteers known as the "core." We typically have about 18 of our "core" volunteers helping us each month, putting in hundreds of volunteer hours that have added up to a total of approximately 4,500 hours for this fiscal year. Today and every day, we thank them for their time and support!







#### GROUP PHOTO:

Pictured "core" volunteers (in orange tees):

Front row, L to R: Steve Debelius, Janet Pokorny, Art Pokorny, Joe Hartka, Kathy Hartka.

Second row, L to R: Joe Rubino, John Toczek, Bill Uebersax, Jeff Poulton (who, in the bottom two photos, is showing a closeup of the front and back of the shirts), and John Brodrick.

Also pictured:

Habitat Susquehanna's Site Construction Supervisors Jim Diel (far left), Tom Baker (back center), and Ben Marsh (far right); AmeriCorps National Construction Crew Leader Nancy Sorto (front center, white tee); and, Community Engagement Manager Michele Louderback (front center, blue tee).

Those who were not pictured but also part of the crew of "core" volunteers: Randy Benedict, John Buck, Zach Burnham, Chuck Clow, Michael Dippold, Chris Ennis, Pat Gilligan, Robert Hart, Skip Lepone, Randy Nix, and Jim Rosner.

## Home & Garden tour a resounding success

Our longtime supporters, the members of the **Bulle Rock Habitat for Humanity Club**, have found a new and unique way to fundraise for Habitat Susquehanna! They recently held a Home & Garden tour of many of the Bulle Rock residences, the Clubhouse and model homes. All ticket-holders were additionally entered into a raffle for some amazing prizes. We thank all of the club members, event sponsors and participants for exemplifying our motto, "You don't have to raise a hammer to help Habitat." Thank you for the varied ways you help to support our mission!

Visit our Facebook page to view [photos](#) of this recent event.



Pictured from L to R: Alisha Garlie, Anne Hottle, Nicki Mayfield, Kim Del Mauro, and Sue Nappi man the Habitat Susquehanna table at the Home & Garden tour.



## Your business can support us through a sponsored team build

If you know of a business, organization, church, civic or community group that would be interested in scheduling a sponsored "team build" day at one of our build sites, contact our Director of Development, [Ola Boswell](#), for details.

These build days promote friendship, teamwork and volunteerism with your group, and are a rewarding and impactful way to partner with us in support of our local communities.



**Pictured: Employees from Rosedale Federal Savings & Loan recently participated in a sponsored Team Build Day at our build site on Deen Avenue, Aberdeen. Rosedale Federal has been a longtime supporter and sponsor of Habitat Susquehanna's mission. Visit our website for [sponsorship](#) levels.**

## Did you know? In this month...

**July 2013:** A team of nine volunteers from Habitat Susquehanna, dubbed the "**Kenya Krew**," traveled to Kisii, Kenya, to construct a Habitat home under the Global Village Program. (See picture below.)

**July 2014:** Habitat Susquehanna held its first **LEGO Blitz Build** event. Young people were given the experience of what it was like to build a Habitat home. The participants competed against one another by building a Habitat home with LEGOs in an hour. The proceeds were used to help fund a real Habitat home.

**July 2017:** A Marine Corps Veteran who did two tours of duty in Vietnam received assistance from Habitat Susquehanna's **Repair Program** for his Edgewood home. Thanks to grant funding that was available from the **Home Depot Foundation** for homes of Veterans, as well as through an **MEA** grant, Otis received a new roof, front entry door, eight windows, washing machine, refrigerator, hot water heater, heat pump, and attic insulation.

**July 2017:** Habitat Susquehanna held a "**Crazy Build**" event where almost 250 volunteers built as much of one home as possible over one weekend in partnership with a volunteer group called the "Road Trip Crazies." (See picture below.)

**Top photo: "Kenya Krew"**

## Homeowner news

This month, the following celebrate milestone anniversaries as Habitat homeowners:

**Alicia:** 15 years

**Adrienne:** 10 years

## In her own words...

When Adrienne first applied to the Homeownership Program, she said:

"This has lifted such a huge burden from our family. It was impossible to keep up with the expenses of everyday life and a son in college. I was drowning in a sea of desperation when Habitat threw me a line and rescued me and gave us hope of living an affordable lifestyle."

## Staff news

Congrats to Executive Director **Yvonne Golczewski**, who is marking her seven-year work anniversary with us this month, and to **Ola Boswell**, Director of Development, who started with us in July two years ago!

## AmeriCorps news

Welcome to our newest AmeriCorps member, **Lina Abuothman** (pictured at far right, with Site Construction Supervisor **Ben**



Bottom photo: "Crazy Build"



Marsh and fellow AmeriCorps member Nancy Sorto).



Learn more about how car donations help fund our work. Visit the [Cars for Homes](#) web page, or call (877) 277-4344.

## Cars for Homes Fun Fact:

*Did you that in addition to building new houses, we also partner with families in need of a new roof, a wheelchair ramp, or other repairs? Habitat for Humanity affiliates work in hundreds of communities across the country, helping residents revitalize their neighborhoods.*

At Habitat Susquehanna, our [Repair Program](#) helps low-income homeowners in Cecil and Harford Counties with their critical home repairs and weatherization needs.



# Save the Date

*Habitat Harvest*

NOVEMBER

1

5-8:00 PM

TICKETS \$25

Ticket price includes:  
2 craft beers, a bonfire,  
s'mores, food, fun!



Kids are free &  
dogs are welcome!



ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO SUPPORT OUR "HABI-TECH" PROGRAM!

## Sponsor Spotlights

Thank you to the following generous sponsors this month:

*The* Dresher  
Foundation *Inc.*



The Morris A and Clarisse B  
Mechanic Foundation Inc.







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