



A Message from our Executive Director

On March 20th, we're holding a home dedication ceremony for Amanda and her three little boys.

Amanda's new home is the tenth "Habi-Tech" home that has been built by the students of the **Harford Technical High School** during its 20-year partnership with us. It is also the first "Habi-Tech" home to be located in Havre de Grace. It takes two years for the students to build a "Habi-Tech" house from start to finish under the guidance of school instructors.

We are so excited to welcome home another new Habitat family, while highlighting the longtime "Habi-Tech" partnerships, volunteers and sponsorships that brought us to this special day. Hope to see you there!



PHOTO: Amanda (in blue hard hat, kneeling with our AmeriCorps member Nancy) worked some of her "sweat equity" hours alongside students from St. Lawrence University during their Collegiate Challenge time with us. The students spent their winter school break volunteering at our Aberdeen ReStore and Habitat home build site.



Yvonne Golczewski

NOTABLE DATES IN MARCH

Mar 20: Dedication of 420 Ohio Street, Havre de Grace. Please [register](#) to attend Amanda's home dedication ceremony. This will also be a celebration of our 20-year partnership with Harford Technical High School.

NOTE: If you are interested in being included on future invitations to Habitat home dedications, contact [John Lanigan](#), Development Manager & Safety Officer.

Mar 29: The Habitat Susquehanna office in Bel Air will be closed in observance of **Good Friday**.

Less than 25 tickets left!

DREAM BUILDERS

BLACK & WHITE BALL 2024

Saturday, April 13, 2024 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Bulle Rock Residents' Club Ballroom

Individual Ticket: \$150

Couples Package (two tickets): \$290

Table (ten tickets): \$1,350

All-inclusive event with delicious food catered by The Local, dueling musical performances, and a fabulous silent auction!



Trip to Ireland



Cape May Deep Sea Charter Fishing Trips



Trip to Tuscany



Trip to Costa Rica



Handmade US Flag Afghan

EVERY BID HELPS HABITAT!

Can't attend our Dream Builders Ball? Please place a proxy bid or inquire by emailing janigan@habitatsusq.org



Handmade Quilt



Trip to Key West



Trip to France



Alaskan Cruise



Interior with Miro, Signed



Trip to Spain



Discord of Analogy, Signed



MD Flag End Table



Trip to Africa



Trip to Greek Islands

Thank you to our gala sponsors to date:



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Sponsorships still available!

[Click here for more information or to purchase tickets & sponsorships](#)

Habitat on the Hill 2024

Executive Director Yvonne Golczewski and several of our board members recently attended and advocated for affordable housing at **Habitat on the Hill**, Habitat's premier legislative annual conference.

They joined with members from other Maryland Habitat affiliates, such as **Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake**, **Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland**, and **Habitat for Humanity of Frederick County**, to meet with our congressional representatives.

Each year, the event mobilizes nearly 400 Habitat staff members, board members, homeowners, resident leaders, volunteers, and emerging leaders together in Washington, D.C.



Pictured, from left to right: Board members Juél Capellan, Kimberly Beazley and Katie York, with Executive Director Yvonne Golczewski, at Habitat on the Hill 2024.

Meet our newest Habitat homebuyers

Approved homebuyers must go through the rigorous financial review process to ensure they are eligible candidates for Habitat Susquehanna's Homeownership Program. The eligibility criteria include demonstrating a housing need; showing an

ability to make monthly mortgage payments; and, willingness to partner with Habitat Susquehanna. Each applicant who partners with Habitat Susquehanna must complete 250 hours of "sweat equity" before move-in day, building their home or the home of another Habitat homebuyer. They also attend mandatory financial education classes to learn good money management skills. A Habitat homebuyer becomes a homeowner at the end of their journey after they go to settlement.



Candy's story (excerpt): I am a single mom of three wonderful children. Owning a home that is affordable and safe would be one more step in my journey for providing for my family on my own. This home would be ours, it would be a safe and stable place...a reminder that there is a rainbow at the end of the storm, and I walked through that storm like a boss!

PHOTO: Candy was the guest speaker at a recent Habitat Susquehanna fundraiser.

Photo credit: Laura Ames Photography



Keyonna's story (excerpt): I am a single mother of four children. I am applying for Habitat Susquehanna to find stability for my children to become a homeowner and show my children all the things that are possible. I will not just be proud of becoming a homeowner but proud of every step I have taken to continue this journey to a stable living environment for all my children.

PHOTO: Keyonna (center) with Director of Construction Dave Burja, and Homeownership Program Manager Heather Gibson, looking over house plans.



Eureka's story (excerpt): I am a single mother of three. I really want to be able to buy a home so myself and my children can have something that is ours. I feel that I have been doing things the right way to give them a better life. I need a home that I can afford and



Brittany's story (excerpt): The really cool thing about this program was that you get to be a part of the process. Helping to build and participate as time goes on seemed like a big motivator for me, and would make me more appreciative when it's all said and done. I've always wanted more for my daughter and have strived to

something that we can actually call home. I hope you give me this opportunity to become a homeowner.

PHOTO: One of our favorite moments is when Heather Gibson, our Homeownership Program Manager, surprises an applicant with the news that they have been approved as a Habitat Homebuyer. Eureka (center) thought she was just coming in for an appointment with Heather; little did she realize that she was going to be told she was approved. Members of our staff were on hand to congratulate her. From left to right, Executive Director Yvonne Golczewski; Homeownership Program Manager Heather Gibson; Habitat Homebuyer Eureka; Community Engagement Manager Michele Louderback; Development Manager & Safety Officer John Lanigan; and, Finance Assistant Alison Vain.

do all I can to be able to provide for her – our own home. I just completed my bachelors last year, and started my dream job...I think we are ready this time around.

PHOTO: It's the first step in the Homeownership journey when our Homeownership Program Manager Heather Gibson delivers the news that an applicant has been approved for the program. Sometimes it's over the telephone, with staff standing in the background to clap and cheer when the applicant is told. Sometimes, as in the case with Brittany (center), we're able to do it in person! From left to right, Director of Construction Dave Burja; Grants Manager Rachel Hennick; Homeownership Program Manager Heather Gibson; Home Repair Specialist Tom Baker; Habitat Homebuyer Brittany; Development Manager & Safety Officer John Lanigan; Repair Program Manager Lydia Jordan; Finance Assistant Alison Vain; Director of Development Ola Boswell; Chief Financial Officer John Battista; Community Engagement Manager Michele Louderback; and, Executive Director Yvonne Golczewski.

Women Build 2024 – Raising Walls and Raising Hope!

We are looking for strong women to help a strong woman and her family achieve the dream of homeownership!

It's never too early to think about Women Build! This year all Women Build teams are working on Eureka's home at 15 Liberty Street in Aberdeen (*see her story above*). The build will start with a foundation slab and a goal to have the house framed, roofed and sided by our Women Build teams.

Here is more information about our Women Build Campaign:

- Teams can have up to 10 members (men permitted on women-led teams)
- Teams form through the end of April, compete in friendly team fundraising in May and each team will have a dedicated team build day in June.
- All team members receive a one-of-a-kind Women Build t-shirt, a swag bag and lunch on the day they volunteer. The team who raises the most money gets the coveted Tacky Hammer



Award and bragging rights for one year.

- No construction experience needed! We provide the tools, safety equipment, and on-the-job training. You provide the enthusiasm and willing heart.

If interested in joining a team or forming a Women Build team through your business, church or organization, contact [Michele Louderback](#), Community Engagement Manager, for details!



Aberdeen ReStore now sells clothing

Our ReStore has started selling clothing, thanks to a terrific idea and tremendous effort spearheaded by longtime ReStore volunteer **Barbara**, and the volunteer crew she has recruited to help out! You can find men's, women's and children's clothing; coats; shoes; purses; accessories, etc. If you have items to donate, please ensure they are cleaned and laundered prior to dropping them off.



Cars for Homes (CFH)

Habitat Susquehanna is looking for vehicle donations to help support our mission of building affordable housing for families in need. Your car donation can make a real difference in someone's life. Not only will Habitat tow it for free, but you'll also be giving back to your community and enjoying the benefits of a tax-deductible donation. Visit the Cars for Homes [website](#) for details.



Did you know? In this month...

March 2009: The "Katrina Krew" returned to the Mississippi Gulf Coast (they had gone the previous year to

Homeowner milestone anniversary

Congrats to "Renee" (real name protected due to domestic abuse situation) who is

assist with the Hurricane Katrina cleanup). They worked closely with the Gulf Coast Habitat for Humanity. The crew consisted of Dave Hall, Robin Little, Pat Ward, Judy Herman, Carol Deel, Carol Suzdak. Their work project was building a home in a neighborhood that had experienced flood damage.

March 2014: The Repair Program Manager **Carol Suzdak** set out to Malawi for a **Global Village** trip where the volunteers go to build a home. These trips are a great reminder that our Habitat impact and reach is worldwide.

March 2022: The house dedication for the home built by the students of the **Cecil County School of Technology (CCST)** took place at Walnut Street, Rising Sun. It was the third home built by the CCST in partnership with Habitat Susquehanna. The homebuyer was Anthony, single father to a young son.

celebrating a five-year anniversary as a Habitat homeowner this month. During her application process, "Renee" said:

"My faith in God has kept me strong and I am amazed at how caring and remarkably resilient my children have been throughout this whole process. ...I can only imagine the amount of people who need this program and understand there may be more circumstances of people in need -- I just ask for your consideration. Habitat for Humanity would be helping me own our first home and a fresh, new start to our future."

Staff news

Kudos to **Rachel Hennick**, Grants Manager, who is marking her two-year work anniversary with us this month!

Congrats to **Lydia Jordan** who is our new Repair Program Manager! Our thanks go to staff member **Tom Baker** who will be supporting this program as the Home Repair Specialist.

Sponsor Spotlights

Thank you to the following generous sponsors this month:



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