



A Message from our Executive Director

Thank you to everyone who made our April events so successful. Our 30th anniversary Gala was wonderfully uplifting, and our Golf Tournament, while rainy, was still so much fun!

Our yearlong anniversary celebration continues this month with [Hard Hats & Hops](#), a very popular family-friendly event that we started last year. It's a laid-back way to get to know us, and for us to get to know you. I hope to see you there!

This month, our 11 **Women Build** teams are volunteering on various days at our build sites. Our heartiest congratulations go to their outstanding fundraising efforts which raised more than \$67,000 for three Habitat homes -- setting a new record from past Women Build fundraising, and raising the bar for future teams! Congratulations to all of the participants and sponsors, and thank you for a job well done!

As another home dedication ceremony approaches (for the Erie Street, Havre de Grace, duplex), I'm reminded of how our partnerships with each and every one of you is more than about building houses. We're taking a leap of faith together, faith that when we're giving a "hand up," we're creating opportunities for people to build a better life. Thank you for choosing to partner with us!



Yvonne Golczewski

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

May 4-20: [Women Build](#) teams volunteer at build sites

May 7: 7th anniversary of the **Aberdeen ReStore**

May 26: [Hard Hats & Hops](#) at Hopkins Farm Brewery

May 29: Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna's Bel Air office is closed in observance of Memorial Day

Jun 2: House dedication ceremony for 808 Erie Street, Havre de Grace.*

*contact **John Lanigan** at jlanigan@habitatsusq.org if you would like to be added to the ceremony invitation list.

Hard Hats & Hops

Tickets are going fast for Hard Hats & Hops, so don't miss out! The family-friendly event is May 26th at the scenic **Hopkins Farm Brewery**. We'll even have a illusionist to entertain our attendees! If you can't come to our event but still want to contribute in some way, we're looking for sponsorships. Sponsorships come with amazing benefits such as recognition at the event, listing on signage, social media promotion, name inclusion in our e-newsletter, and much more!

[purchase Hard Hats & Hops tickets](#)



\$25 GETS YOU TWO BEERS FROM A SELECTION OF HOPKINS FARM BREWERY'S CRAFT BEERS & 1 DOOR PRIZE TICKET!

30th anniversary Gala a great success

Gala celebrates 30 years of opening doors to homeownership opportunities

The 30th Anniversary Gala was filled with warm tributes to all of the past Habitat staff, donors, sponsors, volunteers and board members who have paved the way for homeownership opportunities for 122 (and counting) families since 1993.

This year's Gala raised approximately \$72,000, which is a testimony to the amount of community support we have built over the last 30 years. As the price of building materials, lumber and land continues to rise, the cost of constructing just one Habitat home is now roughly at \$220,000, making it all the more important for these annual fundraisers to succeed. Your generosity helps change lives for generations!



Habitat Susquehanna co-founder Charles Alston (pictured) and others were honored at the Dream Builders' Ball 30th Anniversary Gala.

[view our Facebook Gala photo album](#)

**THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING
GALA CONTRIBUTORS AND
BEHIND-THE-SCENES
SUPPORTERS:**

- Our Events Committee (Sue Nappi, Art & Janet Pokorny, Janet Imwold, Linda Jackson-Costabile, Brigid Graham, Joe and Sooka Hollenbeck, Rhonda Baker, Kim Del Mauro, Nicki Mayfield, Julie Munchel, Leeny Seamonds);
- Our Board of Directors and Habitat Susquehanna staff;
- Eric Bach Studio (created and donated our [30th Anniversary Commemorative video](#));
- Bel Air Music Studios (whose student musicians performed classical music pieces following months of rehearsals for this special event);
- Habitat Susquehanna Volunteer Photographer **Yvonne Alston**;
- Tim Hartley of radio station WXCY (Emcee for the evening);
- the wonderful people who donated Silent Auction Table and raffle items;
- The Local;
- Bulle Rock Community Association;
- Harford Image360; and,
- East Shore Sound.

**THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING
GALA SPONSORS:**

- Tricennial Sponsor:**
Harford Mutual Insurance Group
- Dream Builder Sponsor:**
Bob Ward Trademark Custom Homes & Bulle Rock Developer, Inc.
- Dream Big Sponsor:**
Old Dominion Electric Cooperative - Wildcat Point Generation Facility
- Step & Repeat Sponsors:**
First National Bank; York Building Products
- Cocktails for a Cause Sponsor:**
Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Credit Union
- It Takes a Community Sponsors:** Bulle Rock Habitat for Humanity Club; Freedom Federal Credit Union; Greenebaum Enterprises; Peninsula Wealth Advisory Group
- Virtual Sponsors:**
BriteStar Business;
Chason Mediation LLC;
Donna & Jim Chason;
Jarrettsville Federal Credit Union;
NewCreteFinish.Com;
Weyrich, Cronin, & Sorra

Meet our current homebuyer

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



Cancer is not a word you think you'd read in a Habitat newsletter; however, here it is. The struggles of single mom, Julia, are more than just caring for three boys – the youngest with special needs (developmentally delayed, autism and non-verbal) – but now they also include cancer.

I have always said that our homebuyers are some of the most organized, compassionate, and determined people I've ever met. Julia epitomizes this as she works with special needs children like her son, makes sure both her older boys are Honor Roll students as well as All-Star athletes, and goes through cancer treatments, all while performing her 250 "sweat equity" hours* so she can provide her children with the stability of owning her own home.

"Habitat would relieve the serious weight that I carry on my shoulders every day," she said, speaking about the uncertainty and financial burdens that come with renting.

In her family story, she said: "I know there is a brighter future for us and I won't stop pushing myself to the fullest to gain everything my boys' and I deserve and desire! Habitat is our dream come true!"

Through volunteering and donating, YOU are the ones making Julia's dream come true. We absolutely cannot do what we do without your contributions.

**sweat equity: At Habitat, sweat equity is a new homeowner investing in their home or one for another family. It's not a form of payment, but an opportunity to work alongside volunteers to bring to life a family's dream of owning a home.*

Source: Habitat for Humanity International website

Women Build raises \$67,000+ for three Habitat homes; teams volunteer at build sites in May

We have such exciting news to report about **Women Build!** First, the teams have moved from the fundraising phase of the process (in April) to the volunteer experience at our house builds (in May). We were so fortunate to have 11 teams signed up this year

We also want to thank the following Women Build 2023 sponsors to date:

Be on Our Side Sponsors:
Allan Myers
Enspire Energy

when we were hoping for 10! Our goal was to raise \$50,000 to help fund and build three affordable Habitat homes. Did we meet that goal? Of course, and SURPASSED it!! We raised over \$67,000, and donations and sponsorships are still coming in! It's the highest amount of funds raised over all of our past Women Build events. Now that's something to celebrate!

The Women Build funds will go towards the future Habitat homes of three single mothers: LaTera (Havre de Grace), Yaraly (Aberdeen) and Felicia (Elkton). Our thanks to the following Women Build teams for their hard work, dedication and support:

Adkins Letschin Home Group
Allan Myers
B + M Restorations
Bel Air Business Builders
Chesapeake Contemporary
Dentistry
Emmett Fitness
Janney MACWIN
Stellar Home Group
Tar Heel Construction
Tru Contracting
Word of Faith International Outreach

For the third year in a row, the winning fundraising team was **Janney MACWIN** (pictured at right) for raising a whopping \$8,581! The second place team was **Bel Air Business Builders** - participating with us for the first time - for raising \$7,153! The top individual fundraiser was **Brenda Betz**, of the B+M Powerhouse Team, who raised \$4,179! The next-highest individual fundraiser was **Heather Schafer Adkins** of the Adkins Letschin Home Group team -- also participating with us for the first time -- who raised \$2,353! We had 380 donors and sponsors participate (thus far)! Thank you to everyone for your amazing fundraising skills that will give a "hand up" to three Habitat families!

Raising the Roof Sponsors:
M&T Bank
Wegmans

A Little Lumber Goes a Long Way Sponsors:
Stack & Store Self Storage
B+M Cabinetry Plus
B+M Restorations
DTC, Inc.
Harford Tree Experts & Landscaping
Jarvis Appliance

Help Keep Us Going Sponsors:
American Home and Hardware
Armory Financial
Spartan Equipment
Tar Heel Construction Group LLC
First National Bank
KOA
Janney MACWIN

[learn more about Women Build](#)

Click on the blue button above if you want to learn more about our Women Build efforts.

If you or your business, organization, group, or church would like to be a part of a Women Build team next year, please contact our Women Build organizer, **Phylliss Mosca**, Donor and Faith Relations Manager, at pmosca@habitatsusq.org.



Janney MACWIN team: Winning fundraising team for Women Build 2023 (holding "tacky hammer" award)

Thank you to **MATCO Tools Distributors of Maryland and Delaware** for their partnership with Habitat Susquehanna. Despite the rain, the MATCO Tools Golf Tournament to benefit Habitat Susquehanna raised approximately \$21,000 which will provide a needed \$10,000 to our Repair Program, and over \$10,000 towards our organization's overall mission!



Cecil "Habi-Tech" house moved to its final, permanent location

The "Habi-Tech" house built by the students (top picture) of the Cecil County School of Technology, in partnership with Habitat Susquehanna, was transported in two sections by trailers and taken to its final destination at 2 Manor Road, Elkton (bottom picture). Our thanks go to **Digging and Rigging, Inc.** for donating its services to lift the house and transport it to Manor Road, and for **Modular Genius** which donated its construction services team to install the house at the build site. Both Digging and Rigging and Modular Genius worked together, along with Habitat staff and volunteers, to set the house on its foundation. We are so thankful for these in-kind donations which saved us thousands of dollars! We'll now be looking for volunteers to help us complete the home. Sign up through our [website](#).

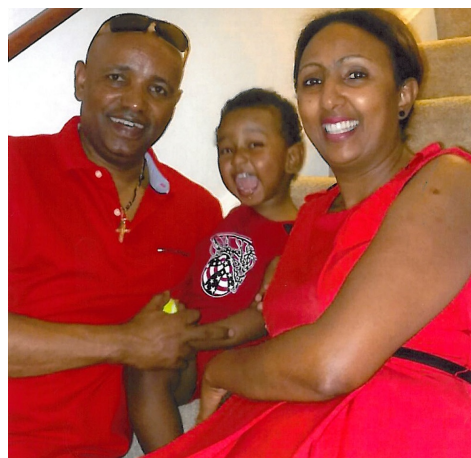


For more photos, visit our [Facebook page](#).

Habitat homeowner milestone anniversaries

Congrats to our Havre de Grace (Girard Street) homeowners, whose Habitat houses were built side-by-side, for being in their homes for five years this month!

When Mulugeta and Sara applied to our Homeownership program, they said, "My hope is, through this program, to



purchase a house which my growing family and I can call a home."

When next-door-neighbors Lemma and Mulatwa applied to our Homeownership program, they were hoping for a place of their own to accommodate their daughter -- who has been in a wheelchair since the age of one -- with her accessibility needs.

Lemma said, "We pray that God blesses this organization and makes us the hand to reach more people like us. After migrating to two countries, two states in the USA and two apartments in Maryland, we will finally settle in ONE house. We hope this will help bring peace to our mind, rest to our body and benefit to our finances."



Top photo: Mulugeta, Sara and their son.

Bottom photo: Lemma (who has since passed away), Mulatwa, and their daughter.

Staff News



Workiversary

Congrats to our staff member, **Norm "Spike" Wilson**, who has worked at our Aberdeen ReStore for three years this month as a Donation Ambassador!



Departure

After 13 1/2 years with Habitat Susquehanna, **Anne Hottle** (pictured, in blue) is semi-retiring! Fortunately for us, her plans include continuing in her role as Director of Acquisitions, as well as volunteering on our build sites with her husband, Terry! We wish her a carefree and relaxing R&R!

Sponsor Spotlights

Thank you to the following generous sponsors this month:

Fulton Bank

Fulton *FORWARD*®

apgfcu



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

