



A Message from our Executive Director

Women Build 2024 is just around the corner. This year's event already has 15 teams (and counting) signed up -- the most we've had to date!

What is Women Build? According to Habitat for Humanity International, the "seeds" for the idea of Women Build were planted after a group of women in Charlotte, North Carolina, completed the first women-build Habitat for Humanity house in 1991. Since then, the annual event has grown to more than 300 Habitat locations in the U.S., Canada and India. It became a way to raise awareness of the challenges women face in accessing safe, affordable housing, with the idea that women can help other women in building up their communities.

Our own historical records show that we became involved in Women Build starting in 2012, during an event we called "Women Build Week." As the years have passed, our efforts have increased to what we have today -- fundraising for and building a Habitat home with month-long build dates for women-led teams.

This year's event launched in April with the recruitment of teams, some of them returning, some brand new. During the month of May, these teams will be actively fundraising towards the home to be built on a lot on Liberty Street, Aberdeen. The teams have scheduled dedicated build days in June. The goal



Yvonne Golczewski

NOTABLE DATES IN MAY

MAY 6: Last day to purchase golf tournament's raffle tickets. The foursomes for the May 10th golf tournament may be sold out, but \$10 raffle tickets are still on sale for the **Matco Tools toolbox** valued at \$1,720. The deadline for the raffle tickets is May 6th. The proceeds benefit Habitat Susquehanna. Visit our [website](#) for details. Questions? Contact [John Lanigan](#).

MAY 7: Happy birthday, Aberdeen ReStore! The ReStore turns eight on this day. Check its [Facebook page](#) for any sales announcements around that time.

MAY 13-18: Acts of Kindness Week at HCPL Bel Air Branch. Visit the Bel Air

is to have the Women Build teams get the walls, roof and siding completed. The homebuyer is **Eureka**, a single mother of three. As with all future homeowners, Eureka is required to complete 250 hours of "sweat equity," before move-in day, building her home (or the home of another Habitat homebuyer). She also must attend mandatory financial education classes to learn good money management skills. She will be purchasing this home through a mortgage made affordable specifically for her. (Habitat homes are not free.)

How can you support Women Build 2024? We're currently looking for sponsors and lunch donors. Contact [Michele Louderback](#) for details.

Library's StreamWorks room (during library hours) and have fun using the 3-D printer to make [Habitat keychains](#)! The keychains will be gifted to Habitat homebuyers on their dedication days, and also given to our dedicated volunteers who help make affordable housing possible. This project is possible due to the generous support of the **Bel Air Friends of the Library**. Contact [Bethany Vangrin](#) or [Michele Louderback](#) for more information.

MAY 27: Memorial Day. The Habitat Susquehanna office is closed in observance of Memorial Day.


MAY 31: Home Dedication Ceremony for Keyonna's house. Invitations to this event will be sent out in early May.

Help close the funding gap on Brittany's home

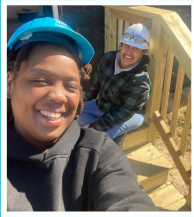
We are excited to announce that Habitat Susquehanna has recently completed its 127th home! We have three more home builds rapidly approaching completion and Brittany's is one of them. A \$50,000 funding gap remains for Brittany's home (a rehab at Deen Avenue, Aberdeen). Brittany and her daughter are ready for a new beginning.

To help close our current funding gap, **Milby Company** has generously donated \$5,000 to jump start our campaign. We now turn to you, our dedicated supporters, to ask for help in meeting this goal. Please consider making a [donation](#).

\$50,000 TO GO!



Please help us close the funding gap on Brittany's home



Brittany is pictured to the right assisting onsite at her home build

To Donate

Dream Builders Ball thanks

Thank you to everyone who joined in creating a community where everyone has an affordable and decent place to live. Our heartfelt appreciation goes to our Habitat staff, Board of Directors, Events Committee, supporters, and community partners who were involved in making Dream Builders Ball 2024 possible. Visit our Facebook page for the [photos](#).



Photo credit: Laura Ames Photography

A look at the Cecil "Habi-Tech" house

In mid-April, we were able to interview the students of the **Cecil County School of Technology**, as well as **Candy**, as she took a first look at the "Habi-Tech" home they are constructing there. Candy will be purchasing this home through a mortgage made affordable specifically for her. Check out our "Worksite Wednesday" [Facebook video](#) post with Homeownership Program Manager **Heather Gibson** to view some of those interviews, as well as footage of the house.



Seniors from the Cecil County School of Technology and their teacher gave Candy and her daughter a tour of the "Habi-Tech" house they're building there. (Candy is the future homeowner.)

Did you know? In this month...

May 2012: The fifth home built by the students of the **Harford Technical High School**, in partnership with Habitat Susquehanna, was transported to its final destination on Edmund Street, Aberdeen. The homebuyer of this "Habi-Tech" house was **Kimberly**, a single mother of three.

"I feel so thankful that there is a program like this," said Kimberly, "and sponsors, willing to step up and help families like mine to achieve our dreams of home ownership."

May 2014: The sixth home to be built by the students of **Harford Tech** was transported to 2nd Street, Aberdeen, and the homebuyer was **Santa**, a mother of two boys.

"After experiencing numerous traumatic...and painful experiences in life, including the loss of my husband," said Santa, "I was ready for a change and ready for a home."

Homeowner milestone anniversary

This month, **Jocelyn W.** marks 10 years as a Habitat homeowner! Here is what Jocelyn said when she first applied to the Homeownership Program:

"One of my Dad's favorite quotes is: *'You reap what you sow.'*"

"I believe I sowed on good soil and I am now reaping my bountiful harvest in the form of a Habitat home. To God be the glory for this great organization, and the hopes and dreams that can be realized through them!"

"My story is still being written because He is restoring all that was taken from me."

"I want to leave you this quote: *'Find joy in the ordinary. Don't look back; you're not going that way.'*"

Staff news

Congrats to **Norm Wilson**, Donation Ambassador at our **Aberdeen ReStore**, who is marking his four-year work anniversary with us this month!



Cars for Homes Fun Fact:

Did you know the energy saved each year through car recycling is enough to power approximately 18 million homes?

May is **Affordable Housing Awareness Month**. Learn more about how car donations help fund our affordable housing programs. Visit the [Cars for Homes](https://www.carsforhomes.org) web page, or call (877) 277-4344.

Collegiate Challenge groups at our build sites

Thank you for spending your spring break volunteering with us!



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Sponsor Spotlights

Thank you to the following generous sponsors this month:

Thank you to our DREAM BUILDERS BALL sponsors for a successful event benefiting affordable housing in our community

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