



SUMMER 2024 BUILDING ON FAITH NEWSLETTER

Habitat is driven by the teachings of our Christian faith. We witness the power and love of Christ as we build simple, decent, affordable houses in partnership with all people. We offer faith groups a powerful way to put their faith into action, and many faith partners support us in our communities through their generous donations, prayers and volunteers.

A Message from our Executive Director

"Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings."

-- Isaiah 58:12

We answer the call for help. We know that as a calling of your faith, many of you personally visit members of the community to offer a helping hand. During your contacts with people struggling to live in a warm, safe and stable home, you have reached out to us to see if we could provide assistance through our **Repair Program**. Thanks to this faith partnership, we have been able to help neighbors in need. We have repaired countless leaky roofs, replaced many broken HVAC systems, and installed accessibility items such as grab bars and ramps, where there were none before. We built a ramp and made bathroom accessibility modifications for **Rosalind**, a double amputee. **Melinda's** heating system in her house stopped working in the dead



Yvonne Golczewski

Can we count on you? We are calling on our faith partners to help us be the "repairer of broken walls." By making a financial donation to our Repair Program, we can do so much good for our neighbors! We can rest in the knowledge that people can stay in their community as they age, and live in a safe and decent place for as long as they want.

How your donation can make an impact on neighbors in need:

of winter, and we replaced it, as well as provided her home with a new roof and insulation for her attic. **Lydia** couldn't leave her house without help to go down her few front steps, until we installed an accessibility ramp for her wheelchair. These are just some of the many examples of work our Repair Program has done for the past 16 years, thanks to various grants we received to pay for the tremendous expense of critical home repairs. To date, we have made more than 960 of those critical home repairs for over 400 families in need.

Our neighbors are in greater need today. We currently have 94 households on our waitlist, local homeowners who are approved for help but can't get it as soon as they need it. Our current waitlist is backlogged due to a number of reasons: an increase in homeowner requests, a higher volume of needed critical home repairs, the rising cost of materials, and, the funding restrictions that limit how much grant money we can spend per house in addition to a reduction of funds to help.

While we feel very blessed to receive grant funds for our program, the magnitude of all of the needed critical home repairs outweighs what we can do to assist our struggling neighbors in need.

- \$100 – Install grab bars
- \$250 – replace a leaky toilet
- \$500 – replace 1 window
- \$1,000 – repair or replace electrical components
- \$2,000 – replace a hot water heater
- \$3,500 – install a mini-split air conditioning system
- \$6,000 – install an accessibility ramp
- \$10,000 – replace a roof

Make a Donation to Repair Our Community

We would be grateful and appreciate donations in any amount. Every dollar supports your neighbors in Harford and Cecil Counties and will help to Repair Our Community. Please make a donation either through our website (click the green donate button above) or by sending a check made payable to:

Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna
(**Repair Program** in the memo line)
205 S. Hays Street
Bel Air, MD 21014

Contact [Michele Louderback](#), Community Engagement Manager, for questions via email, or by calling her at 443-895-0036.

Volunteers build walls to a Habitat house

We recently gathered for the 9th annual sponsored panel build -- called a Hammers Up Day -- with the **Bel Air United Methodist Church**. Volunteers constructed the first-floor walls of the middle unit of a triplex that we will be building in Havre de Grace. Attendees included family and friends (center pic) of **Tim Knabe**, a longtime Habitat volunteer who supported both our



Homeownership and Repair programs until his passing in 2022. Tim was the very first volunteer featured in our inaugural issue of this *Building on Faith* newsletter. **Randy Wentzel** (top pic) took over from Tim for organizing the annual event with Habitat Susquehanna. Also participating and supporting the volunteers was **Pastor Byron Brought**.



It was a beautiful day to be together, and these volunteers' efforts will further strengthen our community by building safe, decent and affordable housing.

Hammers Up is a sponsored event where Habitat Susquehanna brings the construction site to a church, company, organization, or school. We supply the building materials, tools, safety equipment and professional supervision.



If you are interested in holding a Hammers Up event in your area, contact [Ola Boswell](#), Director of Development, for details.



Visit our Facebook page for this event's [photo album](#).

Egypt added to the list of where we tithe

We have an updated list for this fiscal year of where we will tithe to support our Habitat for Humanity efforts overseas. We are going to continue to provide tithe support to **Kenya, Haiti, and Malawi**, but we have added **Egypt** to our list as our fourth tithe partner.



As we mentioned in our last newsletter, we have been tithing to various overseas projects since 1995 to help fund the building of Habitat homes around the globe. When our nonprofit tithes, one hundred percent of that tithe is sent

internationally.

At this year's annual Habitat for Humanity International conference in Atlanta, we were presented with the **Malachi 3:10 Award** in recognition of having contributed over \$500,000 in 29 years to Habitat's global mission. We have served 210 international households.

During this event, our Director of Development, **Ola Boswell**, met **Ashraf Eid**, National Director for Habitat for Humanity Egypt (pictured at top right), who discussed their efforts in addressing their housing need, as well as their WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) projects. One example of the importance of WASH was that, due to the lack of proper water systems in schools, young girls were dropping out of school rather than enduring the lack of bathrooms during their time of menses.

"Habitat Egypt focuses the majority of their work on the most rural and impoverished regions of Egypt where the need is greatest," said Ola. "Additionally, Habitat Egypt has created innovative building designs such as domed roofs for cooling."

When it was time to review our tithe partnerships, Ola recommended Habitat Egypt to be considered as our next tithe partner. We took a vote at our monthly staff meeting, and it was unanimously approved.

Source for country profile: Habitat for Humanity International, [Where We Build/Egypt](#)



The housing need in Egypt

Egypt is home to one of the world's fastest-growing populations. With more than 60% of its population below the age of 30, its current housing shortage is expected to rise, especially for low-income groups. While the need continues to grow in rural and urban areas in the country, factors such as climate change, scarcity of resources and water shortage as well as private investor apathy, influence the supply and affordability of housing units.

Low-income vulnerable communities in upper Egypt, for example, resort to unsafe, substandard housing options due to a lack of financing support for safe and adequate housing. To address the issue, the Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities in Egypt has developed a housing strategy that aims to fill this gap by providing subsidies or housing units to low-income groups.

HABITAT FACTS:

- Habitat started in Egypt in 1989.
- **Individuals served in FY2022 – 17,595**
 - Through incremental building – 8,550
 - Through market development – 9,045
- **Volunteers engaged in FY2022 – 449**

A map of Egypt is shown with a red pushpin on the right side. The map includes labels for major cities like Cairo, Giza, Luxor, and Aswan, and geographical features like the Nile River and Lake Nasser. A blue box highlights the country's location on a world map. Below the map, there is a section titled 'COUNTRY FACTS:' with the following information:

COUNTRY FACTS:
Capital city – Cairo
Population – 104 million+
Life expectancy – 73.4 years
Unemployment rate – 7.2%
Below poverty line – 28.5%

Let's turn our wheels into acts of kindness and create a lasting impact

Turn your old car into an investment in your community. By donating

your vehicle, you help build affordable homes and strengthen your neighborhood. Make a difference and support your community.

Forbes recognized Habitat for Humanity as one of the [top charities to donate a vehicle](#).

In addition to cars and trucks, **Cars for Homes** welcomes RVs, motorcycles, boats, farm and construction equipment. Your vehicle donation does not have to be running, but it must be whole and have four inflated tires so it can be moved by our towing operators.

Transform an old car into a powerful tool for change in your community!

Visit the CFH [website](#) to learn more.



**Did you know
Habitat builds houses
in partnership for those
in need regardless of
race, religion, or any
other difference?**



#CarsForHomes
877-277-4344 | www.habitat.org/carsforhomes

Spread the message within the faith community about Cars for Homes

Help us pass the word about this wonderful Cars for Homes program by posting information about it in the following suggested ways:

- a placement on your community/worship's bulletin board
- a mention in a worship service leaflet/handout
- an insert in your faith newsletter

Acknowledgments

We thank all of you for giving of your time, and for the financial blessings you have bestowed upon our mission! Thank you for being God's hands and feet, here to serve others and show them His love.

Since our last published newsletter's thanks, we've received monetary contributions from **Bel Air United Methodist Church** (in the form of a sponsored panel build as described in an article in this newsletter issue), **Bethel Presbyterian**, **First Presbyterian of Bel Air**, **Holy Cross**, **Church of the Holy Spirit**, **Highland Presbyterian**, and **Bel Air Church of the Nazarene**. You have our deepest gratitude for your generosity!

From June to the present, the following faith partners helped us build homes, communities and hope by volunteering:

Mountain Christian Church and **Trinity Lutheran Church** participated in our Women Build 2024, both financially and through volunteers.

Our thanks go to **Pastor Norman Obenshain** of **Havre de Grace United Methodist Church** for giving the opening prayer and house blessing in June at our home dedication ceremony for Brittany's house (a rehab on Deen Avenue, Aberdeen).

Habitat has been built on a foundation of faith. We give thanks to all of you throughout more than 30 years of partnership with us, for volunteering with us, and for the financial blessings which are vital to moving our mission forward. Thank you for living your faith and supporting the need for decent shelter in your local community. Please keep the ministry of Habitat for Humanity in your prayers.

MISSION STATEMENT

Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna brings people together to build homes, communities, and hope in Cecil and Harford Counties.

[Join Our Mailing List](#)

Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna
205 S. Hays Street
Bel Air, MD 21014
410-638-4434
www.habitatsusq.org

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[@habitatsusq](#) and [@aberdeenrestore](#)



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