



## WINTER 2025 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

We recently lost two extraordinary supporters of Habitat for Humanity in a short space of time. As the CEO of Habitat International said of former U.S. President **Jimmy Carter** (and Mrs. Carter), they "...put Habitat for Humanity on the map, and their legacy lives on in every family we serve around the world." Habitat International put together a wonderful tribute to President and Mrs. Carter in a [special issue](#) of their newsletter, which I urge you to read.

We have also sadly experienced a loss closer to home, as one of the founders of Habitat Susquehanna, **Charles Alston**, has also passed away.

We were grateful to have [interviewed](#) him about the history of Habitat Susquehanna and how he and **Clarence Fry** (who passed away in 2018) banded together with a group from APGFCU to create a local Habitat chapter.

Charles and Clarence were its founding volunteers and first two



Yvonne Golczewski

Charles's wife, Mildred, asked **Ola Boswell**, Director of Development, to speak at his funeral. It was a very moving service at **Ames Baptist Church**, where Charles worshipped and served for many years.

We will always feel blessed for the people who had the idea and laid the groundwork for providing affordable housing in our communities.

Our work will always stand as a tribute to their commitment to the

presidents.

vision that everyone deserves a place to call home.

## Dream Builders Benefit

Get ready for an inspiring night at Habitat Susquehanna's **Dream Builders Benefit** on Saturday, April 5, from 6:30 to 10 PM at the Bulle Rock Residents Club Ballroom in Havre de Grace.

This year's event focuses on veterans and active military and will include live music from the renowned **229th Army Band**. The event's guest speaker is a Habitat Homeowner who also happens to be an Air Force veteran.

Visit our [website](#) for tickets and/or sponsorships.



## Women Build 2025:

### *Building Futures – Two Families, One Foundation*

#### Looking for Women Build teams and lunch donors

We are currently looking for Women Build teams to form, fundraise and volunteer for our upcoming house build on Clinton Street, Elkton, which is a duplex. The friendly yet competitive peer-to-peer fundraising campaign will run from April 30 to June 28, coinciding with the time teams will be volunteering to help build the homes.

Last year, 14 Women Build teams worked together to turn a grassy area into a Habitat house in Aberdeen. The teams for this year's Women Build will also be starting the house build from the ground up, but this time, in support of two Habitat families.

In 2024, we had teams from



Mountain Christian Church, Trinity Lutheran (top and middle photos), and Word of Faith who participated in this event. We are hoping that their past participation inspires and encourages our faith groups to join in and help us this year. Sign-up is through our [website](#).

We also need lunch donors to help feed our Women Build teams. Our build dates will be April 30 through June 29, all falling on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, except for the one Wednesday that is on April 30. We are planning for about 20 days with the Women Build teams, and need lunch for approximately 18 people for each of those build days. In the past, our volunteers have enjoyed wraps, sandwiches, fried chicken, pasta salads, boxed lunches, pizza, and more. If you can supply a lunch for one or more of the Women Build days, please contact our Community Engagement Manager [Michele Louderback](#).



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## Each car donation has the power to uplift your local community

Donating your old vehicle directly supports affordable housing programs that provide stability and hope to families in need in your area.

Please share this information at your place of worship!

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



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## 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 have received monetary contributions from:

The **Susquehanna Ministerium Association, Inc.** and **Mountain Christian Church** made a donation towards the purchase of space heaters for our Repair Program homeowners. Many are on a wait list to be assisted with critical home repairs, such as HVAC systems.

**Mountain Christian Church** representatives also dropped off Christmas goodies for our hard-working staff at the Bel Air Office and Aberdeen ReStore. Their prayer and message during their visit with us was one of the importance of being God's hands and feet, here to serve others and show them his love.

We received monetary donations from **St. Mary Anne's Episcopal Church** and **Grace United Methodist Church** toward supporting our efforts to provide affordable homeownership opportunities to low-income residents of Harford and Cecil Counties.

**Darlington United Methodist Church** and **St. Margaret Parish** generously provided housewarming gifts for Candy's Home Dedication Ceremony in December.

Members of the **Wrights AME Church** (Elkton) supported our newest Habitat family by providing them with Christmas gifts stemming from their child's wish list. Before that, they had donated to this family a Thanksgiving basket (turkey and fixings for a family of four), and assisted in the blessing of the home before their recent move-in day.

Habitat Susquehanna was the fourth recipient of the **Society of Italian American Businessmen's** "12 Days of Christmas Giving." Each year the SIAB members nominate nonprofits in the community and then select 12 at random to receive a monetary donation.

We thank all of our donors. You have our deepest gratitude for your generosity!

**From December to the present, the following faith partners helped us build homes, communities and hope by volunteering their time or services:**

**Pastor Adam Barnes** from Restore Church (Havre de Grace) gave the Opening Prayer and House Blessing at Candy's Home Dedication Ceremony at Booth Street, Elkton. Previously, members of the **Restore Church** participated in a Friends & Family Day, volunteering at the house build site alongside the future homeowner, Candy.

Individual volunteers made their own special contributions during the Christmas season. Construction volunteer **Pat Gilligan** once again created a beautiful wreath on our behalf to donate to the annual Wonderland of Wreaths auction in support of the Cecil County Arts Council. Aberdeen ReStore volunteer **Carolyn Cox** and her daughter **Romona Toscani** decorated and donated a ReStore-themed tree to the Aberdeen Festival of Trees for its silent auction to benefit the Upper Chesapeake Heath Foundation. And, members of the **Bulle Rock Habitat for Humanity Club** created crafts that they sold at a holiday fair and donated the table's proceeds back to our mission.

*Habitat is built on a foundation of faith. We give thanks to all of you*

*throughout the 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.*

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## 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.

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