



WINTER 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

Our deep ties to **Notre Dame Preparatory School (NDP)** have been strengthened month after month, year after year, thanks to the fact that their students have been volunteering on Saturdays at our **build sites** and **Aberdeen ReStore** since 2011. Our Community Engagement Manager, **Michele Louderback**, recently reached out to NDP to ask how their students felt about volunteering with us, and here is what a few of them had to say:

"Habitat for Humanity has been my favorite service offered at NDP. I love helping to create a home for a deserving family."
-- **Melissa P.**, class of '24

"I think Habitat is such a cool experience, especially getting to know you're making a difference in someone's life. Everyone deserves access to housing and Habitat goes above and beyond to provide that for people. Even



Yvonne Golczewski



though you don't always get to see the final product, it's nice to know that you're making a difference for somebody."

-- **Scarlett R.**, class of '25

"Habitat for Humanity has made me feel like I can really make a difference in other people's lives."

-- **Kirsten P.**, class of '25

Watch the [Facebook video](#) we posted with Michele and some of the NDP volunteers as she highlighted this wonderful faith partnership in a segment we called "Helping Hands & Willing Hearts."

NDP's Assistant Director of Social Service, **Cailyn Walter**, also shared some fun historical photos of the students at our past build sites (at right).

Thank you, NDP, for being the "hands and feet" of God's love through your many years of community service. We hope you inspire other students to come build with us and make a life-changing impact on local families!

If you are interested in organizing a faith group to volunteer at our build sites, contact [Michele](#).



What makes a faith partnership?

There's more than one way to give a "hand up" towards Habitat Susquehanna's efforts! We are built on a foundation of faith. We are an ecumenical Christian organization, but we invite people of all faiths (or no faith) to join us and support our mission. In addition to sending volunteers to work at our build sites and Aberdeen Restore, our



faith partners have:

- provided lunches to our **Collegiate Challenge** groups (students who come from all over the country and volunteer with us during their school breaks)
- taken up Lenten collections to donate to our **Repair Program's** efforts (towards critical home repairs for low-income families)
- donated house supplies and bedding to our new Habitat families on their home dedication day
- held toys/food drives at Christmastime to donate to the families of our **Homeownership** and **Repair** programs
- taken part in a **faith build** by raising funds to help pay for some of the building materials of a Habitat home
- participated in a **panel build** where the walls of a Habitat house were built, and funds collected to go towards the home
- been part of the **Home Dedications' Prep and Cleaning Crew** to get the Habitat homes ready for public viewing at our ceremonies

These are just some of the many ways we have felt the love and support from all of you! If you would like to join us as a faith partner, contact [Michele Louderback](#), Community Engagement Manager.



Other ways to support Habitat Susquehanna

Your old vehicle donation will help us build decent and affordable homes for families in Harford and Cecil counties!

The Cars for Homes (CFH) program accepts almost everything, including cars, trucks, motorcycles, recreational vehicles, boats, farm and construction equipment. Proceeds from the sale of the donated vehicle will support our work in your community.

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



Help us spread the word by posting information about Cars for Homes on your place of worship's **bulletin board**, or mentioning it in a **worship service leaflet**, or 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 **St. Mary Anne's Episcopal Church** (in the form of a grant towards our ongoing programs), **Grace United Methodist Church**, and, **Havre de Grace United Methodist Church**. You have our deepest gratitude for your generosity!

In addition, from December to the present, the following faith partners helped us build homes, communities and hope by volunteering:

Thank you to **Notre Dame Preparatory School** for volunteering at Amanda's future home, our Ohio Street, Havre de Grace ("Habi-Tech") house. The house dedication ceremony is set for March 20th.

Thank you to the members of **Mountain Christian Church** for doing their "Second Saturday Serve" volunteering at our build sites.

Our thanks go to **Pastor Linda Aluoch** of **Mountain Christian Church** for giving the house blessing at our home dedication ceremony for Yaraly's house (a rehab at Deen Avenue, Aberdeen).

We are so grateful to the **Trinity Lutheran Church**, **Mountain Christian Church** and **Saint Margaret Parish** for signing up to provide lunches to **Collegiate Challenge** students who are volunteering with us during their school break in March.

Our thanks go to **Rev. Byron Brought** of **Bel Air United Methodist Church** for agreeing to provide the blessing at our upcoming **Dream Builders Ball** in April.

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.

Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna brings strength, stability and self-reliance through affordable housing in Cecil and Harford counties.

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