

2013 A N N U A L R E P O R T

MA

BUILDING UP THE COMMUNITY

BUILDING UP 2013 THE COMMUNITY

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Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna, Inc. is an ecumenical Christian housing ministry. We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. "My people will live in peaceful **dwelling places**, in secure homes, in undisturbed **places of rest.**"



Isaiah 32:18

Dear Friends,

Everyone loves the idea of "bootstrapping" -- pulling yourself up by your bootstraps -- which means no one else is going to do it for you. You've got to do it all by yourself.

But there is another way up: the Habitat way. You pull yourself up, but your community is pulling with you. The community says, "if you work hard, we will, too." And so it happens. Homeowners raise the walls, but they aren't the only hands on the frame.

This year, a lot of people worked the Habitat way. There were the six families that purchased new homes, the 40 families that had homes repaired, and the two homes our contributions helped build in El Salvador and Kenya, but the community worked just as hard. Over 1,500 volunteers and 900 donors stood up to help families succeed.

What has Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna been up to this year? We have been providing modest homes for families earning modest incomes, making neighborhoods more safe and stable, preserving homes for families in need, and looking up to praise God for all we do with our community partners.

Thank you for being a part of Habitat Susquehanna this year. Through your support, we are able to say that things are looking up in Harford and Cecil counties!

In service, Karen K Blandfe

Karen K. Blandford Executive Director

Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna • 205 S. Hays Street, Bel Air, MD 21014 • 410-638-4434 • 410-398-3399



46 Families Served in FY2013

The impact of Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna's work reaches beyond the number of new homes we build each year. We provide stable financing for thirty

years – and the impact of our work can be seen in each family over time.

71 Houses Completed

since inception

Last year, our homeowners saved \$419,598 by owning a Habitat home instead of paying market rents! Why is this

important? These savings help families afford transportation to work, save for college for themselves and their children, build retirement savings, be prepared for life's inevitable emergencies, and tithe according to their faith.

217 Families Served

Our work has also resulted in an increase in net worth of \$354,052 for Habitat homeowners in just one year. An increase in net

since inception

worth brings stability to the family, the neighborhood, and the larger community, and enables families to create a legacy.

Owning a home breaks the cycle of generational poverty that can occur when families are living paycheck-to-paycheck.

PARTNER FAMILIES

6 Families

moved into new homes in FY2013

These families spent 170 hours in homeownership classes, and performed over 2,500 hours of sweat equity on their homes and the homes of other partner families.

Aberdeen

The Ameno Family 752 Battle Avenue The Johnson Family 618 Edmund Street The Salihu Family 749 Battle Avenue

Bel Air The Crouse Family 404 Giles Street

> Edgewood The Middendorf Family 1421 Harford Square The Robinson Family 1365 Harford Square



Mission Statement

As a reflection of God's love, and in partnership with low-income families and the community, Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna seeks to create homeownership opportunities by building, renovating, and repairing homes.

Vision Statement

Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna's vision is to eliminate substandard housing in Cecil and Harford counties through action and advocacy.

Habitat Tithe

Since our inception, we've helped fund a total of 64 homes in Kenya and El Salvador through our tithe. This year we joined Habitat El Salvador and other Maryland affiliates to build 45 new homes and rehab 45 existing homes in the El Barrial community in the next 4 years.

We are helping families build a stable future for themselves and for the next generation.

Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna homes are built on the concept of partnership. Together, volunteers, individual donors, and corporations build an affordable house. Our homes are built using quality materials and are all Energy Star qualified. They are large enough to meet a family's needs, but small enough to keep construction and maintenance costs low. Support from the community allows for no-interest loans, making our houses affordable for Cecil and Harford County families in need.

Build on the Mall



This year, Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna participated in the National Veterans Build on the Mall event, where seven frames were constructed in just four days. In a continuing effort to serve and honor veterans and military families, the seven frames represented the seven branches of the military. HHS received three of the frames valued up to \$20,000 each. Thank you Home Depot for joining us in raising awareness of affordable housing issues for veterans!



C O N S T R U C T I O N



Since its inception in 2008, Habitat Susquehanna's Repair Program has served 219 low-income homeowners in Cecil and Harford counties with 257 repairs. This year's highlights include:

- 40 families served
- 53 repairs
- 6 veterans served through the

Home Depot Repair Corps Program

Repair Program

When Tony and Tracy Grenier saved up money to buy their dream home, they did not expect everything to fall down around them. With Tony's part time employment and Tracy's recent diagnosis of multiple sclerosis, the couple managed to save just enough for a place of their own. A few years after moving into the house of their dreams, the stone façade began to fall apart. Within a couple of months, the Greniers couldn't even open their front door and the walls inside their home began to bow and crack. Homeowner's insurance wouldn't pay for the damage and they couldn't afford to fix the problem themselves. Once Tony and Tracy realized their safety was at risk they contacted our Repair Program seeking help. We took some quick action and fixed the problem. The Greniers were very appreciative and put sweat equity into the repair. They have saved the stones and are hoping to use them on their back porch.

"The Habitat Repair Program is truly a blessing. Thanks to you, our home is now safe. From our first application to the final step of our home repair, we felt blessed by this amazing experience. Working hands on and learning was also great. Thank you for your time. You are amazing." - Tracy Grenier





17,930 Total Saved in Labor Costs: \$413,301.48

Total Volunteer Hours:



Navy veteran Scott DiGennaro is one of Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna's most dedicated Repair Program volunteers. This fiscal year, he worked on 16 projects and contributed over 107 volunteer hours.

VOLUNTEERS

Elizabeth Bondarenko

"I volunteer with Habitat because it is the most rewarding way to help both others and yourself. Volunteering with Habitat has taught



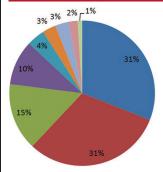
me so much not only about building, but also about character and what it truly means to be selfless and to have a loving and open heart. Volunteering, whether it is in the office or on the build site, is something that gives me pride and a sense of accomplishment; it is something that I can continually learn from.

Volunteering is a remarkable way to bring others a sense of hope. Sure, we build homes and we make families' lives more comfortable, but we also reassure people in need by providing them with a support system. If I can use my time to remind people that there is still good in the world, why would I turn that down? The families that Habitat helps receive not only a home, but also stability, independence, and a sense of empowerment.

I volunteer with Habitat because every bit of me believes that if everyone, everywhere cared an ounce more about others, the world would be a remarkably different and better place. Volunteering allows me to be a small part of a huge change and when I'm old and gray, I want to be able to know for a fact that I helped better the lives of others— and Habitat lets me do that."

"Give of your hands to serve and your hearts to love."

Total Numbers



Business Volunteers	31%
Individuals	31%
Youth	15%
Faith-Based Groups	10%
Civic/Community Groups	4%
Committee Volunteers	3%
Repair Volunteers	3%
Event Volunteers	2%
Office Volunteers	1%

	r	Number o	of Volunte	eers		
1600						
1400						
1200					Fiscal Year	
1000					2010	
800				1503		
600			1200		2011	
400	633	580			2012	
200					2013	
0 +		Number of	Volunteers			
20	10				633	
2011						
2012						
20		•••••	•••••	•••••	1200	
2013				1503		

DONORS

Over \$10,000

Anonymous APGFCU The Arc Northern Chesaneake Region Bank of America Foundation, Inc. **Cecil County Government Constellation Energy** The Dresher Foundation The Greater Bel Air Community Foundation Habitat For Humanity International Harford County Government The Harford Mutual Insurance Companies The Home Depot Foundation Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Maryland Energy Administration The Morris A. and Clarisse Mechanic Foundation, Inc Mountain Christian Church **PNC Community Development** Banking Mr. and Mrs. Charles Slusher United Way of Central Maryland The Whiting-Turner Contracting Company \$5,000 - \$9,999 Anonymous Battelle Eastern Science and Technology Center Bel Air United Methodist Church

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\$500 - \$999

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Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna's financial statements are audited each fiscal year ending June 30. For a copy of our most recent audit, please contact the HHS office at 410-638-4434.

Every effort has been made to insure the accuracy of this report. Please accept our apologies if your name is omitted, misspelled or otherwise incorrectly listed. If we have made an error, please let us know by contacting Tara Hyde, Development Associate, thyde@ habitatsusq.org

THE CROUSE FAMILY





www.habitatsusq.org

With help from the community, Holly and Roger Crouse were determined to change their family's

future. They followed God's plan and in the process became homeowners.

Finding an affordable home for a family of nine was a challenge. Although Holly and Roger both work, they could only afford a twobedroom apartment. With seven children, there was no such thing as personal space. They had to stay organized and even used public storage units for some of their belongings.

When Holly lost hope in their search for a suitable home within their price range, she contacted Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna. She knew that in order for her relationship to grow with her children, she needed to start with a stable home. She wanted a place where her children had room to express themselves. The children were active in the Bel Air community, and Holly's main concern was taking them away from those friendships and memories.

Thankfully, Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna presented them with the opportunity to live in the 'House that Bel Air Built,' Habitat's very first house in Bel Air. Holly and Roger could not have been more excited to begin their journey to homeownership. With friends and family, Roger worked on the house almost every chance he could. Holly also assisted with fundraising events and office work. The children were always stopping by the office, and not one of them could hide their excitement.

Over 300 volunteers worked on the home, whether they hammered together an exterior frame or painted a bedroom wall. Holly said, "We will never forget every hour they spent building our home. The fingerprints that they leave behind will always be within our walls. Our home will stand because of them." Holly and Roger also thanked the donors and sponsors that made their dream of homeownership a possibility.