



HELPING HANDS

E-EDITION, OCTOBER 2017

"Hope is like the sun, which, as we journey toward it, casts the shadow of our burden behind us."

- Samuel Smiles

Journey Into Hope

By Cathy Collins

Once again it's that time of year in which I am preparing my speech for our annual fundraising breakfast. I always feel a lot of pressure to make it an exceptional speech that will inspire people to invest in the work we are doing in partnership with families, volunteers and donors to transform lives and this community in which we build.

The good news is that the theme for the year—The Road Home: A Journey of Hope—feels particularly relevant. The sentiment that everyone takes a different route to become a homeowner has been particularly true this past year. It has been my privilege to watch our homeowners take this journey. I have been inspired and humbled by what they have taught me about perseverance, resilience, and hope.

Despite the many obstacles homebuyers have faced along their road home, they have not been deterred. I have witnessed families who have not been daunted by dramatic changes in their circumstances and family makeup. I have empathized with several families who have had to wait to be mortgage-ready for their homes as they were caught in the transition of changing laws and policies or quite literally the transition between life and death. I travelled with another family as they embraced the bold step of homeownership in the City of Newburgh.

Now I would be less than truthful if I said any of these experiences were easy as the Executive Director (nor do I imagine that they were for the rest of the staff and volunteers). Yet, the unwavering belief and commitment of our homeowners to complete their homeownership journey fostered not only a sense of hope for themselves, but for all of us journeying with them.

Founder of Habitat, Millard Fuller said, "If you are not having difficulty with your families, if you are picking the wrong ones." If this journey towards homeownership were easy, there would be no need for us to be doing it. There would be no need to invoke God's love and put it into action. And just as the Samuel Smiles quote states, our own burdens become lighter as we step into that difficulty and journey toward the hope that the fulfillment of our mission brings.

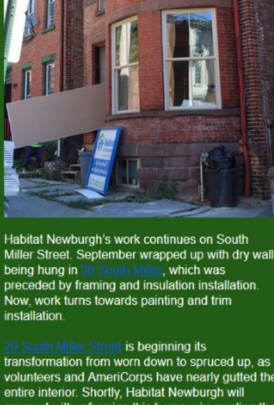
CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

150, 152, 154, 156 Ann Street



Our work on the Ann Street houses has gone exceptionally well, with the roof being the Certificates of Occupancy for 150, 154, and 156. These three homes are currently being wrapped up and will head to closing shortly. 152 Ann Street is right behind these three homes, with House Captain Jim leading the volunteers in construction. It has been a memorable year working on these four homes and will be even more memorable for the families preparing to inhabit the houses for years to come.

20 & 30 South Miller Street:

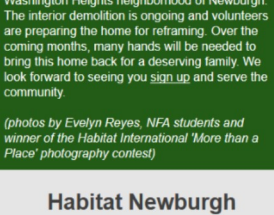


Habitat Newburgh's work continues on South Miller Street. September wrapped up with dry wall being hung in 30 South Miller, which was preceded by framing and insulation installation. Now, work turns towards painting and trim installation.

30 South Miller Street is beginning its transformation from worn down to spruced up, as volunteers and AmeriCorps have nearly gutted the entire interior. Shortly, Habitat Newburgh will proceed with reframing this home rejuvenating the historic property from the inside out.

On both these homes, the need for volunteer assistance is crucial. Check out Newburgh.VolunteerHub.com to see how you can lend a hand!

15 1/2 Overlook Place:



Welcome back Women Build! Habitat Newburgh's 8th Women Build house will be open for business, starting October 11th. This home is located in the Washington Heights neighborhood of Newburgh. The interior demolition is ongoing and volunteers are preparing the home for reframing. Over the coming months, many hands will be needed to bring this home back for a deserving family. We look forward to seeing you sign up and serve the community.

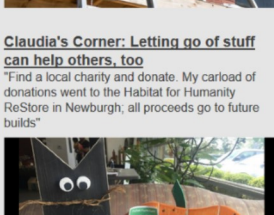
(photos by Evelyn Reyes, NFA students and winner of the Habitat International "More than a Place" photography contest)

Habitat Newburgh in the News!

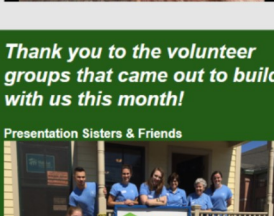
Newburgh experiencing properties renaissance

"Rehab permits rose from 30 in 2015 to 293 last year. Permits for electrical and plumbing work already exceed last year's totals..."

"Part of the surge can be attributed to the Newburgh Community Land Bank's collaboration with Habitat for Humanity and RUPCO, who are transforming Land Bank-owned properties into affordable single family homes and apartments in a section of the East End, north of Broadway."



Claudia's Corner: Letting go of stuff can help others, too
"Find a local charity and donate. My carload of donations went to the Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Newburgh; all proceeds go to future builds!"

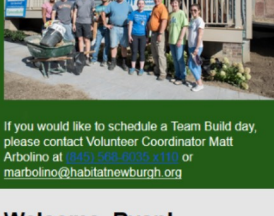


Thank you to the volunteer groups that came out to build with us this month!

Presentation Sisters & Friends

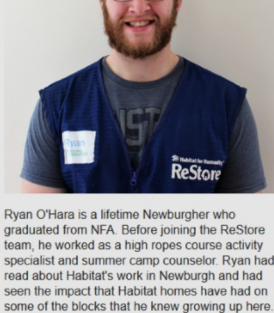


Mount Saint Mary College Alumni



If you would like to schedule a Team Build day, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Matt Arbolino at (845) 568-6035 x119 or marbolino@habitatnewburgh.org

Welcome, Ryan!



Ryan O'Hara is a lifetime Newburgher who graduated from NFA. Before joining the ReStore team, he worked as a high rising course activity specialist and summer camp counselor. Ryan had read about Habitat's work in Newburgh and had seen the impact that Habitat homes have had on some of the blocks that he knew growing up here. He says that knowing there is a group of people who are working together to get houses into livable conditions and help others is a wonderful thing. He is looking forward to working with the staff and volunteer team at the ReStore and contributing towards Habitat's mission.

LOOKING AHEAD

Upcoming events in 2017

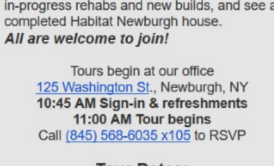
Saturday, October 14 Anniversary Party

Thursday, October 26 Building Houses, Building Hope Fundraising Breakfast

Sunday, November 5 Open House at 152 Ann Street following Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood tour

Friday, December 1 Dedication of 30 S. Miller Street, home of Juan, Viridiana, & family

Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood Tour

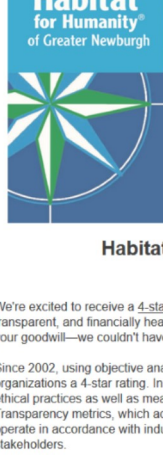


Join us for a FREE coach bus tour and learn more about Habitat's work in Newburgh. See in-progress rehabs and new builds, and tour a completed Habitat Newburgh house. All are welcome to join!

Tours begin at our office 125 Washington St., Newburgh, NY 10:45 AM Sign-in & refreshments 11:00 AM Tour begins Call (845) 568-6035 x105 to RSVP

Tour Dates: Wednesday, October 4 Sunday, November 5

*Sunday Tour—1:45 Sign in, 2:00 Tour begins Wednesday, December 6



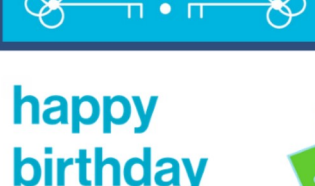
Habitat Newburgh Receives Top Rating from Charity Navigator

We're excited to receive a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, which means we're accountable, transparent, and financially healthy! Thank you for trusting us with your donations, your volunteer time, and your goodwill—we couldn't have received this top rating without YOU!

Since 2002, using objective analysis, Charity Navigator has awarded only the most fiscally responsible organizations a 4-star rating. In 2011, Charity Navigator added 17 metrics, focused on governance and ethical practices as well as measures of openness, to its ratings methodology. These Accountability & Transparency metrics, which account for 50 percent of a charity's overall rating, reveal which charities operate in accordance with industry best practices and whether they are open with their donors and stakeholders.

"Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newburgh's exceptional 4-star rating sets it apart from its peers and demonstrates its trustworthiness to the public," according to Michael Thatcher, President & CEO of Charity Navigator. "Only a quarter of charities rated by Charity Navigator receive the distinction of our 4-star rating. This adds Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newburgh to a preeminent group of charities working to overcome our world's most pressing challenges. Based on its 4-star rating, people can trust that their donations are going to a financially responsible and ethical charity when they decide to support Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newburgh."

You can find our rating on Charity Navigator here



BUILDING HOUSES, BUILDING HOPE

Fundraising Breakfast

Everyone takes a different route to become a homeowner. Habitat Families take an incredible journey overcoming barriers and investing hundreds of hours building their homes. Together with volunteers and donors, these families are rebuilding a city from the ground up. You have a place on this journey. Join us.

Thursday, October 26, 2017 7:45 AM Seating, 8:00 AM Program Begins Anthony's Pier 9

www.eventbrite.com

happy birthday habitat!



18 years of building houses & hope

You're Invited!

Happy 18th Birthday Habitat Newburgh!

Volunteers, supporters, and homeowner families are invited to join us for a party. Bring your family or significant other for a casual afternoon to celebrate all that we have accomplished together in 18 amazing years. Light refreshments will be served. Whether you've been here since the beginning, or you just joined the cause, we would love to see you there!

Date: Saturday, October 14th, 2017

Time: 4:00-7:00 PM

Location: Inspire, 344 Gidney Avenue, Newburgh, NY

Wine & Beer • Music & Dancing

Creating Corbels

Family Workshop at Storm King Art Center



Visitors at Storm King Art Center learn all about Habitat Newburgh's corbels—from design, to building, to painting and installing.



World Habitat Day 2017: Affordable Homes

More than 30 years ago, the United Nations General Assembly took an important step in promoting the idea that everyone deserves a decent place to live by declaring that the first Monday in October would be World Habitat Day.

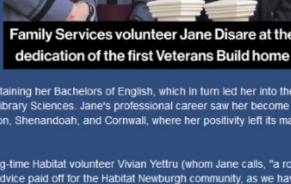
Every year Habitat for Humanity joins our partners around the world to rededicate ourselves to recognizing the basic right of everyone to adequate shelter. Habitat for Humanity asks everyone to join together as one global network in communicating the message that every one of us deserves the opportunity for a better future, and that a decent place to live can remove barriers to opportunity, health and success that might have been part of a family's life for years, and in many cases for generations.

Join us for World Habitat Day and year round by lifting your voice to help people in need of decent and affordable housing. Learn how you can take action through our Solid Ground global advocacy campaign

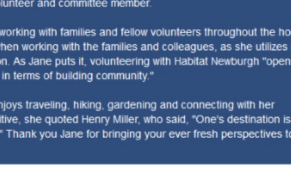
Volunteer SPOTLIGHT! Jane Disare

"Fresh Perspectives"

The overlapping environment of Habitat Newburgh can become hectic very quickly. Operating as a construction, family services, community development, and retail (Habitat ReStore) organization, the work load at Habitat Newburgh can be taxing, even for volunteers. This makes the immensely positive volunteer Jane Disare that much more impressive. Jane has been lending a hand to Habitat Newburgh for five years now in varying capacities, most recently as the chairperson of the Family Support Committee. Throughout her years with us, Jane's patience and positivity has been a blessing.



Originally hailing from Middletown, PA, Jane and her family moved to Newburgh for her junior year of high school. Transferring during one's teenage years to a new high school can be extremely intimidating, however Jane says she "had the best experience at NFA (Newburgh Free Academy)." After graduating, Jane pursued her passion for literature and language while attaining her Bachelors of English, which in turn led her into the classroom as a teacher and eventually to a Masters of Library Sciences. Jane's professional career saw her become involved in the educational systems in Syracuse, Arlington, Shenandoah, and Cornwall, where her positivity left its mark on her colleagues and students.

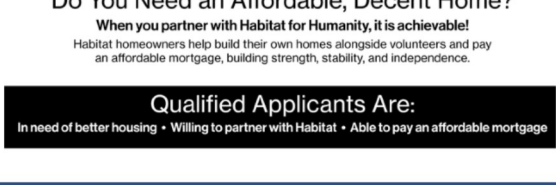


After retiring eight years ago, she was persuaded by long-time Habitat volunteer Vivian Yettru (whom Jane calls, "a role model") to become involved with our organization. The advice paid off for the Habitat Newburgh community, as we have had the pleasure of Jane's services as a construction volunteer and committee member.

Family Services volunteer Jane Disare at the dedication of the first Veterans Build home

Unsurprisingly, Jane considers the biggest benefit to be working with families and fellow volunteers throughout the home buying process. Jane's skill set comes shining through when working with the families and colleagues, as she utilizes her positivity and attention to the Habitat for Humanity mission. As Jane puts it, volunteering with Habitat Newburgh "opens your eyes to the gifts every individual brings to the table in terms of building community."

When not spending hours volunteering her time, Jane enjoys traveling, hiking, gardening and connecting with her friends and family. When discussing how Jane stays positive, she quoted Henry Miller, who said, "One's destination is never a place, but rather a new way of looking at things." Thank you Jane for bringing your ever fresh perspectives to the Habitat Newburgh community.



OWN A HOME with Habitat for Humanity

Do You Need an Affordable, Decent Home?

When you partner with Habitat for Humanity, it is achievable!

Habitat homeowners help build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage, building strength, stability, and independence.

Qualified Applicants Are:

In need of better housing • Willing to partner with Habitat • Able to pay an affordable mortgage

Tithe in Action! Mexico

Did you know that in addition to our work here in Newburgh, we also tithe 10% of undesignated donations to support the work of Habitat organizations in 5 countries: Mexico, Haiti, India, Jordan, and Ethiopia. To date, our tithe has served over 100 families internationally!



Habitat for Humanity in Mexico

Since 1989, Habitat for Humanity Mexico has fought poverty through adequate housing, supporting and empowering more than 57,000 families in organized communities.

The housing need in Mexico

Despite the progress that has been made in providing housing in recent years, there are still 53.3 million people in Mexico who do not have the financial means to buy or build adequate housing (45.5%). Family income has been losing purchasing power: 60.6 million people (51.6%) earn incomes below the welfare line, which are insufficient to acquire the goods and services they require to meet their most basic subsistence needs.

Of this population, 15.9 million people (13.6%) live in homes with dirt floors, roofs made of tin, cardboard or debris, walls made of mud, reeds, palm or sheet; 24.9 million (21.2%) have no access to basic services of potability water, drainage, electricity and fuel for cooking or heating food. In addition, more than 538,000 families live in overcrowded conditions.

Habitat's contribution in Mexico

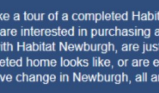
Habitat for Humanity Mexico works to combat poverty, supporting low-income families in building their homes; promoting community development through influencing public policies; attracting public and private resources for housing and sensitizing governments, donors and volunteers on the human right to live in adequate housing.

Recent Earthquakes—Disaster Response

After the earthquake of September 7th, which created an unprecedented devastation in the states of Oaxaca and Chiapas and forced thousands of families to abandon their homes and communities, a new earthquake struck our country on September 19th now causing the loss of thousands of homes in Puebla, Morelos and Mexico City.

Habitat for Humanity Mexico is currently working on a rebuilding strategy of 500 homes in communities of Oaxaca, Chiapas, Morelos, Puebla and Xochimilco. Learn more here.

Donations and purchases build houses, too.



Exit 8 off I-84 38 S. Plank Road, Newburgh, NY Open Wednesday - Saturday 10 AM - 5 PM



OPEN HOUSE at 152 Ann Street

Come and take a tour of a completed Habitat home! Whether you are interested in purchasing a home in partnership with Habitat Newburgh, are just curious what a completed home looks like, or are excited to witness positive change in Newburgh, all are invited to stop by!

Sunday, November 5, 2017 2-4 PM