



# HELPING HANDS

E-EDITION, SEPTEMBER 2017

"With realization of one's own potential and self-confidence in one's ability, one can build a better world."

- Dalai Lama

## Unlocking Potential

By Cathy Collins

A few weeks ago I was walking with Kevin O'Connor, CEO of RUPCO, and showing him the four new Ann Street houses. I was surprised by his enthusiastic reaction to seeing these new homes. He talked about the impact that these homes would have on the corner of Johnston and Ann Street in the revitalization of the east end. He was saying all the things that we so often talk about. I realized that I had gotten lost in the details of getting the houses completed and ready for dedication. His comments reminded me about the potential that his homes unlocked.

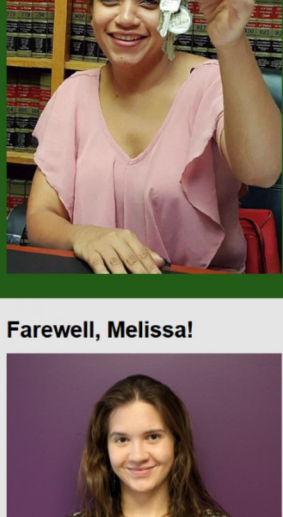
For any of you who have taken one of our bus tours, you know I talk about the human potential that is allowed to flourish by living in a Habitat home allows. Mental and physical health improve. Educational achievement advances. Family connections strengthen. Dreams become more possible. (Learn more about the impacts of Habitat homeownership here)

That awakened potential is now expanding out into the community as Habitat homeowners come together with other residents to form Neighborhood Associations. Through this group residents are empowered to speak to the City Council about what they want to see in their neighborhoods and what they know is possible for the community where they are raising their families and in which they have made a 30-year commitment.

It's not hard to see how our homes serve as anchors to unleash the potential of a neighborhood. Residents spruce up their homes, other developers come in to create new living choices, and the potential of our shared space comes alive.

All of this happens with the help of the potential awakened in our volunteers who open themselves up to learning how to build homes and build up the lives of families with whom we partner. In the wake of Charlottesville and Hurricane Harvey, I can think of no better way to unlock the potential of our humanity.

## Congratulations on Closing to Habitat Homeowner Yoselin!



## Farewell, Melissa!



After almost 3 years with Habitat Newburgh, Melissa is moving on to her next adventure as she moves to Virginia to study statistics. Melissa first joined Habitat as our Office Manager, and then moved into the role of Development Assistant. Her attention to detail, commitment to excellence, and willingness to pitch in whenever needed to get the job done have made her an invaluable asset to our organization. Melissa will be missed, but we are excited for her next steps and happy that she is taking this opportunity to pursue her interests and put her gifts to use. We wish her the best of luck in all her future endeavors!

## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

### 150-156 Ann Street

On August 19th, we were joyed to be joined by the Habitat community as we dedicated our four Faith Builds homes on Ann Street. These four homes are new builds on what was, less than a year ago, a vacant lot. Since March, these homes were framed, insulated, sided, painted, and received plumbing and electrical wiring. There is still some work on the "punch list," which means there is still an opportunity to lend a hand in the construction of these homes.

### S. Miller Street

The ongoing work on South Miller Street has been a sight all summer long, due to Habitat Newburgh, RUPCO, and individual home owners working diligently on this neighborhood. Habitat Newburgh continues the rehabilitation of two more of our homes here at 20 and 30 South Miller.

30 South Miller, another of our historic rehab homes, has been re-framed and received new windows (which were painstakingly fitted to match the aged window frames). Currently, electrical and plumbing work is being installed, a precursor to the home being drywalled.

20 South Miller, a single family home standing at 122 years old, has seen better days. However, Habitat Newburgh has recently been at work doing the interior. A complete renovation of this house will follow. Clearly, there is still a ways to go on bringing this home into the 21st century.

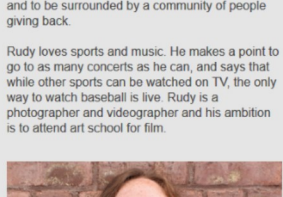
As work progresses here, we will ask for a great deal of assistance from volunteers. Keep an eye on Newburgh VolunteerHub.com to sign up and volunteer.

### 131 Carson

Another rehab home, 131 Carson Avenue is coming up on its own dedication. During the summer, this home was floored and painted, while a team of hard-working volunteers cleared the yard and mended the walkway. In the coming weeks this home will be completely prepared for a family.

## Meet Your AmeriCorps

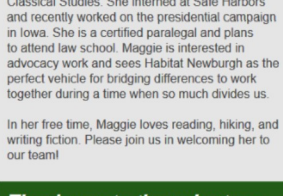
Welcome Rudy and Maggie!



After a year of AmeriCorps with Beaches Habitat in Atlantic Beach, Florida, Philly native Rudy Hawkes missed the colder weather. When he met some AmeriCorps from Newburgh at the Habitat conference, he decided to join our team!

Before his first AmeriCorps term, Rudy says that he had never swung a hammer and knew nothing about construction, but he is a quick learner and has enjoyed learning to build. He always encourages volunteers not to be afraid to learn new skills. Rudy enjoys working with Habitat because he likes the mindset of helping others, and to be surrounded by a community of people giving back.

Rudy loves sports and music. He makes a point to go to as many concerts as he can, and says that while other sports can be watched on TV, the only way to watch baseball is live. Rudy is a photographer and videographer and his ambition is to attend art school for film.



Maggie Guzman is excited to meet people, gain new skills, and learn more about Newburgh during her term as Family Services AmeriCorps.

A Hudson Valley native, Maggie graduated with a degree in English and minors in Archaeology and Classical Studies. She interned at Safe Harbors and recently worked on the presidential campaign in Iowa. She is a certified paralegal and plans to attend law school. Maggie is interested in advocacy work and sees Habitat Newburgh as the perfect vehicle for bridging differences to work together during a time when so much divides us.

In her free time, Maggie loves reading, hiking, and writing fiction. Please join us in welcoming her to our team!

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

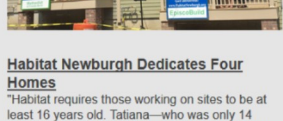
**Design Republic**  
**West Point Physics & Nuclear Engineering**  
**New York Air National Guard**

If you would like to schedule a Team Build day, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Matt Arbolino at (845) 568-6035 x110 or marbolino@habitatnewburgh.org

## Habitat Newburgh in the News!

### Habitat for Humanity unveils homes for Newburgh families

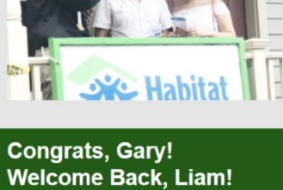
"We hope the work lends itself to lots of other developers coming in and really completely creating joyful vibrant community full of diversity," said Cathy Collins, executive director of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newburgh.



### Habitat Newburgh, local faith coalitions dedicate homes

"I am very happy and very emotional," said Zapata. "It's not easy for people like me, but [Habitat] makes it real for us."

"This is amazing," added his daughter. "It's a brand-new house."



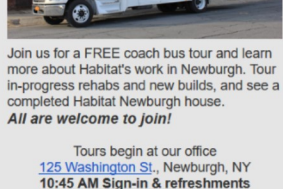
### Habitat Newburgh Dedicates Four Homes

"Habitat requires those working on sites to be at least 16 years old. Tatiana—who was only 14 when they started—was too young to work at the sites and instead found a way to put in hours at the Habitat Newburgh ReStore every Saturday. She also worked at the Annual Walk for Housing in April, joining Newburgh Free Academy's JROTC as a walk marshal."

"I wanted to make sure it wasn't just him working by himself on our house," said Tatiana Zapata."



## Congrats, Gary! Welcome Back, Liam!



The Chasteen brothers, Gary and Liam, are both part of our ReStore team. Congratulations to Gary Chasteen on being promoted to Assistant ReStore Manager, and welcome back to 'little' brother Liam Chasteen, who joined the ReStore team again shortly after completing his AmeriCorps term.

## Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood Tour



Join us for a FREE coach bus tour and learn more about Habitat's work in Newburgh. Tour in-progress rehabs and new builds, and see 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:**  
Saturday, September 9  
Wednesday, October 4  
Sunday, November 5\*  
Wednesday, December 6

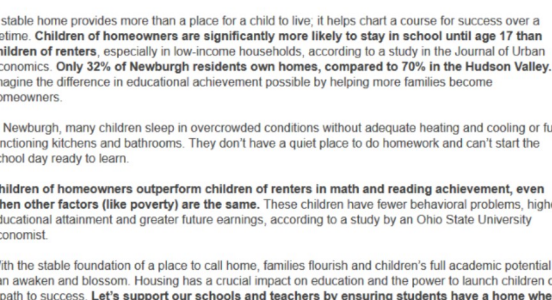
\*Sunday Tour—1:45 Sign in, 2:00 Tour begins

## LOOKING AHEAD

Upcoming events in 2017

Saturday, October 14 Anniversary Party

Thursday, October 26 Building Houses, Building Hope Fundraising Breakfast



## What's on the Back to School list? Maybe good housing should be.

A stable home provides more than a place for a child to live; it helps chart a course for success over a lifetime. Children of homeowners are significantly more likely to stay in school until age 17 than children of renters, especially in low-income households, according to a study in the Journal of Urban Economics. Only 32% of Newburgh residents own homes, compared to 70% in the Hudson Valley. Imagine the difference in educational achievement possible by helping more families become homeowners.

In Newburgh, many children sleep in overcrowded conditions without adequate heating and cooling or fully functioning kitchens and bathrooms. They don't have a quiet place to do homework and can't start the school day ready to learn.

Children of homeowners outperform children of renters in math and reading achievement, even when other factors (like poverty) are the same. These children have fewer behavioral problems, higher educational attainment and greater future earnings, according to a study by an Ohio State University economist.

With the stable foundation of a place to call home, families flourish and children's full academic potential can awaken and blossom. Housing has a crucial impact on education and the power to launch children on a path to success. Let's support our schools and teachers by ensuring students have a home where they feel secure, can rest, and have a place to read and do homework.

**GIVE TODAY**

## Celebrating the Dedication of Faith Builds!

150, 152, 154, & 156 Ann Street



Congratulations to home buyers Manny, Elizabeth, Candice, and their families!



## 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

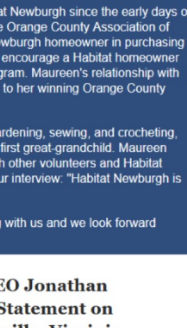
7:45 AM Seating, 8:00 AM Program Begins

Anthony's Place 9  
2975 Route 9W, New Windsor, NY 12553

## Volunteer SPOTLIGHT!

### Maureen Mushlit

Habitat Newburgh is known as a housing organization and rightfully so. However, an often overlooked aspect of our work is community development. Our volunteers, home buying families, and staff come from a widely diverse background, though we share the same region and community. Habitat Newburgh acts as a catalyst for members of our community to become a part of each other's lives. Longtime volunteer, Maureen Mushlit, is a great example.



Maureen originally hails from Queens, NY. Seventeen years ago, Maureen ended up in Newburgh, via Warwick. As a new member of the community, Maureen attended a meeting at Mount St. Mary's College that offered volunteer opportunities in Newburgh. Of course, this meeting was for Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newburgh. Since that meeting, Maureen has been a regular volunteer with Habitat Newburgh, where she has acted as a construction volunteer, paint captain, house captain, building and site selection committee member, and ReStore donations assistant. These days, you can find Maureen at the ReStore register. At the ReStore register, Maureen puts to use the skills she acquired at her first ever job as the toy department cashier at Bloomingdale's in Manhattan.

Maureen has brought her 40+ years of experience as a realtor to Habitat Newburgh since the early days of our affiliate. This experience has had a serious effect, from involving the Orange County Association of Realtors (OCAR) in sponsoring homes to assisting a current Habitat Newburgh homeowner in purchasing their home. As Maureen told us, she used her professional expertise to encourage a Habitat homeowner ('a wonderful friend') to purchase a home through our home buying program. Maureen's relationship with Habitat Newburgh has been mutually beneficial, as her involvement led to her winning Orange County Realtor of the Year in 2005.

Aside from spending her afternoons at the ReStore, Maureen enjoys gardening, sewing, and crocheting, as well as spending time with her 5 children, 15 grandchildren, and her first great-grandchild. Maureen deeply values her time with Habitat Newburgh and the relationships with other volunteers and Habitat families. Maureen shared a quote from a former volunteer to wrap up our interview. "Habitat Newburgh is the only place I know with no egos."

Habitat Newburgh thanks Maureen Mushlit for her years of volunteering with us and we look forward sharing our community with her for years to come.

## "Inclusivity is who we are. It's what makes us a strong community, and it's those same values that make us a strong nation."

Habitat CEO Jonathan Reckford

## Habitat CEO Jonathan Reckford Statement on Charlottesville, Virginia

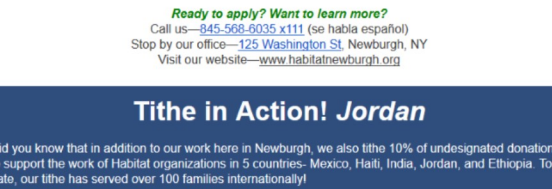
"As a lifelong Christian, I want to be clear: the white nationalists, neo-Nazis, KKK and their supporters who descended on Charlottesville have rejected the teachings of Jesus Christ."

"Habitat for Humanity stands firmly against their words, actions and any suggestion that theirs is a legitimate grievance. We applaud and honor those who put their own well-being at risk to reject this hatred."

Read the full statement [here](#).



**THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!**



## OWN A HOME!

Do You Need an Affordable, Decent Home?

Do You Know Someone That Might?

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.

Ready to apply? Want to learn more?

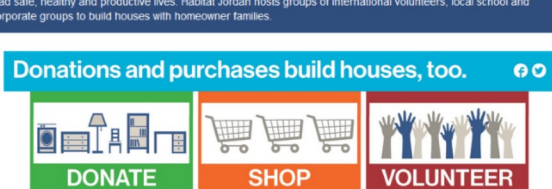
Call us—845-568-6035 x111 (see habla español)

Stop by our office—125 Washington St. Newburgh, NY

Visit our website—[www.habitatnewburgh.org](http://www.habitatnewburgh.org)

## Tithe in Newburgh! Jordan

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!



### The housing need in Jordan

In Jordan, three events have shaped the current housing situation: economic stagnation, the rise in cost of living, and the mass influx of refugees in the last three decades. The average income of families served by Habitat Jordan is approximately US\$6,000 p.a. which falls around the national poverty line, according to 2010 Jordanian statistics. Unemployment is high, especially in rural villages, where agriculture is a major source of employment. In the villages, families tend to have many children and live in small two-room houses. The lack of privacy increases family tension and makes it difficult for children to sleep and study. Women struggle to cook in makeshift kitchens with dirt floors. Without proper food storage cabinets, pests and rodents are a constant challenge. Unsanitary toilet facilities bring additional health risks.

### Habitat's contribution in Jordan

Habitat Jordan is currently working with 21 CBOs in urban communities in the Greater Amman area. Houses are made of cement blocks; the average home is 70-100 square meters. Each new house brings greater opportunities for families to lead safe, healthy and productive lives. Habitat Jordan hosts groups of international volunteers, local school and corporate groups to build houses with homeowner families.

## Donations and purchases build houses, too.



**DONATE**



**SHOP**



**VOLUNTEER**



**Exit 8 off I-84**

38 S. Plank Road, Newburgh, NY

Open Wednesday – Saturday

10 AM – 5 PM

## Making crate gardens with Cornell Cooperative Extension Orange County master gardeners!



Thank you to our Annual Sponsor, Walden Savings Bank!



Interested in becoming an Annual Sponsor?

Learn more, and contact us at [development@habitatnewburgh.org](mailto:development@habitatnewburgh.org)

Please visit our website at [www.habitatnewburgh.org](http://www.habitatnewburgh.org)

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