



# HELPING HANDS

E-EDITION, JULY 2017

**"Together, all the new Habitat homeowner families will make Newburgh a better place to live."**

- Manny, Habitat Homebuyer

## Strength, Stability, & Self-Reliance

By Cathy Collins

Sometimes the details of partnering with families—meeting building deadlines for grants, securing and completing the necessary paperwork for closing at the bank or managing cash flow—can seem more important than the purpose for the partnership. When that happens, all I have to do is think about a family and their story, and immediately the impetus to meet those deadlines, persevere through challenging or tiring moments, or just continue to have faith that it will all work out becomes possible.

The work of Habitat is not always easy, but I've yet to encounter a moment when the reward and impact of that work hasn't been worth it. There is something very satisfying about knowing that you are working to get families into homes before school starts. Doing the hard, seemingly impossible, work in partnership with families whose children will have a quiet place to study, a place where they can gather with the family to share what they are learning, a place where they can get a good night's sleep to be ready to learn more when they wake up, and a place where they can come home to play and dream.

I always offer the caveat that we do not create the potential that exists within the families we serve. I do however believe that by becoming Habitat homeowners that potential has a greater opportunity to be awakened and flourish. Ask Jeanine, whose son is just finishing his first year of college, or Octavio, whose daughter will be graduating from college next year. This future was not the likely pathway for them prior to living in a Habitat home.

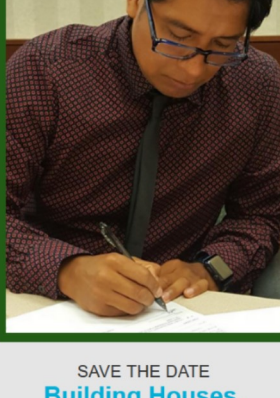
I'm now watching Habitat homeowner families become advocates for what happens beyond their home. Turning some of their attention to the health and vibrancy of their neighborhoods and community as they join together with other residents to form neighborhood associations.

The Habitat model gives families the opportunity to build strength, stability, and self-reliance through a hand-up rather than a hand-out. It fosters dignity and inspiration. It gives us all something to be proud to be a part of. Thank you to each one of you, whether you are swinging a hammer, journeying with a family, writing a check, pricing an item in the ReStore, nourishing us with food, or whatever way you are contributing, for making this important partnership possible.

## Congrats on Closing!



Congratulations to Keith & Family and to Ignacio & Family for closing on their homes!



## CONGRATS GRADS!

*Celebrating Home Buyer Families Completing Homeownership Classes*



## Rockefeller Center® Christmas Tree Lumber Donated to Habitat Newburgh



On Thursday, June 15, the lumber milled from the 2016 Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree arrived at Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newburgh where it will become a permanent part of two Habitat homes on South Miller Street. In a decade-long tradition, Tishman Speyer, the owner and manager of Rockefeller Center, is donating lumber from the tree to Habitat for Humanity. The 94-foot-tall Norway spruce from Oneonta, New York, is the second-tallest tree ever erected at Rockefeller Center and will be used by two Habitat Newburgh homeowner families to build strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter. This is the third time that the lumber from this iconic tree has come to Habitat Newburgh.

The lumber will be built into the walls of 20 and 30 S. Miller Street, on the same block as the houses that contain the 2015 Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree lumber at 22 & 26 S. Miller Street. This block has been a focus of Habitat Newburgh's revitalization efforts in collaboration with other area housing organizations.

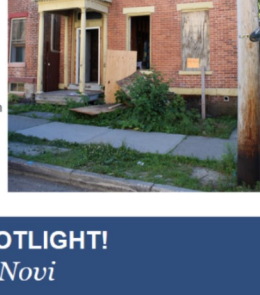
"We are so honored to be the recipient of this special lumber for the third time," says Habitat Newburgh Executive Director Cathy Collins. "The Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree is a symbol of joy for so many people, and now it will continue to bring joy to homeowner families as a permanent part of two more Habitat for Humanity homes in Newburgh."

## Habitat for Humanity® ReStore® ReStore Build!

When you donate to or shop at the Habitat Newburgh ReStore, you are helping build homes and community in the City of Newburgh!

In honor of the funds raised by our ReStore, 20 S. Miller Street will be our very first 'ReStore Build' house sponsorship. Now when you support the ReStore, you can see the direct impact of your donation.

The ReStore has been thriving in its new larger location and we are so grateful to the volunteers who run it, the donors who fill it, and the shoppers who support it!



## Volunteer SPOTLIGHT!

*Mark DiNovi*

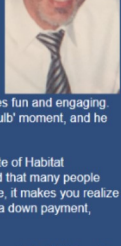
There is a side of Habitat that not many people get to see. All Habitat home buyers take a series of classes to prepare them to be successful homeowners. Mark DiNovi is a volunteer instructor who teaches three finance courses, including personal budgeting, credit, and filing taxes as a first-time homeowner. He has been teaching these classes for about 4 years and has developed a Budgeting Manual for Homeowners. At the recent graduation celebration, many Habitat home buyers talked about how helpful and empowering these classes were and how they learned to take control of their finances.

Mark first became involved with Habitat Newburgh as a construction volunteer. When his colleague, (current Board President) Rick Schoenberg mentioned that there was a need for a finance instructor, Mark decided to put his skills to work in a new way.

By bringing in props, newspaper articles, and real-life stories, Mark keeps his classes fun and engaging. He shares that his favorite part of teaching is when one of his students has a 'lightbulb' moment, and he can tell that the information clicked for them.

Mark thinks that the story that does not get told often enough is the high success rate of Habitat homeowners, and how hard they work to earn their home. He is often startled to find that many people think that Habitat for Humanity is a hand-out. He says that when you educate people, it makes you realize just how much homeowners put in—going through the application process, making a down payment, classes, and sweat equity.

"I see a lot of smiles, and I always walk away feeling great. I really enjoy it. I wish I could do it full-time!" Thank you Mark for all that you do to partner with Habitat home buyers on their journey!



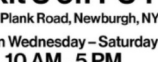
## Donations and purchases build houses, too.



DONATE



SHOP



VOLUNTEER

## Habitat for Humanity® ReStore®

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

## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

### 150-156 Ann Street

We have moved from warm to hot, and we aren't just talking about the weather. The building efforts at 150, 152, 154, and 156 Ann Street are blazing along, as all homes have been dry walled and siding has begun installation. Inside the homes, you will even find fresh coats of paint and doors installed. This rapid construction is thanks to our volunteers, AmeriCorps members serving with us, and of course the families who will be purchasing the properties.

The race may not be completed, however the finish line is within site on these Ann Street homes. We look forward to seeing you on site!

### 20 & 30 S. Miller

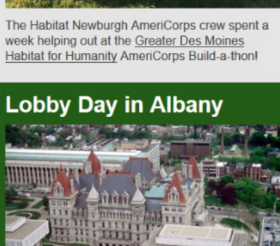
On South Miller Street, we continue to bring Newburgh's history back to the 21st century. 30 South Miller, built in 1900, and its beautiful historic features are being carefully restored by dedicated volunteers.

A few houses down is 20 South Miller, constructed in 1895. We have begun renovating this vacant home ceremoniously, with the use of the Rockefeller Tree lumber. There is a ways to go with this home, so keep an checking in at [NewburghVolunteerHub.com](http://NewburghVolunteerHub.com) for opportunities.

### 131 Carson

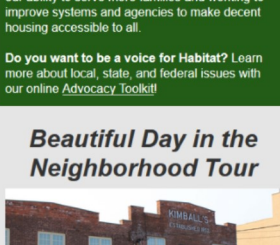
Renovations continue on 131 Carson Avenue in the Washington Heights neighborhood. Habitat Newburgh volunteers have spent the past month clearing the yard, leveling the walkway, installing cabinets, nailing in trim, and putting in doors. In July, we will be laying flooring and working on finishing work to get this home back to habitable.

## AmeriCorps Build-A-Thon



The week Habitat Newburgh AmeriCorps crew spent a week helping out at the Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity AmeriCorps Build-a-thon!

## Lobby Day in Albany



Habitat Newburgh staff joined colleagues from Habitat organizations from all over New York for a Lobby Day in Albany to meet with state legislators and advocate for legislation that will help Habitat build.

Advocacy is a vital part of our mission, expanding our ability to serve more families and working to improve systems and agencies to make decent housing accessible to all.

Do you want to be a voice for Habitat? Learn more about local, state, and federal issues with our online [Advocacy Toolkit](http://AdvocacyToolkit.org)!

## 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, July 8  
Wednesday, August 9

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

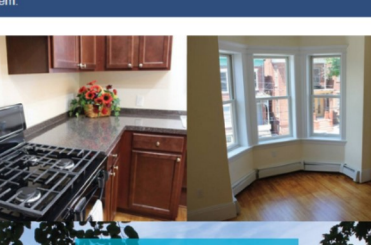
St. James Episcopal Church  
Aptos  
Riverdale Presbyterian Church  
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church  
Pachter Orthodontics

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](mailto:marbolino@habitatnewburgh.org)



## \*\*DATE CHANGE\*\* Saturday, August 19

Dedication of 150, 152, 154, & 156 Ann Street, Faith Builds II



These Ann Street homes will be move-in ready before the school year begins! Come out and celebrate the accomplishment of the faith communities that have sponsored these houses—Methodists & Friends Build, EpiscoBuild, & PresbyBuild—and the hard work of all of the volunteers and future homeowners who lent a hand in building them.



**every one**  
needs a place  
to call home

## 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 (se habla español)  
Stop by our office—125 Washington St., Newburgh, NY  
Visit our website—[www.habitatnewburgh.org](http://www.habitatnewburgh.org)

## Tithe in Action! Ethiopia

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!

Here is a story from our tithe partners at [Habitat Ethiopia](http://Habitat Ethiopia):



"Amsal G. Hawaria, 16, and her sister Fasika G. Hawaria, 12, were troubled by the leaking roof and the dirt floor when doing their homework in the old house without sufficient light. Habitat Ethiopia renovated the house. 'My sister and I now study in clean home with brighter light. We are very happy,' Amasal said."

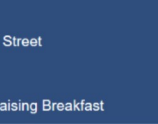
## Year of Service with Habitat Newburgh

*Join AmeriCorps!*

Do you know someone who would like to join Habitat Newburgh for a year of service with AmeriCorps? As a Construction Crew Leader or as a Family Services Coordinator, they can make a tangible difference in the community and help families achieve their goals, all while gaining leadership skills and learning more about the non-profit world.

AmeriCorps members serve for 10-15 months and earn a monthly stipend, benefits, and an education award (upon completion of service).

To learn more or to apply, visit our website or contact Matt Arbolino.



## LOOKING AHEAD

*Upcoming events in 2017*

**Saturday, August 19** Dedication of 150, 152, 154, & 156 Ann Street

**Saturday, September 30** Dedication of 30 S. Miller

**Thursday, October 26** Building Houses, Building Hope Fundraising Breakfast

## Keep up with the latest Habitat Happenings!

