



# HELPING HANDS

E-EDITION, MARCH 2017

"I also believe that it's almost impossible for people to change alone. We need to join with others who will push us in our thinking and challenge us to do things we didn't believe ourselves capable of."

Frances Moore Lappé

## The Power of Women

By Cathy Collins

One of the strengths of our affiliate (and one of the things that I love most about it) is the strong corps of women volunteers. I admire the ability of our women volunteers to inspire each other, to take on tasks that they may have never imagined they were capable of. I respect how Women Build site volunteers have created a community that strengthens their confidence in themselves and each other without isolating themselves from the rest of the community. Indeed, the strength of their bonds raise up the importance of the connection all of us share with each other and the partnership we form with our future homeowners.

I rarely encounter someone who is not excited to hear that women are building one of our houses. It's not an ordinary undertaking, and gives hope for what is possible. While the construction industry remains predominantly male, our organization's long-standing Women Build program has opened up the space for women to grow their construction knowledge and take on leadership roles. This program has been so successful that all Habitat Newburgh construction sites, not just the Women Build house, have a balance of women and men.

Many affiliates have a Women Build program, but not many include as part of that program, a dedicated house. Soon our women will begin their 8th house, and their 6th one in the last 5 years. Today the way they build often sets the example of how to do it on other sites.

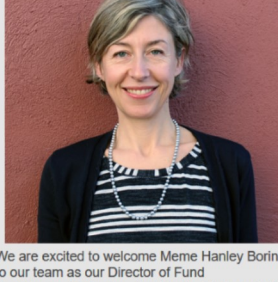
As a woman in leadership myself, I value the thoughtful conversations that I often share with our Women Build team about what drives them and gives meaning to the work they do. As mothers, daughters, and some even grandmothers, we share a connection with the families who will purchase the home being built. Working together, friendships form, new possibilities emerge, and we are changed by each other. I am honored to know all of you and witness the difference you make. In this month that we celebrate women, I can think of no better way to do so than by lifting you all up.

## Congrats, Homeowners!



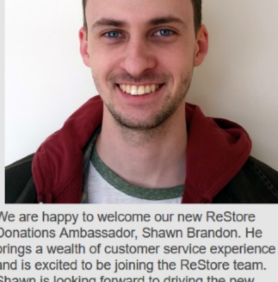
Felicia & Billie at their house closing

## Welcome Meme Hanley Borin Director of Fund Development



We are excited to welcome Meme Hanley Borin to our team as our Director of Fund Development. She has lived in the Hudson Valley for more than a dozen years. She grew up and attended school in Connecticut and is the daughter of a carpenter. Her professional career includes fundraising for ten years at Mohonk Preserve and the Land Trust Alliance, a national conservation organization. She has extensive experience in cultivation of donors, especially major gifts, and overseeing the efforts of a fundraising department. The heart of her work, however, has always centered on finding ways to serve people. We are honored to have her bring her excellent fundraising skills and passion for the mission.

## Welcome Shawn Brandon ReStore Donations Ambassador



We are happy to welcome our new ReStore Donations Ambassador, Shawn Brandon. He brings a wealth of customer service experience and is excited to be joining the ReStore team. Shawn is looking forward to driving the new ReStore box truck and getting to know our ReStore donors, volunteers, and customers. Welcome aboard!

## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

### 22 | 24 | 26 | 30 South Miller

At 22, 24, 26 South Miller, we finally have the blueboard insulation installed in the basements. This is the finishing touch on all 3 homes and the families will be moving in shortly! We loved walking down memory lane with all three homes and seeing the microcosm of renovation that is taking place all over Newburgh.

30 South Miller is not far behind, with the framing already nearly complete. There is still months of work to go into this house, so be sure to sign up to volunteer!

### 150 | 152 | 154 | 156 Ann

If you have been past the corner of Ann Street and South Johnston Street recently, you likely saw the "seeds" of four new homes being planted. 150, 152, 154, and 156, four Faith Build homes, all have their foundations poured and the decks on. Within the next week, all four will also be framed. Very shortly it will be all hands on deck getting these new houses built. We will see you there!

### 58 Henry

We have a couple recycling jobs on our hands, including 58 Henry Avenue. There is no one intensive job that needs to be done on this existing Habitat home, but still enough work to keep us busy for a few months.

### 131 Carson

At 131 Carson, insulation will be completely put in within the next week. Next up is new door installations. Keep an eye on [Newburgh.Volunteertub.com](http://newburgh.volunteertub.com) for ways to get involved!

### SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER

<http://newburgh.volunteertub.com>

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

Newburgh Prep  
Riverdale Presbyterian  
Marist Presbytery  
Mount Saint Michael Academy  
Rockland Community College

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)

## 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 x109 to RSVP

### Tour Dates:

Wednesday, April 5  
Saturday, May 6  
Wednesday, June 7  
Saturday, July 8

## Keep up with the latest Habitat Happenings!

FIND US ON FACEBOOK



[facebook.com/habitatnewburgh](https://www.facebook.com/habitatnewburgh)

AND ON TWITTER



[twitter.com/habitatnewburgh](https://twitter.com/habitatnewburgh)

AND ON INSTAGRAM



[instagram.com/habitatnewburgh](https://www.instagram.com/habitatnewburgh)



## ReStore

Spring Cleaning?

DONATE FURNITURE, DÉCOR, APPLIANCES & BUILDING MATERIALS TO THE RESTORE.

Exit 8 off I-84 • 38 S. Plank Road, Newburgh, NY

**DONATE • SHOP • VOLUNTEER**

Donations are gratefully accepted Wed-Sat 9:30-4:30.

For a complete list of accepted donations, visit <http://newburghrestore.org/donate.html>

Follow the ReStore on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for the latest!

## Announcing Women Build #8!



15 1/2 Overlook (far right side of picture) will be the next home built with women leadership and 80% women volunteers

The incredible women volunteers of Habitat Newburgh have led the construction of 7 completed houses—both gut rehabs and new builds—that are now home to Habitat Newburgh homeowner families.

This spring, we will begin work on Women Build #8, a gut rehab of a rowhouse in the Washington Heights neighborhood, just around the corner from the beautiful Hudson River views of the bluff.

We invite women of all ages (16+) to join us on the construction site. Joining the Habitat Newburgh Women Build community is a wonderful way to meet new people, learn new skills, and work side by side with future homeowners. No prior construction experience is necessary. We build year-round, and strive to have a Women Build house every year, so there is plenty of work to be done and we are always thrilled to welcome new people!

From May 6-14, Habitat Newburgh will join affiliates across the US by again participating in **National Women Build Week**, an annual weeklong event that invites women to devote at least one day to help families build strength, stability and independence through housing. The week is meant to spotlight the homeownership challenges faced by women. Individuals and groups are invited to join us! Put together a team from your office, your book club, your church, or your friends and family and come out!

To become a volunteer or bring a group, [sign up online](#) or contact Volunteer Coordinator Matt Arbolino to learn more ([marbolino@habitatnewburgh.org](mailto:marbolino@habitatnewburgh.org), (845) 568-6035 x110)

Fundraising is crucial to our ability to keep building! Make a donation and invite your friends to join you in supporting the next Women Build House. [Get started here!](#)

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT! Celeste Bloomer & Cornelia Gallagher



Celeste Bloomer and Cornelia Gallagher have a combined 30 years of experience volunteering with us. They believe to volunteer with Habitat Newburgh means to "leave your ego at the door." Both ladies exemplify the work of Habitat Newburgh—being dedicated, driven, and of course, being humble.

Celeste has volunteered with Habitat Newburgh since the organization's onset. After retiring, she spoke with co-founders and longtime friends, Bill Murphy and Al Favata. Familiar with the work of Habitat for Humanity through Jimmy Carter, Celeste became involved with office support. Cornelia had been volunteering in Newburgh for years, but had yet to find a role where she felt very useful. With her grandchildren finally all in school, Cornelia joined Habitat Newburgh. Celeste told us, "We were looking for something to fill our lives."

Both women came to us with little to no construction experience. Cornelia shares that she knew how to use a tape-measure, a hammer, and a screwdriver. One of the greatest skills that both women bring to the table is their exceptional ability to collaboratively lead. On nearly every Wednesday and Saturday, Celeste and Cornelia lead the Women Build home construction, which includes working with longstanding and brand new volunteers. Five out of the seven Women Build houses were completed under their leadership.

With the amount of time and effort that Celeste and Cornelia put into Habitat Newburgh, you might think that their families would grow tired of their involvement. However, it's just the opposite. Not only are their entire families supportive, but everyone, including spouses, children, and grandchildren, have become involved.

Their years of volunteering having given Celeste and Cornelia a wealth of memories and experiences, the most lasting of which is the friendships they have developed with fellow volunteers and homeowners. Cornelia believes volunteering here "makes people get together faster. It is amazing to think of the people you meet that under different circumstances you would not have the chance to interact with."

Both women are thrilled to see the change that is now taking place in Newburgh. While they are nostalgic for the Newburgh they grew up in, they are hopeful for the future. As Celeste said, "You can't go back." Habitat Newburgh and the community continue to move forward and a large reason why is the efforts and leadership of Celeste and Cornelia. We are immensely grateful for all they do!



## WALK for HOUSING 2017

Walk with us, form a team, or make a donation.

**Every dollar** raised builds a home for a deserving family.

**Every donation** gets us one step closer to changing lives.

**Each one** of us has the capacity to make a difference!

### SUNDAY APRIL 23, 2017

1:00 PM Registration | 2:00 PM Walk begins  
Washington's Headquarters, Newburgh, NY

## Start Fundraising!

Thank you for your commitment to helping families build safety, stability, and self-reliance through homeownership!

Learn more:

[Walk for Housing Website](#)

## Land Rights & Gender Equality

Solid Ground is Habitat for Humanity International's global advocacy campaign to increase access to land for shelter. A key component of the campaign includes secure property rights for women.

Habitat cares deeply about ensuring access to secure property rights for everyone, especially women, who are disproportionately affected by lack of secure tenure. Through Habitat's global work, Habitat has seen how impactful women are on the lives of their children and communities, and witnessed firsthand how ensuring secure property rights for women reverberates through communities to provide far reaching benefits.



Habitat is working side by side with women to increase their property rights in a number of ways, including offering microloans and education on land and inheritance rights. Advocacy concerning land tenure is a huge focus in our work around the world. From community decision-making bodies to national governments and international organizations, Habitat is working at all levels to change policies and systems.

Increasing property rights for women is a crucial first step toward ending poverty housing.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT WOMENS RIGHTS AND LAND TENURE](#)  
[JOIN SOLID GROUND AND TAKE ACTION](#)

### 18th Annual



## SAVE THE DATE

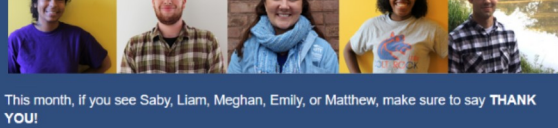
MONDAY, MAY 8, 2017

### SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

[golfforehousing@gmail.com](mailto:golfforehousing@gmail.com) for more info

## Thank You AmeriCorps Members!

AmeriCorps Week is March 4-11, 2017



This month, if you see Saby, Liam, Meghan, Emily, or Matthew, make sure to say **THANK YOU!**

We are celebrating AmeriCorps week by thanking our amazing National Service members and advocating for the AmeriCorps program. Habitat Newburgh partners with all three branches of AmeriCorps (Direct, VISTA, and NCCC) and we have seen how much of an impact service has both on our organization's ability to accomplish our mission, and on the lives of those who serve.

Emily, Liam, and Meghan are Construction Crew Leaders, while Saby works in Family Services outreach and Matthew's VISTA project focuses on land acquisition and development. We are also looking forward to hosting an AmeriCorps NCCC team that is scheduled to arrive March 9! These groups of 8-12 young people (ages 18-24) stay with us for about 6-8 weeks and provide a vital boost to our construction efforts.

The funding for the AmeriCorps program is often on the chopping block, and it is important that we continue to stand up for national service, which is not only an incredibly important partnership for Habitat affiliates across the U.S., but a hugely successful program that helps a wide array of non-profits serve a diverse range of communities. **TAKE ACTION** and write or call your representatives to tell them about the important work national service members are doing here in Newburgh.



## LOOKING AHEAD

### Upcoming events in 2017

Sunday, April 23 18th Annual Walk for Housing

Monday, May 8 18th Annual Golf Fore Housing

May 6-14 National Women Build Week

Please visit our website at [www.habitatnewburgh.org](http://www.habitatnewburgh.org)  
[Donate to our cause](#)  
[Like us on Facebook](#)