



# HELPING HANDS

E-EDITION, AUGUST 2017

"Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence."

- Helen Keller

## Building on Faith

By Cathy Collins

As we prepare to dedicate our second Faith Builds, I am reminded to pause and think about the role of faith in our work. It's easy to see it as the cornerstone of Habitat. We witness it at every coffee break as 'Habitat Chaplain' Deke inspires believers and non-believers alike. We see it in action every day on site and in the work that happens along the homeowner journey. All point to our deep roots in faith.

Yet there is a different kind of faith that I encounter here that is critical to the success of our mission, particularly in the City of Newburgh. It's wrapped up in the power of hope. Cornel West describes hope in this way: "hope looks at the evidence and says, 'It doesn't look good at all. Doesn't look good at all. Gonna go beyond the evidence to create new possibilities...visions that become contagious to allow people to engage in heroic actions always against the odds...' That's hope."

I often encounter moments where the evidence doesn't look good. There's no way the house will be ready, the bills will get paid, the constraints of the law can be navigated to uphold the spirit of our program. And then I remember how each time we have found a way to defy the odds. The volunteers and staff perform miracles in getting the house ready, an unexpected donation arrives, and we continue to find innovative ways to serve families.

The families we partner with place their faith and hope in Habitat. Many of them overcome their fears that things will not work out to chart a new course for their family through the Habitat program. They gain hope and confidence in themselves by building on-site alongside volunteers and staff, working with their advocates, and completing homeowner education classes. The process instills optimism about what is possible and what is achievable. Even when it doesn't look good at all, we are inspired by their faith to remain hopeful for what is possible.

## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

### 150-156 Ann Street

We are in the final stretch with these four homes. Calling all volunteers! Bring a friend and come an extra day to help us put the finishing effort into these homes so they will be ready for dedication and help ensure that we hit our grant deadlines. Anything you can do to help us with this goal will be appreciated. We hope to see you at the dedication on August 19, at 12:30 pm.

### 20 & 30 S. Miller

As we complete the Ann Street homes, we will turn our attention back to South Miller Street. We have lots to do to get ready for the 30 S. Miller dedication in the fall. We will also be in full swing at 20 S. Miller.

### 131 Carson

Soon this home will be ready for its homeowner.

### 15% Overlook & 324 Robinson

Look for these homes to begin and be open to volunteers soon.

## Farewell Emily and Liam!

### AmeriCorps Construction Crew Leaders



AmeriCorps Construction Crew Leaders Emily and Liam have completed their year of service. Each gave over 1,700 hours of their time with Habitat Newburgh.

Emily decided to join Habitat Newburgh for a second year of service after her team of AmeriCorps members from Hudson River Healthcare volunteered doing demolition work on South Miller Street. Her ready smile, energetic work ethic, and cheerful demeanor have made Emily an incredible asset to Habitat Newburgh. She plans to use the education award that she will receive for completing her AmeriCorps year to attend the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City.

Liam started with Habitat Newburgh as a Donations Ambassador, driving the box truck for the ReStore before joining AmeriCorps and moving over to construction. Now that his AmeriCorps service is complete, he plans to attend SUNY Orange College. His awesome work ethic, eagerness to learn new skills, kind personality and genuine commitment to service will be missed as we wish him all the best in his future endeavors.



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

Newburgh Fire Department  
West Point Cadets  
St. Peter's Prep  
Philipstown Presbyterian Church  
Camp Bryn Mawr

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)

## 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 10.5 months and earn a living 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

## 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 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, August 9

Saturday, September 9

Wednesday, October 4

Keep up with the latest Habitat Happenings!



## Dedication of

# Faith Builds



150, 152, 154,  
& 156 Ann St.



Join Us! Saturday, August 19, 2017

## Celebrating a Feat of Faith!

Join us on August 19th for the dedication of 156, 154, 152, & 150 Ann Street. These four homes are sponsored by the long-time faith coalitions that partner with Habitat Newburgh—PresbyBuild, EpiscoBuild, Methodists & Friends Build—and a very special Unity House project which is supported by many different faith groups.

Habitat Newburgh has deep roots in the faith community, and the long-standing partnerships have been an instrumental part of Habitat's work. The very first Habitat Newburgh house was a Unity House—sponsored by the collective efforts of local faith communities.

When we built the 22-home E. Parmenter Street Development, one set of five connected houses were designated as the first Faith Builds, with each home sponsored by a Faith Build partner. These homes were the key turning point that transformed E. Parmenter Street from a block that had a smattering of Habitat houses to a true neighborhood. The Faith Builds II houses on Ann Street are also serving as a bridge—connecting the work on E. Parmenter, Clark, and Washington to the Habitat projects north of Broadway including the five S. Miller houses. These homes not only represent the opportunity for four homebuyer families to build strength, stability, and self-reliance through shelter, they also unify our work north and south of Broadway.

We are so grateful for the unflagging support of the local faith communities, and happy to witness what we can accomplish together when faith is put into action!

## You're Invited! Dedication of Faith Builds

Saturday, August 19, 2017

12:30 PM Open House

1:00 PM Dedication Begins

150-156 Ann Street, Newburgh



## Pop-Up Paint Party!



We had a blast and got a ton done at our pop-up painting party!

# The Road Home

A Journey of Hope

## 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

2975 Route 9W, New Windsor, NY 12553

## Volunteer SPOTLIGHT!

### Deke Spierling

Most volunteers who have attended a coffee break have probably been inspired by the words of Habitat Newburgh's unofficial chaplain, Deke Spierling. Every Wednesday and Saturday, Deke leads all of our site volunteers in a reflection and a prayer before work resumes.

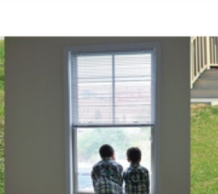
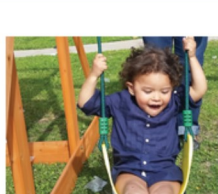
Deke joined Habitat Newburgh in 2002, while he was serving as the interim pastor at Cornwall Presbyterian Church. He attended an interest meeting that soon bloomed into the PresbyBuild coalition. In addition to his duties as chaplain, Deke has volunteered onsite, served on several committees, chaired the Faith Relations Committee, and is currently serving his second term on the Board and is the 1st Vice President.



In his retirement, Deke sees Habitat as his vocation and the Habitat family as his parish. "There is almost something sacramental about coffee break. A sense of fellowship and open arms. The literal breaking of bread. A sense of community and connection." He shares that for him, some of the most rewarding moments in his service have come from these connections, such as a recently widowed volunteer who found the community and Deke's bi-weekly messages at coffee break to be a source of healing, or the homebuyer who thanked him for his words of encouragement and inspiration.

Habitat for Humanity International has said that Christianity is the center, but not the border. This is a sentiment that resonates deeply with Deke. He endeavors to create a welcoming environment for all who work together towards our common purpose. For him, faith is not about building walls, it is not about self-aggrandizement, it is about trying to live a moral life.

Deke says that his commitment to Habitat is rooted in his love of the diversity of people and hope that he sees in Newburgh. He says, "We are meeting a critical need. Ours is a very concrete, focused mission. At Habitat we have to negotiate a lot of things, but we never have to negotiate our mission. I look at the capacity that has been built in 15 years, and I think it's extraordinary."



## 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! Haiti

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 Haiti

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, with 58.5% of the population living on less than US\$2.42 per day. Political instability, food shortages, unemployment, natural disasters and a lack of basic infrastructure have kept most Haitians locked in a cycle of poverty for generations. Access to housing is equally desperate. Before the 2010 earthquake, Haiti already faced a severe shortage of houses.

The earthquake damaged nearly 190,000 houses and 105,000 more were destroyed, adding to the pre-existing backlog of 300,000 houses required to meet the growing shelter needs of the country. Of the more than 2 million affected survivors, more than 1.5 million were homeless. Today, land tenure remains the biggest roadblock to rebuilding in Haiti.

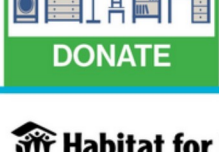
### Habitat's contribution in Haiti

To meet housing needs following the 2010 earthquake, Habitat adopted an innovative strategy – Pathways to Permanence – centered on holistic, community-led, sustainable urban development, and developed programs to address land rights and housing finance. [Learn more about Habitat Haiti.](#)



Dianie Laure, 8, returned from school to her home in the Santo community of Léogâne. She is one of about 1,000 children who now live in the community.

## Donations and purchases build houses, too.



Exit 8 off I-84

38 S. Plank Road, Newburgh, NY

Open Wednesday – Saturday

10 AM – 5 PM

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

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