



BUILDING HOUSES, BUILDING HOPE

HOMEFRONT



Habitat
for Humanity®
of Greater Centre County

FALL/WINTER 2017

Everyone deserves a decent and affordable place to call home

They both work full-time, Jesse for a custom countertop fabricator and Victoria as an assistant manager at a sandwich shop. They earn modest incomes, but not enough to qualify for a traditional mortgage. With the recent addition of Liley, their baby girl, Jesse and Victoria were determined to find something permanent, something more, and something of their own. That 'something' came in the way of a Habitat flyer hanging on a local community bulletin board.

"I saw the flyer and called the next day. It seemed too perfect – the house is near family and plenty big for our growing family," Victoria said. "And I want color!" she excitedly continued. "The white walls of our rented townhouse are just plain. I want to be able to pick cheery colors for Lil's room, and for the living room, the heart of the home."

To have a house of their own means having the freedom to create a vibrant and personal space for making family memories. Family meals around the kitchen table, movie nights snuggled under blankets on the couch, sleepovers with friends in the decorated bedrooms, and endless outdoor games in the fenced backyard will all soon be possible in a recently renovated Milesburg property.

Jesse, the quieter half of the young couple, beams with pride having had a literal hand in helping to make their home. Replacing siding, clearing ductwork, insulating plumbing, installing flooring and painting a room or two, Jesse did it all – alongside community volunteers. Short on words, he sticks with the important ones. "Thanks for helping to make this happen," Jesse expressed at the family's recent home dedication ceremony. *(continued on page 3)*



Baby Liley plays with the keys to her new family home.



Jesse and Victoria surrounded by extended family at their home dedication.

HOMEFRONT is an informational newsletter produced for donors, sponsors, volunteers, and friends of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Centre County.

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MISSION STATEMENT

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Centre County (HFGCC) partners with working families and volunteers to build affordable, quality homes and to provide services that promote successful homeownership.



Dear Friends,

The holiday season often leads us to reflect on what is truly important. For me, this time of year brings memories of special time spent with family and friends in the comfort and familiarity of my home...thoughts of warm holiday lights, festive decorations, and delightful smells of baking cookies. There is just no better feeling than being home for the holidays.

But sadly, for many low-income families in Greater Centre County, the holidays can be a stark reminder of what it means not to have a decent and permanent place to live. They, too, will try to bring holiday cheer into their homes. But it will be hard to lift their spirits during this special season.

With your special holiday gift, you can give another family in need of a decent place to live the best gift of all...their very own place to call home.

We aren't asking you to give families a hand out – they just need a hand up to have the opportunity to build and buy their own decent and affordable homes.

You see, all Habitat homeowners help build their own homes alongside volunteers, investing hundreds of "sweat equity" hours on the construction site. When their home is complete, they pay an affordable mortgage, which is invested back into our program to build more homes for more families in need!

As you count your blessings and think about being "home for the holidays" this year, I ask that you be a blessing to someone in need. Will you help ensure that more hardworking families here in Centre County can afford a decent place to live?

Please give your most generous, tax-deductible [holiday gift today](#).

Happy Holidays,

Jill Redman, Executive Director

If you prefer, you can send your gift by mail to Habitat for Humanity of Greater Centre County at 1155 Zion Rd, Bellefonte PA 16823.

Everyone deserves *(continued from page 1)*

Habitat believes that when we offer a hand up to a family in need of better shelter, that help places them on a path toward better health, more stability, and more possibilities.

Decent shelter is something we all need to thrive.

In early 2018, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Centre County will break ground on a new construction project in Bellefonte. For more information, visit www.habitatgcc.org or call (814) 353-2390.

Every home is a building block. Having a decent place to live and access to an affordable mortgage or loan means Habitat homeowners can save more, invest in education, pursue opportunity and have more financial stability.

Every family needs a foundation to build a better future. Beginning the journey toward affordable homeownership requires courage and vision for something better. Each Habitat homeowner works hard to complete their financial counseling and perform their sweat equity, and it's their determination and strength that carries them through to their goal: *a home of their own, one they helped build.* When a family partners with Habitat, they start down a path – one with far fewer barriers to a better, healthier, more financially stable life.

Every hand makes a difference. With community support, Habitat will always advocate for and partner with those among us who must be remembered, who must be allowed opportunity, who must be permitted to hope.

UPCOMING EVENTS: All open to the public!



Alternative Christmas Fair
Sunday, December 3 - 11am to 2pm
 University Baptist & Brethren Church
 411 S Burrowes St, State College, PA 16801

Started as an alternative to the commercialization of Christmas, the fair offers people the opportunity to donate to various charitable causes in the names of those you wish to gift. Certificates are given to donors signifying their gift on behalf of another. Twenty-six local, national and international charitable organizations – including HFHGCC – will be in attendance. There is also a Children's fair with fun, food and games for the younger kids, held at the same time. More details can be found at <http://bit.ly/2jusHIU>.



Gingerbread House Building Competition
Sunday, December 3 - 4pm to 6pm
 Grace Lutheran Church
 205 S Garner St, State College, PA 16801

Penn State Habitat for Humanity Campus Chapter will be hosting its 2nd annual Gingerbread House Building Competition! Fun for all ages! Teams should pre-register to reserve a kit and supplies. More details here: <http://bit.ly/2zLKnnny>

14th Bricks & Sticks Golf Classic: Another Success!

It was another fantastic year at the Bricks & Sticks Golf Classic! Together with the Builders Association of Central PA, Habitat for Humanity hosted a stellar tournament, complete with games, prizes and 18 holes of awesomeness. We are especially grateful to our tournament sponsors.

Platinum: CB Flooring ♦ Fulton Bank

Gold: ABC Supply Company ♦ America's Carpet Outlet ♦ Babst Calland ♦ Centre Concrete ♦ S&A Homes

Silver: Atrium Doors and Windows ♦ Best Line Equipment ♦ Bricks and Stones Supply / Glen Gery Brick ♦ EBY Paving ♦ First National Bank ♦ Kohl Building Products / Simonton Windows ♦ Lobar, Inc. ♦ Nittany Settlement Company ♦ PennTerra Engineering ♦ Restek ♦ Urban Engineers, Inc. ♦ Urish Popeck & Co LLC

On-course Lunch: Jersey Mike's

And special thanks, also, to our planning committee: Bob Belinda (Chair), Centre Concrete ♦ John Arrington ♦ Dave Asencio, EBY Paving ♦ Betsy Dupuis, Babst Calland ♦ Doug Erickson, Patton Township ♦ Steve Eskey, Penn State Golf Courses ♦ Tim Gervinski, Centre Concrete ♦ Kyle Losch, Fulton Bank ♦ Tom Schmidt, Forever Broadcasting ♦ Tim Schoonover, Babst Calland ♦ Mike Sgriccia, Alexander Building Construction ♦ Byron Singer, Bricks and Stones Supply ♦ Thadd Wendt, Fine Line Homes ♦ Linda White, First National Bank



The 2017 event raised over \$60,000 for affordable housing programs in Centre County.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

State High students helping to design Habitat for Humanity house

Chris Rosenblum, State College Area School District News

With one large project, several State High students have been on the home stretch from the very start.

This fall, students in Chip Crawford's Architectural Drafting and Design 3 class in the Career and Technical Center have been designing a 1,200-square foot, two-story house — for real. Using class designs, the local Habitat for Humanity chapter hopes to start building on a Bellefonte lot in the spring.

Teams have been working on every aspect: site layout; mechanical, electrical and plumbing diagrams; interior floor plans; exterior renderings; even the possibility of solar panels for lower energy costs and greater sustainability.

Recently in their classroom, the students presented their initial work to Habitat for Humanity board members and other visitors. Impressed board members offered feedback to help students fine-tune the various designs and work toward completing the plans in December.

"It's so cool," junior Abbie La Porta said. "Oh my goodness, there's actually going to be a house. Our design is going to turn into a reality, and that's just the coolest idea for me because we're only 16-years, 17-years-old and we're designing our first house. And we're going to get to provide it to a family that needs a house. I don't know what could replace that experience."

The partnership began when HFH board member Jon Nelson contacted Crawford in August. Nelson asked whether Crawford's drafting firm in Lemont would consider designing a local HFH home.

Crawford, a class of 1981 State High alumnus, had another idea.

He suggested his Architecture Drafting and Design 3 students instead. Why not? They had worked with mock-up Habitat for Humanity designs in their spring ADD 2 class, and Crawford was confident they had the skills and interest to take on more than an academic exercise.

"This is taking things the whole way through, dotting your i's and crossing your t's," Crawford said. "But I think the young people have an understanding that this is the real world, and they're going to give it whatever they can to make this happen."

Sarah Klinetob Lowe, a housing systems specialist with the Pennsylvania Housing Research Center on the Penn State campus, has volunteered as an advisor. She approves how the students are viewing the project holistically, taking into account how different systems interact, planning an integrative design that includes exploring solar technology from the start rather than trying to add it later and running into unforeseen obstacles.

She also admires the communication among the teams.

"There are students on each of the teams, and not just one thinking in their silo and maybe later telling the mechanical team what they're doing," she said. "They're all talking and integrating all these pieces from the beginning, and that's what's the most exciting thing about this project so far. As we saw that with their presentations. They started to see things across each silo. I think it's going to go great."

Senior Katie Bair said she and her classmates are proud that their assignment eventually will lead to a home for a family. Despite the complexities of coordinating the teams, she has enjoyed the challenge, the kind of work she hopes to tackle more as an architecture student in college.

"The biggest component for me is incorporating my drawing and artistic abilities with a career that enables me to help the community," she said.

For his part, Crawford has been pleased with the progress. Line by line, figure by figure, his vision for the class is taking shape.

"I feel today went very well," he said after the presentations. "The students really had the opportunity to see that this is going to be a real project. When everybody showed up, the students took it to heart, and I believe the outcome is going to be comparable to an architectural firm, a good product we're going to provide for Habitat to build a house in the spring."



Turn Junk Cars into Cash and Support Habitat

Donating your vehicle to Habitat for Humanity is a great way to support our work.

Proceeds from the sale of your donated vehicle will help Habitat families build strength, stability and self-reliance in Greater Centre County. Plus, it's fast and easy to do, and you may qualify for a [tax deduction](#).

Donate your vehicle in three easy steps:

1. Go to our [online donation wizard](#) or call 1-877-277-4344 to donate by phone.
2. Provide your vehicle information and contact information.
3. Schedule your car to be picked up.

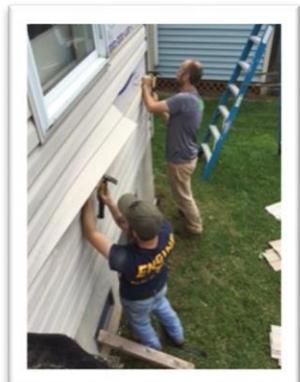


**THANK YOU
2017 CARS FOR HOMES DONORS**

Craig Anthony
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Corporate Group Gives Back

Employees from Astellas Pharma US, Inc. helped jump start HFHGCC's summer home renovation project. The team – eight Astellas employees, a few Habitat-trained volunteers, and the new homeowner – worked side-by-side to complete a variety of tasks, both inside and outside (and under!) the home. Thank you, Astellas!



PSU Habitat: Rent-A-Worker

The Habitat for Humanity Campus Chapter at The Pennsylvania State University is excited to share news about their Rent-A-Worker program! The idea of the Rent-A-Worker program is to provide an extra hand with tasks such as raking leaves or other simple yard work, helping to move small furniture, exterior painting and other minor fix-ups!

The Habitat for Humanity Campus Chapter at PSU is an all-student, all-volunteer group, which means that we are unable to perform some tasks. Please ask us if you're not sure if your needs can be covered.

There is no charge for the Rent-A-Worker services, but we do kindly request a donation of any size for completed work. Funds received go towards volunteering in the community with Habitat for Humanity of Greater Centre County, and our national Collegiate Challenge trips through Habitat for Humanity International.

If you're in need of extra help, please contact Rent-A-Worker by email at pennstatehabitat@gmail.com.

NOTE: Unless otherwise agreed to, Rent-A-Worker projects are limited to a 15-mile radius from the Penn State University Park Campus. Also, the Rent-A-Worker volunteers expect that those requesting assistance provide tools necessary to complete tasks (for example: rakes, shovels, leaf blowers, paint, brushes/rollers, etc.).



ReStore: A good deal for the community and the environment

The Habitat for Humanity ReStore is a discount home improvement store and donation center that sells new and gently used furniture, appliances, flooring, home accessories, building materials and more to the public. All inventory is donated, processed (cleaned and tested), and sold at a fraction of retail prices.

You can support Habitat and the ReStore!

Donate goods to the Habitat for Humanity ReStore. The Habitat ReStore accepts small and large donations of new or gently used furniture, appliances, housewares, building materials and more. Proceeds from the sales of these items help Habitat's work in our community.

Shop at Habitat for Humanity ReStore. Shopping at the Habitat ReStore isn't like the shopping experience anywhere else. Part home improvement store, part home goods store, part resale store, the Habitat ReStore has a wide selection that changes often. You benefit because you get fantastic new and gently used home improvement items below retail prices. Folks in our community benefit because your purchase supports Habitat for Humanity.

Volunteer at the Habitat for Humanity ReStore. From customer service to furniture repair, the Habitat ReStore offers a multitude of volunteer opportunities geared toward individual interests and skills. The ReStore strives to keep operating costs as low as possible to maximize the amount of funding that goes directly to benefit our community, and volunteers are one of the ways to achieve this. By giving your time, you help the Habitat ReStore do more to support building projects that benefit families in our community.

To make a donation, find our hours and location, or to sign up to volunteer, check out www.habitatgcc.org/restore or "like" us on [Facebook](#).



SAVE THE DATE: HouseWalk 2018

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Centre County will be hosting its annual HouseWalk event on Sunday, April 15, 2018. As we work to engage more teams, we are sharing a quick "save the date" message as we know many of you begin planning your Spring activities now.

We will be finalizing details (location/walk route, start time, registration process) over the next few months, and will share that information when ready.

If you are interested in helping us to organize the event, or to confirm your group's participation, please contact Jill Redman at (814) 353-2390, ext 1000, or jill@habitatgcc.org.

We thank you for your support in helping us help more families find stable, safe, and affordable long-term housing solutions!!



HFHGCC
1155 Zion Rd
Bellefonte, PA 16823

[Addressee]
[Street Address]
[City, ST ZIP Code]