



BUILDING HOUSES, BUILDING HOPE

HOMEFRONT



SPRING 2015

Benefits Beyond Affordability

As one of 1,500 U.S. affiliates of Habitat for Humanity International, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Centre County (HFHGCC) works locally to bring generous donors and hardworking volunteers together with qualified, working families to build homes and hope. The result is dramatic, positive differences in the lives of our partner family members and in our community. The organization constructs quality houses that are sold to homebuyer families through no-profit, no-interest loans. Homebuyers complete 350 sweat-equity hours and other requirements, pay for their homes and all upkeep, and maintain current payments on their properties. To date, HFHGCC has built, renovated or repaired more than 60 homes.

In 2015, we intend to rehab two more homes for two soon-to-be qualified families, as well as continue to expand

our homeowner education opportunities for our partner families.

As you know, Centre County and the surrounding region continues to suffer from a lack of affordable housing options all along the housing need continuum. From night shelters to short-term transitional options to subsidized rental programs to lower cost purchase opportunities, each area continues to see cutbacks while also facing a growing demand.

Habitat for Humanity is often the only opportunity for families looking to achieve their dreams of homeownership. In addition to establishing roots and building equity, Habitat partner families also benefit in the following ways:

- **No interest mortgage** - Saves an average of about \$90,000 over the life of the loan



Home #1: 1985, Bellefonte

#TBT HFHGCC

A house is something visible. It is a place in which to be. An address – in a neighborhood. It is the site where loved ones live. It is where children study, play and grow. It is where friends and family come to visit.

A house is incredibly important to a family. A house is to a family what soil is to a plant. It is a place to be rooted, a foundation on which children can grow, develop, and become all that God intended.

(Continued on page 2)

Millard Fuller (2000). *More Than Houses*.

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 (HFHGCC) partners with working families and volunteers to build affordable, quality homes and to provide services that promote successful homeownership.

Home Show SUCCESS!

HFHGCC and the ReStore had a great time at this year's Central PA Home and Garden Show. Our booth, built by volunteers and entirely out of ReStore merchandise – cabinet and bi-fold doors, interior hollow-core doors, various trim and moulding pieces and paint – received many compliments.

HFHGCC extends a heartfelt thanks, too, to Joyce Yong from Pie Collective for her talented photography work.



This ENTIRE BOOTH was built using ReStore merchandise!

Item	ReStore Price
Doors	\$25
Cabinet Doors (Table Tops)	\$20
Bi-fold Doors (Table Bottoms)	\$5
Trim	\$12
Hinges/Knobs	\$14
Paint	\$10
TOTAL	\$86

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Centre County ReStore

Benefits (from page 1)

- Low monthly payments - Currently, most new homeowners pay less than \$600 per month
- Low good faith deposit - Partner families pay only \$500 for their down payment

And the benefits don't end with affordability.

Homeownership Builds Successful Children. Compared to children of renters (of the same age, income, race, etc.), children of homeowners are 25% more likely to graduate from high school, 116% more likely to graduate from college, and 20% less likely to become teenage mothers.

Homeownership Builds Stronger Communities. Compared to renters (of the same age, income, race, etc.), homeowners are: 28% more likely to repair or improve their homes, 12% more likely to maintain a garden outside their homes, and 15% more likely to vote.

Homeownership Builds Stronger Families. Compared to renters (of the same age, income, race, etc.), homeowners are: 10% more likely to attend church, 16% more likely to belong to parent-teacher organizations, block clubs, and are less likely to have alcohol and substance-abuse problems.

Help HFHGCC as we work to serve more families in 2015 and beyond.

Show your support today!



Walk with us to provide affordable housing opportunities in Centre County.

You've chosen to make a difference in our local community by raising funds through HouseWalk.

What's your next step?

First, set an ambitious fundraising goal – how many lives do you want to change?

- **\$100** can buy a window for a new home
- **\$250** can buy a front door
- **\$500** can buy a tub/shower surround
- **\$1,000** can provide a new stove and refrigerator

Next, set up your own online fundraising page. It's easy! Just go to www.habitatgcc.org and click the HouseWalk image.

Then, ASK for donations to support your HouseWalk efforts! Email contacts. Call friends. Ask family and coworkers for donations. ***The more people you ask, the more money you will raise.*** You are changing lives and giving the people you ask a chance to do the same.

Spread the word through Facebook, Twitter and other social media. Tell the world what you're doing – ***and why.***

Sunday, May 3

Tudek Memorial Park

Check-in/Registration at 1pm

Walk/Run Start at 2pm

To register, visit www.habitatgcc.org/housewalk



HFHGCC ♥ VOLUNTEERS

National Volunteer Week, April 12-18, 2015, is about inspiring, recognizing and encouraging people to seek out imaginative ways to engage in their communities. It's about demonstrating to the nation that by working together, we have the fortitude to meet our challenges and accomplish our goals.

Locally, HFHGCC celebrates our most dedicated volunteers during this time. Since July, the start of HFHGCC's fiscal year, the organization has benefitted from nearly 4,000 total volunteer hours! Of those, almost half – 1,875 – were completed by "regulars," folks who come each week. BIG THANKS to these special volunteers, who are anything but regular. *These folks go above and beyond!*

Friday Crew: Nate Cattell ▪ Dan Douthitt ▪ Mike Koon ▪ Ken Riznyk ▪ Jay Rush ▪ Lee Upcraft

ReStore and HFHGCC Office: Steve Cohick ▪ Joshua Cunningham ▪ Doug DeVallance ▪ Troy Frank ▪ Andy Gulberhat ▪ Becky Kedter ▪ Becky Kephart ▪ Michael Kerstin ▪ Eric Lippincott ▪ Carl Miller ▪ Nancy Miller ▪ PSU Habitat Campus Chapter ▪ Erica Saxion ▪ John Tomedi ▪ Dan Trevino ▪ Carl Steingraber ▪ Shelly Wright

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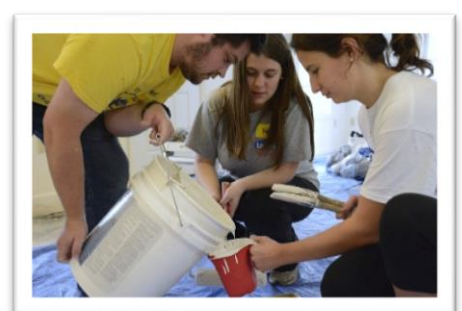
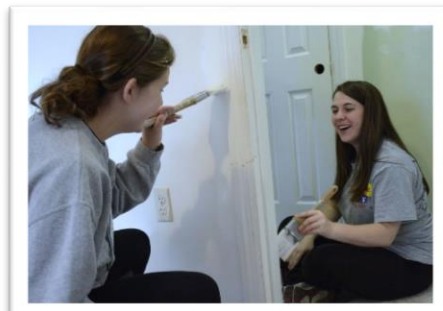
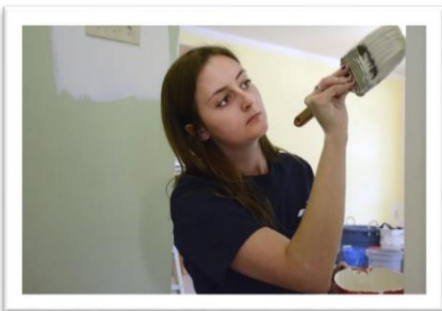
Committee Members: Family Services: Colleen Ritter / ReStore: Michele Briggs ▪ Ray Forziat ▪ Gary Kavala ▪ Rev. Larry Louder

BENEFITS OF VOLUNTEERING

Besides the benefits to society, scientific studies have shown that individuals who volunteer enjoy psychological and physical benefits,^[1] including increased satisfaction, improved sense of belonging, lower blood pressure, increased protection from Alzheimer's, and decreased mortality.^[2]

[1] "Benefits of Volunteering". United Way. Retrieved 3 December 2012.

[2] Piliavin, Jane; Erica Siegl (December 2007). "Health Benefits of Volunteering in the Wisconsin Longitudinal Study". *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*.



ReStore Round-up

HFHGCC's ReStore is a retail outlet, selling deeply discounted home improvement items and building materials and supplies. Everything in the ReStore is donated so we can sell it at a fraction of the retail price. We partner with businesses and individuals to get the highest quality merchandise possible, and we also rely on volunteers to help us out so that we can keep our costs as low as possible.

100% of the ReStore profits go to HFHGCC to help fulfill its mission of providing quality homes to deserving, working families. An added benefit is that many of the items we sell would otherwise end up in the garbage. In 2014, the ReStore diverted approximately 175 tons (*that's 350,000 pounds!!*) of goods from local landfills. We provide businesses and individuals an opportunity to repurpose items they no longer need, while offering a tax benefit for contributing to a qualified 501(c) 3 organization.

ReStore Volunteer Opportunities

HFHGCC relies on several volunteers – many with unique skillsets – to support day-to-day ReStore operations.

Customer Support - Are you a people person? Love quality customer service? We are always in need of folks interested in helping to make the ReStore experience an outstanding one.

Display & Design - Have a hankering for store design? Want to help set our stage to maximize sales? We're looking for a volunteer specifically to help style our store by setting up regular merchandise displays.

Processing & Pricing - Familiar with building materials? Have general knowledge of fair market prices for home improvement items? Help the ReStore by volunteering to process and price donations to ensure an adequate supply of sellable items on the sales floor.

Small Repair - Like to tinker? Can you fix anything? While we ask that all donations be in good, working order, there are times when we get merchandise that might need a little love. Appliances, cabinets, tools and more.

Donation Pick-ups - Feel like getting out and about? Have a knack for moving stuff? ReStore uses volunteers to help staff with donation pick-ups.

ReStore hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 9am to 4pm, and we are specifically looking to recruit volunteers for Wednesday afternoons and all day Saturdays. Contact ReStore staff - restore@habitatgcc.org or (814) 353-2390, ext 3 - to schedule your volunteer shift!



Cars for Homes™

Do you have an old or unneeded car, truck, boat or other vehicle sitting in your driveway, or taking up space in your garage? Consider donating it to Habitat for Humanity through Cars for Homes. Not only will you be helping Habitat provide decent, affordable housing, you might be helping the environment as well.

Why should you donate your car?

- One hundred percent of the net proceeds from the sale of your donated vehicle will be used by your local Habitat affiliate to build and repair affordable homes.
- You may qualify for a tax deduction for donating a vehicle.
- Thirty percent of cars donated to Habitat are recycled for materials or sold for reusable parts.
- Recycling steel uses less energy and natural resources and produces less carbon pollution.

How do I start the vehicle donation process?

- Call **Cars for Homes toll-free at (877) 277-4344** to arrange to donate your car, truck, motorcycle, recreational vehicle, snowmobile, farm equipment, construction equipment, boat, or airplane.
- You will be asked to provide information about the vehicle you wish to donate, including the make, model, vehicle identification number (VIN) and current mileage.
- Most vehicles with proper title information are accepted, unless the costs of processing and towing fees exceed the auction value of the vehicle.



HFHGCC thanks to the following individuals for supporting our work through Cars for Homes in 2014:

Dale Berkebile • Brian Bills
Stephanie & Jason Clevenger
Susan Gascon • Sharon Miller
John Shingler • Richard Supina

HFHGCC
1155 Zion Rd
Bellefonte, PA 16823

**Support HFHGCC
Centre Gives
May 5 and 6**

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