



HOMEFRONT



BUILDING HOUSES, BUILDING HOPE

WINTER 2016

2015 Reflections, Moving Forward in 2016

It's hard to stop and stand still. It can be difficult to revel in the small achievements when there are many more challenges ahead. But each year at HFHGCC, we stop to do just that. The local affordable housing issues can seem overwhelming, yet we take our time to list the good that, with your help, we have been able to accomplish.

The year 2015 was no exception. Our local community lost more affordable housing units than we gained. More families struggled to find a decent, affordable, and safe place to live. And yet, we have much to celebrate.

With the help of our financial supporters, dedicated volunteers (including our awesome Board of Directors and working committee members), and hard-working partner families, we were able to welcome another new family into the Habitat fold.

The Carswell-Williams family was approved for the HFHGCC program

in late 2014, and started working on their home renovations in early 2015, and took occupancy in late Spring. They will officially "close" on their home in Spring 2016. While the process is taking some time to complete, the end result will be worth all of the hard work!

Another family, the Swartzs, moved in to their newly remodeled home in late 2014, and after completing their sweat equity and budget counseling requirements, signed their official mortgage papers in 2015. An exciting day indeed!

Those high moments buoyed us through some difficult conversations with other long-time partner families. HFHGCC successfully negotiated three mortgage modification plans with families who had experienced past hardships. While the organization has strict procedures to avoid families taking advantage of the program, HFHGCC is able to work with families when they show effort

and commitment to managing their mortgage obligations. We will continue to be diligent in setting expectations for partner families to ensure long-term success for both them and HFHGCC.

This past year included many wonderful events. HFHGCC and the ReStore had a great time at the central PA Home and Garden Show and received many compliments on our booth display, which was made entirely by talented volunteers and completely out of ReStore materials (valued at just \$80!).

HouseWalk and Centre Gives followed, each providing opportunities for community members to support affordable housing solutions in unique and meaningful ways. We also had another successful Bricks & Sticks Golf Classic, raising more than \$70,000 to benefit HFHGCC and the Builders Association of Central PA. *(Continued on page 5)*

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

2015-16 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thaddeus J. Will, President
M&T Bank

Les Cutter, Treasurer
Shaner Capital L.P.

Doug Erickson, Secretary
Patton Township

Sam Barton
PSU-HFH Student Chapter

Jeff Horwitz
Penn State University

Wanda B. Knight
Penn State University

Sam Komlenic
Penn State Public Broadcasting

Sam McGinley
Northwest Savings Bank

Jonathan Nelson
US Navy Reserves

Sylvia Rosa-Ortiz
GIANT Food Stores

Ken Kline Smeltzer
Smeltzer's Omni Services

Dan Trevino
Penn State University (Retired)

Dan Weiger
Alexander Building Construction Co.

STAFF

Jill Redman, Executive Director
Stephanie Clevenger, ReStore Manager
Jason Jones, ReStore Driver
Larry Lucas, Site Supervisor
Nic Shower, ReStore Associate

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.

SAVE THE DATES! 2016 HFHGCC EVENTS

March 5 – HFHGCC will be at the **Bellefonte Chamber Volunteer Fair** from 10am to 2pm at the American Philatelic Society (100 Match Factory Place). This event provides an opportunity to learn about all of the volunteer possibilities specifically in Bellefonte. Stop by to talk to HFHGCC reps about our many volunteer opportunities!

April 1-3 – Once again, we'll soon be back at the Bryce Jordan Center for the **Central PA Spring Home and Garden Show**! Thanks to a long-standing partnership with the Builders Association of Central PA, HFHGCC and the ReStore will be exhibiting along with the region's premier housing industry experts. Show hours are: Friday 3pm to 8pm, Saturday 10am to 8pm, and Sunday 10am to 4pm.

April 24 – **HouseWalk**, HFHGCC's community 5k walk/run will be taking place at Tudek Memorial Park again this year! Participants will be able to enjoy the family-friendly amenities that the park offers, while helping raise public awareness for HFHGCC and the region's housing issues. Contact HFHGCC if you are interested in serving on the event planning committee, or if you and your co-workers, your congregation, or your family might be interested in walking/running and raising money to help us build homes this year.

May 3-4 – We're excited to participate in the fifth annual **Centre Gives**, a 36-hour donation marathon! Donations made to HFHGCC through Centre Gives will be matched on a pro-rated bases from the Centre Foundation and will also make HFHGCC eligible for additional prize money. We encourage you to make a donation on these days to help us raise money so that we may continue to build affordable homes for deserving, qualified families.

August 4-5 – **Gathering on the Greens** and **Bricks & Sticks Golf Classic** are back for the [LUCKY] 13th year! These events serve as back-to-back opportunities to help support HFHGCC while having a lot of fun. Sponsorship opportunities are available, and plenty of room for foursomes, too.

Watch our website
- www.habitatgcc.org -
for registration and event details.

Alternative Spring Break

Students looking to make a difference while enjoying time off from school can take part in what has become known as 'alternative spring break.'

Instead of cutting loose on the beach, students can cut brush to maintain hiking trails. Rather than hitting the slopes, they can hit nails to improve housing alongside homeowners.

These alternative spring breaks allow students to serve communities in a meaningful way. They can travel, meet new people, and feel the satisfaction that comes from working to improve communities — and lives.

Students have many options when looking for ways to contribute during breaks from school, one of them being to volunteer with Habitat for Humanity.

For the last several years, the Penn State HFH Campus Chapter has organized work trips to many sites. This year, 56 Penn State students will travel to five locations – four in Florida and one in Louisiana – to work alongside local community volunteers and future homebuyer families.

Students arrive on Day 1 and participate in activities that help them get to know the community, the family with whom they are building and each other. The next five days are spent working on the build site, with evenings free to explore the local community, bond with the team, or just relax. It truly becomes a meaningful week for Penn Staters to show their gratitude and make relationships with the local affiliate and the members of the community that they are serving.

No matter the task at hand and no matter their chosen destination, students can get a lot out of traveling to volunteer during spring break. In every instance, they get to enjoy working alongside others and can see firsthand how their work improves lives.



PSU students build during alternative spring break week in 2015.



Great Stuff at a Great Price for a Great Cause!

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Centre County's ReStore sells new and used building materials and home improvement items to the general public at up to 30% to 75% below retail prices. ReStore merchandise has been donated by local retail businesses, building contractors, suppliers and individuals.

New deals arrive daily on appliances, furniture, fixtures, gardening supplies, cabinets and hardware, lumber, flooring, tile, windows, doors, plumbing parts, vanities, and MORE! We only sell what is donated to us and all proceeds generated from the ReStore go to support HFHGCC in its mission to provide affordable, quality homes to hard working partner families.

The ReStore provides the opportunity for individuals and businesses alike. Unwanted merchandise is kept from local landfills. Donations of merchandise qualify as a tax-deductible donation to a qualified 501(c) 3 organization. And shoppers get bargain prices on usable items. It's a win-win-win for all!

HFHGCC ReStore Wish List

Merchandise

- Kitchen Cabinets: If you are remodeling your kitchen, please consider donating your good, re-usable cabinets
- Non-upholstered Furniture: Solid wood/metal tables, chairs and desks in good, clean, usable condition
- New & Used Appliances: Refrigerators, stoves, washers and dryers; they don't have to be new, but they do need to be in working order
- Flooring: Tile, wood, laminate, vinyl and unused carpet
- Tools: hand tools and power tools in good, working condition
- Seasonal items and home décor

Equipment

- Hand trucks and/or rolling carts
- Racking/Shelving: Industrial-type racking or shelving in good, safe condition
- Measuring Tapes: Standard measuring tapes are always in need

Volunteers

- Regular Volunteers: We are always in need of volunteers who are willing to work at least 4 hours a week on a regularly scheduled basis. (Ex. every Saturday from 8am-12 noon) at our Bellefonte location.

Contact ReStore staff directly at restorehabitatgcc.org or (814) 353 2390, ext. 3 to schedule a merchandise donation pick-up and/or regular volunteer shifts!

HFHI Celebrates 40 Years of Building

Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI) is turning 40 years old in 2016! Since its founding in 1976, HFHI has worked together, along with volunteers, to help more than 6.8 million people worldwide obtain safer, more affordable homes, as well as a sense of stability and independence.

When people think of Habitat for Humanity, they usually just think about the act of building a house. However, Habitat does so much more than just build structures. Imagine living in poor conditions, and feeling as though you are not providing enough for your family. Now imagine moving your family into a healthy environment where they can grow and have a stable foundation, all at an affordable price. Imagine that because of this stable foundation, this safe place to call home, your children are able to focus better on school and make it to graduation. Along with the home itself, Habitat builds a sense of accomplishment, stability, and hope.

Communities around the world are positively affected by Habitat's work. Families who become homeowners tend to take more pride in the houses, keeping up with household chores and repairs. The simple act of homeowners keeping a garden in front of their home makes the neighborhood look nicer and helps display pride and love for one's community. Businesses are drawn to developing areas, helping to create more jobs, and even making communities safer.

We are thankful that we have been able to fulfill this mission right here in Centre County, too. Since 1983, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Centre County has helped more than 60 families achieve their dreams of affordable homeownership. With your local support, we aspire to continue our work here many more years to come.

Community Discussion: Challenges and Opportunities to Affordable Housing

Did you know that there are only 3 affordable and available rental units for every 100 extremely low-income renter households in Centre County?

Join the Centre County Affordable Housing Coalition for an exciting discussion, "Our Changing Community: Challenges and Opportunities to Affordable Housing." The event, which is free and open to the public, will be held on Thursday April 14, 5pm at Foxdale Village.

Anyone interested in learning more about housing in Centre County is encouraged to attend. A variety of speakers will share how our community has changed, the opportunities and obstacles to affordable housing and ways community members can be involved.

For more information, contact Kendra Gettig at Kendra@calvarysc.org or (814) 238-0822, ext 20.

Reflections, Moving Forward

(from page 1)

HFHGCC participated in the Centre County Super Fair and University Brethren & Baptist Church's Alternative Christmas Fair, and then closed out the year by being named beneficiary of a series of fun "Happiness Hours" featuring local talents, The Second Winds.

On other areas, the ReStore continues to grow and exceed expectations. We hosted two CareerLink student workers to help in the ReStore during the busy summer months. Sales increased 35% from the year prior, and we show no signs of slowing down.

Even with all of the success found in 2015, our work is far from finished. Affordable housing needs are still present in our community.

In the upcoming year, HFHGCC's goals include rehabbing two homes that will be sold at 0% interest to two qualified families. Moving forward, we also plan to evaluate other community needs related to housing, notably repair work, to determine how or if HFHGCC can provide a viable solution.

Thank you, our faithful donors, volunteers, elected officials, and community leaders for your unwavering support. Together, we will continue to build a better Centre County.

For more information on any of HFHGCC's programs or for ReStore hours/location, visit www.habitatgcc.org, www.facebook.com/habitatgcc or email info@habitatgcc.org.

THANKS TO 2015 DONORS

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Centre County extends heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated supporters. The following organizations – faith-based groups, service clubs, foundations and local businesses – provided gifts in 2015.

Bellefonte Women’s Club ▪ Bike & Build, Inc. ▪ Centre Foundation / Centre Gives ▪ Faith United Methodist Church ▪ Hoffman Leakey Architects LLC ▪ Merck Foundation ▪ Milesburg United Methodist Church ▪ Mt Nittany United Methodist Church ▪ Northwest Savings Bank ▪ The Palmer Foundation ▪ PrinterMech ▪ PSU Habitat for Humanity Campus Chapter ▪ The Second Winds ▪ St John’s UCC ▪ St Paul’s United Methodist Church & Wesley Foundation ▪ State College Presbyterian Church ▪ Texas Instruments Foundation ▪ Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Centre County ▪ United Methodist Women ▪ United Way of Coastal Fairfield County, Inc. ▪ University Baptist & Brethren Church ▪ Warriors Mark United Methodist Church ▪ XYZ Fund

HFHGCC apologizes for any omissions made in our donor lists. Donations listed were received between Jan 1, 2015 and Dec 31, 2015; please contact us with corrections. While all donations are important to us, space limitations only allow us to print donations of \$100 or more.

HFHGCC IS HIRING!

Working at Habitat for Humanity of Greater Centre County is both fast-paced and rewarding, and the work we do helps others make their lives better.

HFHGCC is currently accepting applications for a ReStore Assistant.

Visit habitatgcc.org for a detailed job description and application instructions.



HFHGCC
1155 Zion Rd
Bellefonte, PA 16823

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