A Brush with Kindness...The Ripple Effect!!

At Habitat Bucks, we know home repairs make a big difference – not just in the appearance and safety of a home, but in the lives of the homeowners and volunteers who help make the repairs happen. In November 2013, Bucks County homeowner, Eileen, and Habitat Bucks volunteers discovered this.

It all started with an article in a Bensalem Township newsletter that connected Habitat Bucks with Eileen. On November 14, an eager group of volunteers from PARX Casino arrived at Eileen’s home to complete their mission of repairing her front and back stairs, and her front porch under the supervision of Mike Fallon, Habitat Bucks Construction Director. They made critical improvements and successfully completed their work in just two days.

Then, on November 25, the same volunteers took it upon themselves to surprise Eileen with gift baskets and gift cards providing everything she needed for both Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners. As Eileen explains, “I was surprised to hear knocking at my front door a little after 9 am. It turned out to be the folks from PARX Casino. They carried in boxes of goodies and placed them on my kitchen table. I was completely in shock, to say the least. These folks had come here, after working the night shift, and built me, not only a safe structure, but they put their caring and love into the project as well, and they wanted to do more!!! Needless to say, I am still reeling from this outpouring of love from complete strangers. Your program is aptly named - A Brush with Kindness - can’t get any kinder than this.”

Eileen’s home improvements mark the 14th project through our A Brush with Kindness program. All success stories point to the power of Habitat Bucks’ vision to build homes, build hope and build community. If you know of someone who struggles to maintain the exterior of their home due to age, disability or family circumstance, please contact John Kolanko, Community Preservation Director, for more information at 215.822.2812 x 304 or j.kolanko@habitatbucks.org.

As remarkable as this story seems, it is actually a common occurrence with A Brush with Kindness projects. We call this “The Kindness Ripple Effect,” and PARX Casino employees certainly made ripples in November. Another homeowner is safer in her home and another satisfied volunteer team knows how home repairs make a big difference.
Starting the Year with a BANG!
The walls came down as part of a wall-breaking ceremony for our newest property in lower Bucks County. The future homeowners, the Cendrowski Family, were joined by sponsors, volunteers and supporters in commemorating the official start of the home renovation project on January 7, 2014. Instead of the traditional shovels for breaking ground, volunteers took hammers to the walls!

Within a six-month period, Habitat Bucks will transform this vacant property in Bristol Borough into an Energy Star® rated home for Mike Cendrowski and his fiancée, Melody Picciotti. The four-bedroom home will provide ample room for the Cendrowskis’ four children, who are currently crowded into a two-bedroom apartment in Fairless Hills with their parents.

The home was obtained through a partnership between Bank of America and Habitat for Humanity International. This property is one of 2,000 previously foreclosed properties that Bank of America pledges to transfer to Habitat affiliates throughout the country.

Partner Families Prep for Homeownership
Despite this winter’s excessive snow and ice, construction is underway and volunteers are busy at the Penn Villa Townhouses in Sellersville.

In the meantime, partner families are preparing for the financial aspects of homeownership. Thanks to a generous grant from the Connelly Foundation, Habitat sponsored a First-Time Homebuyer Workshop for future homeowners and applicant families. Sherry Pace of the Bucks County Housing Group (BCHG) presented the workshop. Program attendees received a certificate of completion, which is often required for first-time homebuyer mortgage programs.

Faith Community
Houses of Faith Give from the Heart
The generosity of our faith community has touched our hearts! We have reached halfway to our goal of supporting the full cost of The House That Faith Built at Penn Villa. Thank you to all the faithful individuals and communities who have given over $45,000 to date. We also appreciate the wonderful volunteers who have worked on the build site despite the cold weather!

Save the Date…
Gospel & Sacred Music Concert to benefit The House that Faith Built Saturday, May 17, 6:00pm 2nd Baptist Church of Doylestown 6055 Swamp Road Fountainville, PA

Leave a Legacy
You can make a lasting impact on the work we do at Habitat Bucks by including us in your estate plans. It may be easier than you realize to simply add Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County as a beneficiary in your will. By doing so, you make a real and lasting difference while your values live on through our mission. You can indicate a percentage of your will or a specific amount, depending on what best suits you and your family. Please contact Executive Director Florence Kawoczka at 215.822.2812 x308 or f.kawoczka@habitatbucks.org if you would like to discuss how your estate plans could leave a legacy for future generations of Habitat families.
**Women Build**

**What is Women Build?**
- A program that empowers women to make a difference in our community by building Habitat homes together
- An opportunity to learn construction and home maintenance skills at Lowe’s clinics
- Women building up, supporting and befriending other women
- Women raising funds to support Habitat Bucks and increase awareness about the need for affordable housing

**Free Women Build Clinics**
- April 2: Basic Tools & Techniques
- April 9: Framing & Insulation
- April 16: Plumbing
- April 23: Electrical
- April 30: Drywall & Siding
- May 7: Flooring

Women Build Clinics take place at Lowe’s in Warrington, and require registration. To sign up for a Women Build Day or Build Clinic, contact Colleen Brink at c.brink@habitatbucks.org.

**Tribute Donations**
March 2013 - February 2014

**In Memory Of...**
- John T. Brown
- Phyllis Eckelmeyer
- Jennifer Ellsworth
- John Groves
- Mr. and Mrs. John Groves
- Michelle Lamberti
- Ann Laughlin
- Mr. and Mrs. Salvatore Palermo
- Mr. and Mrs. Chad Penley
- David and Patricia Parkhurst
- Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Rodgers
- Doreen Stratton
- Susan Watkins
- The Doylestown Democrats
- Harold Doellinger
- Mr. and Mrs. Harold Lazaar
- Michelle Lamberti
- Ann Laughlin
- Mr. and Mrs. Salvatore Palermo
- Mr. and Mrs. Steve Sager
- Ellen Cicak
- Mr. and Mrs. Charles Overton
- Michael and Judy Doherty
- Mr. and Mrs. Dave Van Kessel
- Paul Donley
- Anonymous
- Robert and Tammy Gladnick
- Brian Campbell
- Mary Pat Holewinski
- Dorothy Ramsey
- Westmaas
- Michele Holt
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- Christine Read
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- Richard Stuckmeyer
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- Mr. and Mrs. Marty Dorph
- Mr. and Mrs. Barry Dracht
- Sheryl Freeman
- Mary Ponsnick
- Mr. and Mrs. Mark Shapiro
- Jone Sproat
- Mr. and Mrs. R.L. Sproat

**March 2013 - February 2014**

**In Honor Of...**
- Employees at McMaster-Carr Supply Co
- Anonymous
- The Clark Children
- Anthony and Stefanie Clark
- Kurt Dahl and Areesah Mobley
- Mr. and Mrs. Larry Dahl
- Dan Baird
- Nancy Baird
- Rick and Sandie Bauder
- Timothy Bauder
- Pastor Julie Bergdahl
- Mr. and Mrs. Richard Trauger
- Laura Blair
- Bob Bronzo
- Mike and Sara Bostancic
- Mr. and Mrs. Joe Driscoll
- Mr. and Mrs. Steve Sager
- Ellen Cicak
- Mr. and Mrs. Charles Overton
- Michael and Judy Doherty
- Mr. and Mrs. Dave Van Kessel
- Paul Donley
- Anonymous
- Robert and Tammy Gladnick
- Brian Campbell
- Mary Pat Holewinski
- Dorothy Ramsey-Westmaas
- Michele Holt
- Deanna Bottcher
- Irene Ivins
- Nancy Jackson
- Harry and Bel Lippincott
- Janet Proulx
- Dorothy Lipinski
- Mr. and Mrs. Walter Kwacz
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- Mr. and Mrs. Barry Dracht
- Sheryl Freeman
- Mary Ponsnick
- Mr. and Mrs. Mark Shapiro
- Jone Sproat
- Mr. and Mrs. R.L. Sproat
Get Involved with Habitat Bucks

Volunteer

Help out on the Construction Site or in the ReStore
volunteer@habitatbucks.org

Check out this amazing Women Build team! Neither cold nor snow discouraged Beth Janis, Candace Kaye, Doreen Lofaro, Patti Good, and Mary Pat Holewinski.

Join our networks

Follow progress on our construction sites:

Many thanks to Sellersville Elementary Girl Scout Troop #2392 for the wonderful lunch they provided to our crew and volunteers on a cold February day.

Board of Directors: Ed Hughes, President; Heath Dumack; James Esposito, Esq.; Rev. Robert Hamlin; Ben Hershberger; Mary Pat Holewinski; Tom Jelinek; Fran McGorry; Mike Savona, Esq.; Eileen Silver; Mark Silverman; Chris Tuck; Laurence Uher

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ReStore Staff: Dianna Curran, Manager; Mike Fallon, Jr., Asst. Mgr.; Krystal Oliver, Asst. Mgr.; Cody Clemens; Robin Davis; Keith Lyall; Matt Nabozny.