

## 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.**"

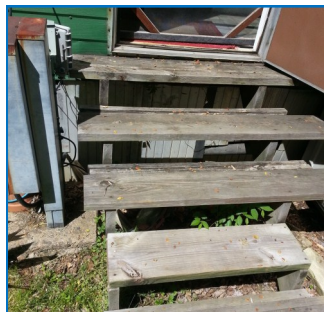
As remarkable as this story seems, it is actually a common occurrence with A Brush with Kindness projects. We call this "The Kindness Ripple Effect," and PARX Casino employees certainly made ripples in November. Another homeowner is safer in her home and another satisfied volunteer team knows how home repairs make a big difference.



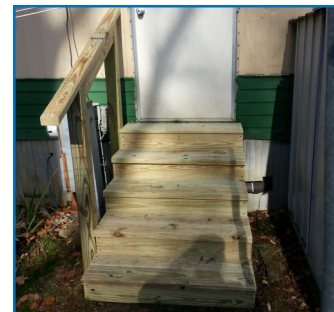
*PARX Casino volunteers and Eileen celebrate her new, safer front porch.*

Eileen's home improvements mark the 14<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:j.kolanko@habitatbucks.org).

### Before



### After



**Our mission:** To build affordable homes, better lives, stronger families and safer, revitalized communities through partnerships with people and organizations throughout Bucks County.

# Construction and Family News

## 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!



Melody Picciotti and Mike Cendrowski examine the demolition work for their future home.

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.

## 100th Home Construction to Begin

When the finishing touches are put on the Bristol renovation this June, our construction team will turn its attention to the site of our 100th home! This home will be located in the Highland Park neighborhood of Levittown. Applications are currently under review to identify the future homeowners. Stay tuned for news about the partner family selected for this special home! Join Bank of America, Toll Brothers and St. Mary Medical Center as a sponsor for this historic build by contacting Florence Kawoczka at 215.822.2812 x308.

## 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.



Penn Villa construction continues through a snowy winter.

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

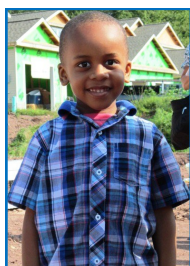
### Houses of Faith Give from the Heart

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](mailto: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](mailto:c.brink@habitatbucks.org)**.



*Habitat Bucks Executive Director Florence Kawoczka (center) joins Women Build co-chairs Mary Pat Holewinski and Kim Graziano at the Women Build Open House in February.*

# 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

**Charles Einolf**  
Mr. and Mrs. Tim Einolf

**Marc Falcone**  
Mr. and Mrs. John Dietz

**Mr. and Mrs. John Fleeer**  
Edna Fleeer

**Betsy French**  
Christopher French

**William Gano**  
Estella Gano

**James Groden**  
Diane Groden

**Thelma Haddon**  
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Haddon  
Morgan Stanley

**Kenneth Hadfield**  
Ann Hadfield

**Evelyn Helleman**  
Mr. and Mrs. Randall Batman

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Boop  
Paula Bywaters

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cross  
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Cutts

Mr. and Mrs. Anthony DeLong  
Margaret Harrison

Donna Hartman  
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Helleman

JBT Corporation  
Mr. and Mrs. Len Mazzanti

Edyth Miller  
Mr. and Mrs. Dale Sargent

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Tresger

**Freida Jimick**  
Sara Minich

**David Kolesar**  
Alere

**Mark Krier**  
Mr. and Mrs. Martin Reed

**Debbie Lynch's Mom**  
Robbie Revness

**Geraldine Marlson**  
Janice O'Donnell

**William Pfeiffer**  
Ruth Pfeiffer

**Dorothy Roberts**  
Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Adamski

**Alice Schlenger**  
Newton Richards and Ann Paice

**George Thompson, Jr.**  
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Mr. and Mrs. Robert Housenick  
Paul Locke

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Rappaport

**Pam Weidman**  
Marion Weidman  
**Marlene Zador**  
Georgette White

## 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 Slagter

**Ellen Cicak**  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Overton

**Michael and Judy Doherty**  
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Locascio

**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 Betty Jons**  
Janet Praul

**Dorothy Lipinski**  
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**Benj Luccaro**  
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**Mr. & Mrs. Robert Minnich**  
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**Chase Poltonowicz**  
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Kristy Swartz

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**Mark Silverman**  
Mr. and Mrs. Steven Bryer

Mr. and Mrs. Marty Dorph  
Mr. and Mrs. Barry Dracht

Sheryl Freezman  
Mary Ponsock

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Shapiro  
**Jane Sproat**

Mr. and Mrs. R.L. Sproat

## ReStore Clinic

### Creative Furniture Restoration

Designer Tim Slusher

Inspirational and informative discussion of concepts and techniques for restoring and repurposing.

**Saturday, April 19, 2014 1:00pm**

Free—no registration necessary—bring a friend!



**FREE PICK UP (215) 822-2708**

Residents in our community make donations to the Habitat for Humanity ReStore every day! Their donations help fund the construction and rehab of homes for low income families in the area.

We accept items in good condition that can be resold in our ReStore.

Doors • Windows • Appliances • Tools • Cabinets  
Lighting • Building Materials • Furniture & much more!

**DONATE SHOP VOLUNTEER**





31 Oak Avenue, Suite 100  
Chalfont, PA 18914

Building Homes and Hope...  
Thanks to You!

## Get Involved with Habitat Bucks



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

← Volunteer →

Help out on the Construction Site  
or in the ReStore  
[volunteer@habitatbucks.org](mailto:volunteer@habitatbucks.org)

Follow progress on our  
construction sites:



Join our networks



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; Neil McKeon; Mike Savona, Esq.; Eileen Silver; Mark Silverman; Chris Tuck; Laurence Uher

**Staff:** Florence Kawoczka, Executive Director; Mike Fallon, Construction Director; Laura Blair, Finance Director; Colleen Brink, Volunteer Manager; Stefanie Clark, Family Program Director; John Kolanko, Community Preservation Director; Sam Martin, Office Manager; Jason Rupe, Construction Site Supervisor.

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

Get to Know Us! [www.habitatbucks.org](http://www.habitatbucks.org)