



Home is Key

Decent, affordable housing plays a key role in positively influencing a family's education, health and financial opportunities. A safe, stable home allows children to succeed in school, parents to improve their employment opportunities, and people with disabilities or the aged to reclaim their homes with pride and dignity.

Each day, Habitat Bucks staff and volunteers connect those who might not qualify for conventional mortgages or construction loans to opportunities that lead to a better life for them and their families. New Habitat homeowners can achieve the financial independence they desire. And through our home repair program, we help qualified homeowners who are affected by age, disability or family circumstances to maintain the integrity and safety of their homes.

Decent shelter is something we all need to thrive, yet many in Bucks County still live in inadequate housing conditions. In fact, 21% of all households are spending over 50% of their incomes on housing; as a result, they may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing or medical care. Even while spending too much on their housing, hundreds are living in substandard or overcrowded situations.

We have seen firsthand how an affordable home can play a pivotal role positively influencing education, health and financial opportunities for families and individuals. With the money his family is saving by paying less in mort-



gage and taxes than their rent, Petro can now afford to return to school to renew his engineering credentials. With 50% of her retirement income going to pay her mortgage, Susan could only dream of fixing her front window which, was in danger of falling out of the wall. Her new window is not only safer, but has cut some of her heating expenses. Linnie has lived in her Levittown home for 55 years; she always took great pride in caring for her property. For the last 10 years, she has been confined to a power chair, so she and her disabled daughter were dependent upon a rotting ramp for access to their home. A new ramp and replacement gutters have renewed Linnie's independence and pride in her home.

Safe, affordable housing is crucial to thriving communities...the key to a better Bucks County.



coming home

All of our homebuyers are motivated and dedicated to making the American Dream a reality for their families. Victoria fully embodies what it means to strive for a goal. Not only did she put in many hours of sweat equity in building her home in Morrisville and in our ReStore in Langhorne, she labored through extra-long shifts at work to save for settlement—returning each night to her one-bedroom apartment, knowing that she was one day closer to having a home for her two children to grow, play and thrive. Victoria purchased her new home in January 2017.



Victoria and her children, Joyce and Darius, outside their new home at their Dedication ceremony in January.

almost home

A sudden loss of employment left Tina and Bill nearly homeless several years ago. After struggling to regain their economic independence, they connected with Habitat, desperate to provide a safer, more suitable living arrangement for them and their five children and grand



Bill raises the wall with Tina, members of Habitat Bucks board and staff, and build sponsors.

daughter. By the end of this year, they will be the homeowners of a four-bedroom home in Morrisville, which will include much needed accessibility features for one of their sons.

making a way

Habitat Bucks successfully completed its pilot program, Almost Home, to keep prospective applicants engaged and better prepare them for homeownership. In February, nine families graduated from the keystone activity, Clarifi's Credit Boot Camp. Together, the participants saved over \$10,000 and paid off over \$2,000 of debt. During this time, one participant learned that she was selected to be our next homebuyer family!



Almost Home Grads Graduates and coaches of the Clarifi Credit Boot Camp, the main component of our new Almost Home program.

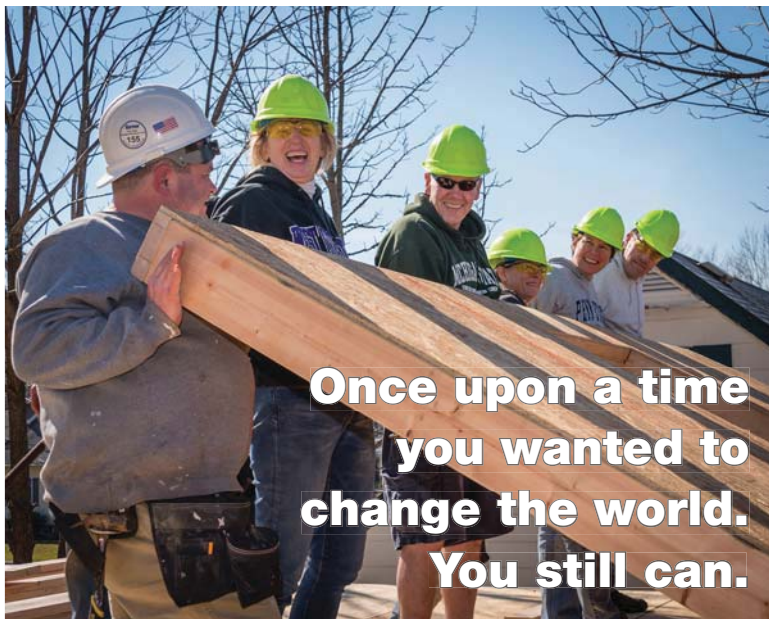
To find out how you can build your financial strength, contact Stefanie Clark, Family Program Director, at s.clark@habitatbucks.org

“Safe at Home” thanks to A Brush with Kindness

Habitat Bucks' first “Safe at Home” repair clinic, held in February, was a success! This Clinic highlights the interior and exterior repairs done by *A Brush with Kindness* to assist those who are older or disabled be safe at home. Clinic instructors, an occupational therapist and a home repair specialist, describe typical modifications most frequently needed by older or disabled homeowners, i.e. grab bars, railings, improved task lighting, accessible switches and outlets. One attendee said she got lots of good tips to help her family, adding, “I’m going to put in the modifications now so we can get used to them, and not wait until we need them”.

For information about the next Safe at Home Repair Clinic or A Brush with Kindness, Contact: Karen Reever, k.reever@habitatbucks.org





There are simple ways everyone can make a difference

With a legacy gift to Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County, you can help us to do what we do today, even better, for generations to come. These kinds of planned gifts are simple to arrange and often return benefits back to you.

Best of all, you can leave a lasting statement about who you are and what you care about.

Interested? Contact: Candace Clarke, Resource Development Director, at c.clarke@habitatbucks.org



Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County's annual benefit event
Friday, April 28, 2017 | 6:30 - 10:00 PM
Spring Mill Manor | 171 Jacksonville Road, Ivyland PA

Don't Miss the Fun

- Open bar, hors d'oeuvres and a delicious three-course dinner
- Silent Auction featuring unique items and our own Designer Challenge creations
- Live Auction of special destinations and experiences called by auctioneer Michael Ivankovich
- Partner of the Year and Spirit of Habitat Awards

Tickets & Bidding

Tickets | \$125 (\$45 tax-deductible)

Table for 10 | \$1,250 (\$450 tax-deductible)

Visit 501auctions.com/habitatbucks to purchase tickets/tables and register for the auction.

Upcycle | ReStore
Designer Challenge

- Upcycled and transformed, one-of-a-kind furnishings (original gently-used furniture provided by the Habitat ReStore).
- Created by interior designers, decorators, furniture makers, artists and craftsmen.

Diamond Hammer Sponsors



Platinum Hammer Sponsors



ReStore news



Cindy: Langhorne ReStore Volunteer since March 2016

Cindy has helped to build two Habitat Homes. Working alongside the project managers, Cindy realized just how much love, time and effort go into each home.

Now a retired teacher, Cindy says, "Volunteering at the ReStore gives me purpose; I leave feeling good at the end of the day." Cindy shared a

story of a man who came to the store often and bought furniture. She later found out that the furniture the man was buying was being sent to Africa to furnish a school/orphanage. "It was so awesome to think that our hands are reaching so far. What we do here affects the rest of the world."

Chris: Chalfont ReStore Volunteer since November 2013

Chris uses his skillset to test and make minor repairs to donations of electronics. He always has a smile on his face and is a great mentor to new ReStore volunteers.

"I volunteer at the Restore because I know that my work directly helps Habitat for Humanity continue to make a positive impact in the community. It's a great cause, and the staff & volunteers are great to work with."



- 16,848 hours
- 1115 volunteers

Heartfelt THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!



Gail: Langhorne ReStore Volunteer since April 2016

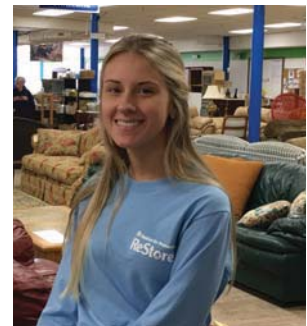
Gail volunteers weekly and is one of those volunteers who is always seeking to fill an opening we need filled. She maintains a can-do attitude toward service and is another great mentor to our new volunteers.

"I volunteer in honor of my mom, which is such a big part of Habitat's mission...family. I also believe in Habitat being a hand up, not a hand out, that Habitat homebuyers invest sweat equity into their own homes." Gail says she loves sharing her time with the staff and other volunteers.

Kelsey: Habitat Intern- Holy Family University-Business Administration/Management Marketing major

Kelsey is making a difference by growing our youth engagement in the lower Bucks County area at our Langhorne ReStore. As a senior she came to us seeking an opportunity to apply her education toward the efforts of the Habitat mission.

"The Habitat mission means so much to me because I am strengthening my community, making a difference in my own town."



Make a difference - Join our team of volunteers volunteer@habitatbucks.org

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