



BUILDING HOUSES, BUILDING HOPE

HOMEFRONT



SUMMER 2017

Carter Work Project 2017

Former President Jimmy Carter and former first lady Rosalynn Carter demonstrated their commitment to social justice and basic human rights over and over again during their time in the White House, and their resolve has only deepened since moving on, most notably through the Carter Center in Atlanta. They have also worked on numerous Habitat builds both in the United States and around the world alongside diligent volunteers.

In March 1984, President and Mrs. Carter worked with Habitat in Americus, Georgia. This led up to their long-term involvement with the organization. They quickly realized that the Habitat mission closely aligned with their values, and a partnership was formed. Just a few months later, in September of that same year, the Carters led a Habitat for Humanity work group to New York, serving 19 families in need of safe, affordable housing. That was the inaugural Carter Work Project, which

is now a weeklong event taking place in a different location all over the world each year.

The Carters have seen firsthand the effects of poor living conditions, and understand that both big and small actions can make all the difference. To ensure the greatest success, families need a strong foundation to grow. That often begins with a safe place to call home.



"Habitat has successfully removed the stigma of charity by substituting it with a sense of partnership."

-- Jimmy Carter

Happy 75th to Koinonia Farm!

Koinonia Farm, located in Americus, Georgia, is the birthplace of Habitat for Humanity. Millard and Linda Fuller, founders of Habitat, were former members of Koinonia Farm, which is a Christian community farm that shares lives and resources.

Koinonia Farm is now 75 years old, and has survived much criticism, especially in the 1950s for accepting all people regardless of color into their community.

On this farm, the Fullers produced the idea of partnership housing and built the first home of the Koinonia's Partnership Housing Program. The Fullers decided to then take their idea internationally and launched a house-building program in now the Democratic Republic of Congo in 1973.

After returning to the U.S., the Fullers founded Habitat for Humanity International in 1976. Thanks to an idea thought of on this farm that began 75 years ago, Habitat has helped 9.8 million people around the world achieve decent and affordable housing.

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.

Outgoing Board Members, Incoming Officers

A huge and special thank you goes out to Sam Komlenic and Dan Weiger, who have recently finished their terms serving on the Board of Directors for Habitat for Humanity of Greater Centre County.

For Sam, this marks the end of 11 years of total service on the board, including terms as Vice President and President. "This has been an incredibly gratifying experience for me, having been part of the completion of the home that was moved from downtown to Ghaner Drive, two Women Builds, and the 24-hour Blitz Build by the Builders Association."

Dan, who served as the Building Committee Chair during his three-year tenure, provided invaluable industry knowledge and connections to assist in maintaining Habitat's own "home" – our administrative offices and ReStore location in Bellefonte.

We would also like to congratulate Ken Kline Smeltzer for becoming our new board president. Ken, who was nominated to HFHGCC's Board in March 2015, comes to HFHGCC with rich Habitat history, having served with Habitat in Stanislaus County, California as Site Selection Committee Chair and Board President.

HFHGCC is grateful for the time and talents provided by all volunteers, and especially those who serve in a leadership capacity on our Board of Directors.



Pictured: Dan Weiger (left), Sam Komlenic (center), Ken Kline Smeltzer (right).

Helping Those in Need: An Altruistic Way to Bond Together as a Family

by guest writer Paul Denikin from Dadknowsdiy.com

Each year on New Year's Day, many of us set [resolutions](#) and goals for the upcoming year. Some people set out to lose weight. Others aim to spend less money. And some decide to save up so they can quit their jobs and travel the world.

This past January, just out of my own curiosity, I decided to ask my six-year-old cousin what his New Year's Resolution would be. He's your average first grade boy. He loves Minions, thinks girls are icky, is really interested in jumping on trampolines, and loves playing with action figures. So I naturally expected him to say something predictable for a small child. Perhaps along the lines of, "Play more video games." Or even his usual request, "I want to visit Disneyworld."

Instead, I was simultaneously shocked and humbled with his sweet answer.

The six-year-old in my life said his goal for this year is: "To help those in need." When I pressed him to explain what that means, he came up with ideas such as donating money from his piggy bank to poor people, or giving food to the homeless. My eyes filled up with proud tears.

Whether we are parents, aunts, uncles, mentors, teachers, or big siblings, the children in our lives are watching us all the time. They silently observe us, learning from our behaviors, and developing their own beliefs, habits, [values](#) and interests.

Recent science has even suggested that [altruism](#) and compassion are innate qualities that young children might even be born with. Although we often underestimate these qualities in children, there is a very good chance that our kids and our families are interested in volunteering and giving back to those in need - possibly at much younger ages than we previously suspected.

[Recent studies](#) have shown that altruistic behaviors are actually good for our children. The satisfaction that comes from helping others promotes mental health and emotional well-being, and also boosts levels of confidence and self-esteem.

[Giving back](#) can actually make toddlers and young children happier, while helping them grow into healthier and more well-adjusted adults. Developing joy from helping others is deeply woven into our very human nature.

Why not support those [kind](#) and empathetic behaviors? There are many opportunities any time of the year for you to bond as a family by participating in volunteer work or community service opportunities together.

Some great ideas for hands-on summer service projects and/or volunteering opportunities that you can do together as a family might include: building homes with Habitat for Humanity; working at a local homeless shelter or soup kitchen for a day; or even volunteering at a local senior care center. Whichever activity you choose, make sure you keep safety practices in mind for both yourself and your family member. Especially if you are bringing a young child along to volunteer with you, like I am, you'll want to be mindful of staying safe. Follow [these tips](#) when working on any home improvement project.

Helping those in need.... What better way to give back to the world? It's not only good for them; it's good for you, good for building family bonds, and good for instilling altruistic values in the children in your life. Thank you for giving back!

Interested in getting involved? HFHGCC is recruiting volunteers for Saturday August 5, 12 and 26 to complete a current rehab project.

For details, visit www.habitatgcc.org/construction/current-builds.

Bricks & Sticks Golf Classic

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Centre County and the Builders Association of Central PA are proud to present the 14th Annual Bricks & Sticks Golf Classic to be held at the Penn State Golf Courses.

GATHERING ON THE GREENS - THURSDAY, AUGUST 3rd

This free event is open to all supporters of Habitat for Humanity and the Builders Association. Enjoy terrific food and drinks, special raffle prizes, a chipping contest, and music by RamaLama starting at 5:30pm!

GOLF OUTING - FRIDAY, AUGUST 4th

11:00 am - Registration and Lunch

12:30 pm - Shotgun Start

SIGNATURE CONTESTS

- Hole-in-the-Bowl: Test your chipping skills at our infamous "Hole-in-the-Bowl" contest. A \$5 donation gets you three shots at chipping into a toilet! This contest, as well as the other on course contests, can also be paid for in advance through our Mega Ticket.
- Closest-to-the-Pin: This contest will be located on a Par 3 Hole - keep an eye out on the course for it!

Register today at www.habitatgcc.org/bricksticksgolf

A BIG THANK YOU to our Bricks and Sticks Golf Classic sponsors!

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Special thanks to our
tournament planning
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HOW IT WORKS



Donations
come from companies,
manufacturers, and
individuals like you.

Staff/Volunteers

sort, test, and clean the donations
to then be put on the floor to be sold
to customers.



Customers

come to the ReStore and buy
discounted and freshly polished
donations.



Homeowners

benefit because money from
ReStore sales goes towards
building more affordable houses!



ReStore is open to the public four days a week! Shop, donate or volunteer Wednesdays through Saturdays, 9am to 4pm.
1155 Zion Road, Bellefonte PA • (814) 353-2390, ext 3 • restore@habitatgcc.org

Your Support Serves Centre County and Beyond

Every year, each U.S. Habitat affiliate is required to donate a percentage of all unrestricted cash donations received throughout the year to Habitat International. These are called tithes. Tithes help all of Habitat for Humanity unify and work towards its collective vision: **a world where everyone has a decent place to live.**

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Centre County provided a \$4,500 tithe at the end of June 2017 to the Global Mission Fund.

Instead of designating to a specific Habitat International location, HFHGCC chose to donate to the Global Mission Fund, which allocated tithe donations to where it is most needed. This fills in the gaps of national Habitat organizations and promotes helping families in most need of affordable and decent living. Just like all affiliate tithes, 100% of these donations go to the national organization.

One example of how Global Mission Funds are used is in Lesotho, South Africa. Their Habitat national organization was not able to locally raise enough funding to provide decent housing for children who are losing their parents to the AIDS pandemic. The Global Mission Fund provided Habitat Lesotho supplemental funding to launch its Orphans and Vulnerable Children Program in 2007.

HFHGCC's tithe of \$4,500, which is the current worldly average cost of a single housing solution unit, is going to help a family internationally. Since our first tithe, made in 1985, HFHGCC has contributed over \$227,000 and served 90 families internationally.

HFHGCC greatly appreciates everyone who has ever donated money, time, and materials in order to serve these 90 families. You are making an incredible difference in so many lives at home in Centre County and around the world!



Pictured Habitat homes in Nairobi, Kenya.

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[Addressee]
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[City, ST ZIP Code]