



HOMEFRONT



BUILDING HOUSES, BUILDING HOPE

SPRING 2016

Closing Day for HFHGCC's newest partner family

It's official. Davin Carswell and Ausha Williams are homeowners! Along with their two young children, Davin and Ausha are settling in to their newly renovated home in the State College area. Establishing roots in a community, and making family memories too.

Davin, an employee at Penn State, loves to grill in his new yard while watching his son ride his bike up and down the street. Ausha, a local cosmetologist, keeps busy caring for the couple's toddler daughter. The couple heard about Habitat's homeownership program through friends, and jumped at the chance to reduce their monthly housing costs (they previously paid \$800/month to rent a 2 bedroom apartment) while also building equity for their future. And now, the kids each have their own bedroom with plenty of room to play, study and grow.



"Habitat is great. It gave our family a chance to do more, to have more," said Davin. "It was hard work doing all the sweat equity hours, but we can proudly say that we helped to make this house our home."

Congrats to Davin, Ausha and the kids. Welcome to the big, happy Habitat for Humanity of Greater Centre County family!



Centre Gives Success

Many thanks to the local Greater Centre County community for a whirlwind Centre Gives!

On behalf of our staff, board and the families we serve, we appreciate your persistence in making sure we received your support. (Technology ... it's great when it works, and not so much when it doesn't.)

HFHGCC received 49 gifts totaling \$9,385! This support means that two more hardworking families will soon have the opportunity to achieve their dreams of owning a home.

Let's keep working together to build a better Centre County ... one home and one family at a time.

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.

Nate Cattell, HFHGCC Volunteer of the Year

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Centre County recently recognized Nate Cattell as our Volunteer of the Year at the annual Rose Cologne Volunteer Dinner, hosted by the Centre County Council for Human Services (CCCHS). The event, named after Dr. Rose Cologne, is an annual opportunity for agencies connected with CCCHS to honor individuals who work to further their missions.

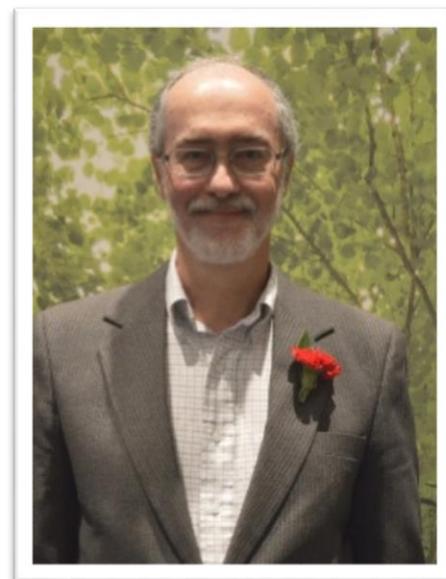
Dr. Cologne was known throughout Pennsylvania and beyond for her years of pioneering leadership in adult education and her work to alleviate problems of the poor. She also served with international programs in Japan and Afghanistan, and was a faculty member at The Pennsylvania State University. She was one of the founding members of HFHGCC (fka Tri-County Habitat for Humanity), and was also a recipient of the Benjamin Rush award, presented annually by the Centre County Medical Society for outstanding contributions toward the promotion of public health and welfare in Centre County. Dr. Cologne was a mentor and role model for many people in the human services field and her great energy, sense of humor, and love of all people endeared her to all who knew her.

HFHGCC chose to nominate Nate Cattell, who has been faithfully volunteering with us for over nine years. He helps build and rehab homes with our partner families, assists in maintaining our Habitat office and ReStore facilities, designs and constructs inventory displays, and, more recently, has started to find and repair discarded furniture, which he then donates to the ReStore for resale. Nate, a retired elementary school teacher, has quickly become a jack of all trades for our local Habitat affiliate. He genuinely lends a hand however it is needed!

Nate volunteered with Habitat 165 hours last year alone, and those are his recorded hours. All the work he does on his own rescuing and restoring tables, headboards, dressers and the like, are done without anyone keeping count. His trash-to-treasure efforts are done out of his desire to keep items out of landfills and passion for not wasting anything. It's just an added bonus that his efforts can also support a cause he believes in: Habitat for Humanity's affordable home ownership program.

Nate puts his heart into whatever he is doing, whether it's hauling lumber, building a display for countertops, rehabbing a home, or helping a customer load a range into a van. His skills are so great and varied, too – he's our go-to guy when we need something installed or hung level.

Nate takes great lengths to serve Habitat with an upbeat, positive and humble attitude, no matter the task. We are so glad that back in 2007, Nate Cattell chose Habitat for Humanity of Greater Centre County to serve his community!



Homeownership can be within your reach

Owning a home is different than renting. It's something that is seen as a natural step in life: go to school, get a job, buy a house, start a family. But that path isn't always so clear, nor is homeownership easily attainable for everyone. In fact, in several ways, homeownership is nearly out of reach for many in our region.

Habitat for Humanity of greater Centre County is working to change that by providing affordable homeownership opportunities for income-qualified households in Centre County.

Who qualifies? HFHGCC partner families represent all walks of life, but they have a few basic things in common.

- Each of HFHGCC's partner families showed a need for better housing. Examples may have included living in an overcrowded home, paying a high percentage of monthly income toward rent or simply living in unsafe conditions.
- They have the ability to repay a mortgage. During the application process, families provide documentation of stable incomes that fall within HFHGCC guidelines. This helps to ensure that they are able to pay a monthly mortgage. HFHGCC applicants also demonstrate a decent credit history.
- They show that they are willing to partner with HFHGCC. Approved homeowner applicants must fulfill 350 "sweat equity" hours of volunteer work on our construction sites, working at our ReStore, and participating in required homeowner workshops.
- They live or work in Greater Centre County. With homes in Philipsburg, Millheim, Port Matilda, Milesburg, Bellefonte and State College, HFHGCC serves the entire county and wants those who live or work here to have an opportunity to be rooted in our community.

HFHGCC is accepting applications for our next partner families. Is Habitat right for you? Are you prepared to:

- Invest 350 hours of "sweat equity" into your Habitat home and other HFHGCC projects and programs?
- Save money toward a small down payment for your home?
- Commit to a 30-year legal obligation of a mortgage and to make your monthly payments in full and on time?
- Pay for all utilities, including electricity, water/sewer and refuse?
- Complete regular maintenance work on your home to prevent future problems?
- Maintain an emergency savings reserve for needed repair work?

If you answered "yes" to all of the above questions, you might be ready to accept the challenges and responsibilities that come with the advantages of homeownership.

The goal of homeownership is big, and the steps to achieve that goal involve commitment and hard work. But realizing the "American dream" of homeownership affords a great deal of pride. With the home purchase comes a sense of accomplishment and a sense of belonging to a specific community. HFHGCC helps to empower families who qualify to build and buy their own homes.

If you are interested in pursuing homeownership through HFHGCC, contact us today at 353-2390, extension 1, www.habitatgcc.org, or info@habitatgcc.org.



ReStore honored with Emerald Award

Last month, the Centre County Recycling & Refuse Authority (CCRRA), along with the Centre Region Council of Governments and the Borough of State College held an awards luncheon to honor 55 of our area's best green businesses, schools and organizations. Over 100 area business owners, teachers, school administrators and employees were present at the awards luncheon, held in coordination with Earth Day, to receive recognition for their efforts both in recycling and sustainability.

CCRRA's Recycling Coordinator, Joanne Shafer addressed the crowd and spoke of the five special Emerald Award Winners: The Coca-Cola Company, Weis Markets, K-B Offset Printing, Inc., **Habitat for Humanity ReStore** and Harrison's Wine Grill & Catering.



Pictured (L to R): Dave Pensak, CCRRA Board Chairman; Jill Redman, HFHGCC Executive Director; Dan Trevino, HFHGCC Board Member

Shopping at Habitat ReStore isn't like the shopping experience anywhere else. Part home improvement store, part home goods store, part resale store, the ReStore has a wide selection of inventory that changes often. Whether you are a do-it-yourselfer, homeowner, renter, landlord, contractor, interior designer, environmentalist or treasure hunter, you'll find something awesome at Restore.

Or maybe you're remodeling, cleaning, down-sizing or just getting organized? Whatever the project, don't let items no longer needed end up in our local garbage! ReStore diverts tons of usable goods from landfills each year, accepting some hard-to-dispose-of items including new and used furniture, appliances and surplus building materials. And in most cases, pickup service is provided for large items.

Best of all, proceeds from the sale of these donated goods help families achieve housing stability through Habitat for Humanity. So whether shopping or donating, you are helping local income-qualified families achieve the strength and independence they need to build a better future.

Local ReStore Facts:

- ReStore diverts an average of 18,500 pounds of usable goods from landfills each month.
- ReStore manages a regular metal recycling program, averaging 30,000 pounds per year.
- ReStore recycles unusable ceramic and porcelain sinks and toilets – 5 truckloads per year.
- ReStore recycles or reuses cardboard, paper and plastic grocery bags.
- ReStore promotes re-purposing and re-use by sharing "Customer Creations" in store and on social media.

Habitat for Humanity ReStore - a good deal for you, our community and the environment.

HFHGCC keeps on walking

In its early days, Habitat for Humanity staged numerous long walks to bring attention to the new ministry. In 1983, there was a 700 mile walk from Habitat’s headquarters in Americus, Georgia to Indianapolis in celebration of Habitat’s 7th Anniversary. In October of that same year, a group of dedicated volunteers launched an unstoppable movement to raise awareness in support of the critical housing issues facing the Centre-Clearfield-Clinton county region. It took a little more than one year to raise funding, secure a property, identify a qualified partner family, and recruit hundreds of willing volunteers to provide the hands-on volunteer labor needed. The first home, in Bellefonte, was dedicated in 1985.

Since then, the organization has served nearly 70 families by building/renovating homes for our first-time homebuyer program. Additionally, as part of HFHGCC’s affiliation with Habitat for Humanity International, we have helped to support another 86 families internationally through our annual tithe contribution. That means the local affiliate has collectively helped more than 150 families in our 30+ year history!

As we look forward to the remainder of 2016, we aim to add another two families to our roster and rehab two homes. And HouseWalk helps us to achieve our goals.

Just like the old days, we’re still staging walks. Held in late April at Tudek park, HouseWalk 2016 was a walk-a-thon event that allowed participants to have a fun filled day, while creating more public awareness for HFHGCC and the region’s housing issues. *Thank you to those who walked, supported a walker, or sponsored our event!*

2016 Event Sponsors



2016 Participating Congregations / Organizations

Congregation Brit Shalom, Faith United Church of Christ, Grace Lutheran Church, Team Poulin, St. Paul’s United Methodist Church, Trinity Lutheran Church, University Baptist & Brethren Church and the Campfire Kids, The Penn State Habitat Campus Chapter, and the Residents of Foxdale Village

Everyone deserves a decent place to live, and everyone can do something to help make that possible for another family.



Bricks & Sticks Golf Classic

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Centre County and the Builders Association of Central PA are proud to present the 13th Annual Bricks & Sticks Golf Classic to be held at the Penn State Golf Courses.

GATHERING ON THE GREENS - THURSDAY, AUGUST 4th at 5:30pm

This free event is open to all supporters of Habitat for Humanity and the Builders Association. Enjoy terrific food and drinks, special raffle prizes, and a fun putting contest!

GOLF OUTING - FRIDAY, AUGUST 5th

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



HFHGCC

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Bellefonte, PA 16823

[Addressee]

[Street Address]

[City, ST ZIP Code]