



BUILDING HOUSES, BUILDING HOPE

HOMEFRONT



SPRING 2017

Centre Gives :: An Investment in Our Entire Community

Many of us go about our daily lives not having to worry about whether our basic needs are going to be met. We don't have to choose between eating a healthy meal and buying medicine for our child. We also know that we can find comfort and stability in our warm, safe homes at night. It is easy to forget how privileged we are to have a decent place to live. And it is easy to forget the many faces of the hardworking people we encounter every day in Centre County who don't.

It could be the clerk at the local grocery store who helps bag your groceries, or the security guard that says "good night" as you leave your office every day, or the cab driver who gets you to the airport on time. These are the people who work hard to enhance the quality of our lives.

And yet, after a long day of work, many families in our community aren't able to come home to a decent place to live. They are trapped in

unaffordable, overcrowded, or substandard conditions no one deserves to endure.

Yet, every hardworking family deserves the opportunity for a better future. They deserve to have strength and stability. With your help, future Habitat homeowners can achieve the independence they need to build a better life for themselves and their families.

Your support is not only an investment in a local hardworking family. Through Centre Gives, your donation is an investment in our entire community.

Gratefully,

Jul Redman
HFHGCC Executive Director



Support HFHGCC at
www.centregives.org

YOUR SUPPORT BUILDS A LOT MORE THAN HOUSES

Your support impacts FAMILIES – homeownership provides income-qualified families with independence and the means to build personal wealth. Decent housing also improves a family's health by freeing up resources for nutritious foods and other necessary health expenditures.

Your support impacts CHILDREN – children of homeowners do better in school, are more likely to acquire post-secondary education, and are less likely to be impoverished as adults. They also have fewer behavioral problems that can lead to criminal acts later in life.

Your support impacts COMMUNITIES – homeowners are more likely to belong to community organizations and to volunteer locally.

Your support impacts CENTRE COUNTY – Habitat homeowners pay a mortgage that is reinvested into building new Habitat homes and property taxes that provide a sustainable future for the Centre County region.

HOMEFRONT is an informational newsletter produced for donors, sponsors, volunteers, and friends of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Centre County.

--- BOARD OF DIRECTORS ---

Thaddeus J. Will, President
M&T Bank

Ken Kline Smeltzer, Vice President
Smeltzer's Omni Services

Jonathan Nelson, Treasurer
US Navy Reserves

Doug Erickson, Secretary
Patton Township

Lisa Riley Brown

Alex Bengel
PSU-HFH Student Chapter

Jeff Horwitz
Penn State University

Wanda B. Knight
Penn State University

Sam Komlenic
Penn State Public Broadcasting (Retired)

Patricia J. Long
Keller Williams Advantage Realty

Sam McGinley
Northwest Bank (Retired)

Sylvia Rosa-Ortiz
GIANT Food Stores

Dan Trevino
Penn State University (Retired)

Elizabeth (Beth) Walker
Northwest Bank

Dan Weiger
Alexander Building Construction Co.

--- STAFF ---

Jill Redman, Executive Director
Stephanie Clevenger, ReStore Manager

Jason Jones, ReStore Driver

Larry Lucas, Site Supervisor

Jodi Radford, ReStore Asst Manager

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.

Another Year, Another Great HouseWalk!

Many thanks to the dozens of walkers who participated in the 2017 HFHGCC HouseWalk on Sunday, April 23.

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. To date, the organization has served nearly 70 families by building/renovating homes for our first-time homebuyer program.

HFHGCC relies upon the generous support – both financial and volunteer – from our friends, neighbors and business partners in Centre County. Without community support, our partner families likely would never achieve their dreams of homeownership. The need for Habitat for Humanity's work is even greater than in the past as housing costs continue to increase in our community.

The families served by Habitat are our friends and neighbors. The 'hand-up' they will receive through their Habitat experience has the power to change not only their lives, but also those of their children.

HouseWalk helped to raise awareness of the affordable housing crisis in our region and generate much-needed funds to support HFHGCC's purchase of a buildable parcel of land for our next construction project!

Special thanks to our event sponsors:

Minitab   **M&T Bank**

 **RE/MAX**
CENTRE REALTY **RESTEK**

CENTRE DAILY TIMES
www.centredaily.com

And also to our returning walkers and teams: Team Alex, Team Noah, Michael & Deb Poulin, Peggy Salamon. Foxdale Village Retirement Community, Grace Lutheran Church, Mount Nittany United Methodist Church, and University Baptist & Brethren Church. To date, we've collected just over \$7,000!

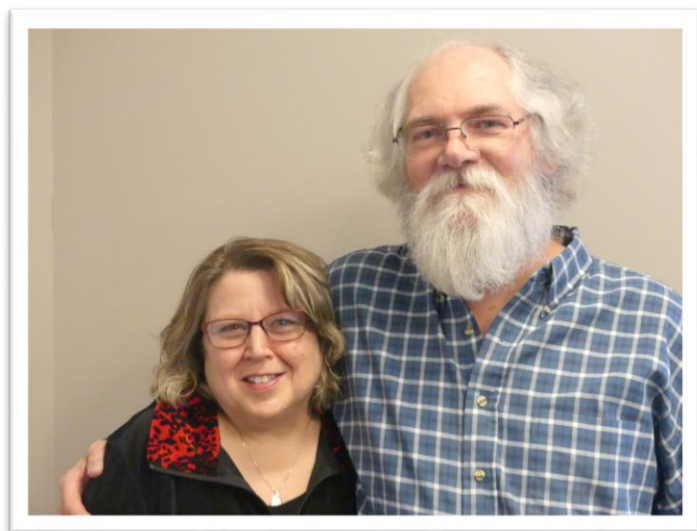


Habitat Homeowners Celebrate Their Final Payment

PAID IN FULL. SATISFIED. FINAL PAYMENT. That's how the file reads after 22 years and 10 months of regular, affordable mortgage payments.

With a simple application in late 1991, the Butler family started their journey toward homeownership. Construction of the Osceola Mills home took most of 1992, and engaged dozens of community volunteers, mostly from St. Paul's United Methodist Church in State College.

John, Anna and their son and daughter, then ages 5 and 8, moved into their new family home in early 1993. "I remember doing sweat equity alongside the volunteers," commented John at their recent meeting with Habitat. "It was amazing to see so many give their time and energy to help our family." Continued Anna, "Building and buying a home with the help of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Centre County was a remarkable experience for our family."



Above: Photos from the Butler family home build and dedication ceremony.

Left: Anna and John after signing their final paperwork and making their final payment to HFHGCC.

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.

**Donate the tools and materials
that help us build a greater good.**



You're rebuilding
a kitchen.
We're rebuilding
a community.



habitatgcc.org/restore

(814) 353-2390

1155 Zion Rd, Bellefonte, PA

**Shop for gently-used appliances, cabinets,
furniture, doors, tools, decor and more!**

Alternative Spring Break Trips Help Others

More than 40 members of the Habitat for Humanity Campus Chapter at Penn State spent their spring break week helping three communities in need. Three separate groups ventured out – one to Denver, CO, one to New Smyrna, FL, and one to Stuart, FL – for a week of service to others in need.

In Denver the students worked in a housing development complex that will ultimately serve 63 families. Houses there were in various stages of construction, so the traveling volunteers got to try out many new skills. The Denver trip also included a day of working at a local ReStore.

The Florida groups did much of the same, building houses and community. Prepping build sites and framing walls together gave the students an appreciation for what they have, while really helping to solidify college friendships. Making memories and helping others seems like an ideal spring break!



Support Comes in Many Ways

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Centre County recently received two generous gifts.

After weeks of discussing Habitat and the work we do in Centre County, employees from General Dynamics approved a \$1,000 donation to HFHGCC for 2017. They are excited to partner with us in our efforts to provide affordable housing for income-qualified families in our community.

Local Girl Scout Troop 41196, who meets regularly at Our Lady of Victory Catholic School, organized a used tool drive to support the ReStore. Six young girls gathered boxes of nails, screws, door knobs and tools that will now be sold in the ReStore to generate funding to support HFHGCC's next house build.

Thanks to these awesome community partners!



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, and a fun putting contest 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/brickssticksgolf



HFHGCC

1155 Zion Rd

Bellefonte, PA 16823

[Addressee]

[Street Address]

[City, ST ZIP Code]