Warren County Habitat for Humanity

Building Hope

Newsletter of the Warren County Habitat for Humanity

COMING UP:

Stop by Century 21's Garage Sale to benefit WCHFH in Hackettstown, October 7th.

Join us at the OK4WD Truckfest in Stewartsville on Sunday, October 15th.

Braggin' and Baggin' Cornhole Tournament in Hackettstown, Saturday, October 21st.

Stuber Insurance Furniture Drive on behalf of the ReStore, October 28th.

Sign up for Volunteer Appreciation Day, Saturday, October 28th.

Community Day of Help in Belvidere, Saturday, November 11th.

See the website at warrenhabitat.org for details of all events.

Habitat Veterans Build Underway!

HABITAT VETERANS BUILD

Warren County Habitat for Humanity relies on donations of property and land to build Habitat homes. The donated parcel of land on Pleasant Valley Road in Washington came with a requirement. The donor requested that it would be used to house the family of a veteran or an active duty military member.

Our Partner Family parents, Bob and Heather, were selected according to the usual requirements: ability to make a down payment and monthly mortgage payments, and a commitment to provide hundreds of hours of sweat equity toward the construction of their home.

This additional criterion, service to country, was fulfilled by Heather's six year tour of duty in the Army National Guard, which included a year in Iraq.

A group of almost forty supporters assembled to break ground at the Habitat Veterans Build site on June 3rd. The construction plans call for a simple, three bedroom home to be built on the plot.

"This home is a new construction from the ground up," explained Executive Director Ben Eskow. "The schedule depends on the level of funding available, the number and expertise of volunteers, weather, and other factors. The home is targeted to be completed in the spring of 2018." As of September 30th, foundation walls were completed and first floor joists have been installed. Decking has been installed, the foundation backfill has been completed and the installation of the basement entry has been completed. Construction of the outside walls has begun.

The project is part of the Habitat for Humanity Veterans Build Initiative, which was created by Habitat for Humanity International to honor veterans by offering housing and employment opportunities, volunteer engagement, and education. Throughout the year, Habitat for Humanity offers special events that pay tribute to veterans, raise awareness and mobilize volunteers.

Over two thousand veterans and their families have partnered with Habitat to improve their housing since 2013. More than one hundred veteran-serving organizations currently partner with Habitat on this initiative. Heather, Bob, and the rest of us at Warren County Habitat for Humanity are honored to participate in this program.

Corporate Groups Are Pitching In

The level of community awareness of the Habitat Veterans Build is high. This has had the effect of increasing interest in group participation at the build site by our corporate sponsors and supporters. Our core construction team and supervisors welcome groups of all skills to participate in the construction of a Habitat home. It is especially appreciated when teams are from businesses associated with home building, as was the case when a group from Carpenters Union Local 177 joined in on a Saturday in August.

Community support is in the DNA of many companies, large and small. For example,

Mars Wrigley Confectionery encourages their employees to "give their time and talents to organize, lead and recruit other volunteers to join them in making a difference through fundraising, education and hands-on activities." Throughout the years, many teams have participated at Habitat job sites as part of its Mars Volunteer Program.

Sara Yoon of HFI Truck Center relates that not only do their teams offer valuable volunteer hours to Habitat, but the experience is beneficial to them as well. "Getting together as a group outside of the normal work environment allows us to build better relationships. Also, accomplishing something as a team while helping others is the best way to build camaraderie. We have enjoyed working at Habitat in the past and look forward to our next team build day," she commented.

These are the groups that have scheduled a work day at the Habitat Veterans Build site in Washington, NJ:

- Mars Wrigley Confectionery (4 groups)
- UPS Freight
- Carpenters Union Local 177
- HFI Truck Center
- Unity Bank
- DSM Nutritional Products
- First Hope Bank (2 groups)
- Tiny Houses
- DeSales Students
- Access

Partner Family parents Heather Freeman and Bob McManus extend their sincere

VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

Habitat for Humanity would simply not exist without its volunteers. And Warren County steps up. Last year, 497 people donated their time to WCHFH, contributing a total of more than 21,000 volunteer hours!

Right now, we are looking for these specific skills to strengthen our team:

Youth Relations Chairperson
Responsible for the development and coordination of youth programs and youth volunteers, and increased community awareness of programs.

IT and Network Specialist
Responsible for troubleshooting technical systems (local networks, desktop, telecom, office equipment, web site administration, security systems).

If you are ready to help out, call the office at (908) 835-1300 and you will be referred to the right person to get you started.

Support the ReStore

The ReStore is Habitat's retail outlet, located at 390 Route 57 West, Washington, NJ, 07882. The mission of the ReStore is to raise funds to help Warren County Habitat for Humanity build homes for qualified local low income families and reduce waste by recycling or reclaiming materials that would otherwise be discarded.

Tax deductible donations of furniture, décor, household goods, building supplies, rugs, appliances, and many other items are prepped and set out for resale to the public.

Proceeds from the retail sales are then used to fund Habitat program expenses such as home construction and rehabs. See what it's all about. Donate, shop or browse at the Habitat ReStore!

ReStore Volunteers Needed: All forms of retail store activities are performed, such as loading and unloading, merchandise refurbishment and staging, cashier, floor rep, and maintenance/janitorial.

ReStore Hours

Tuesday:	9-5
Wednesday:	9-7
Thursday:	9-5
Friday:	9-5
Saturday:	9-5
Sunday-Monday:	Closed

Call: (908) 835-1980

appreciation and thanks to all of these groups for their help and support. As of September 30th, all group work sessions at the site are booked through January 2018. When planning a session at the site, advance notice and flexibility are critical to a memorable and mutually beneficial construction team experience. If you would like to set up a session at the job site for your team, you can call the office at (908) 835-1300 to review the options.

Thank You Veterans

Warren County Habitat for Humanity values and honors all of those who have served their country. It is not uncommon for veterans to also serve their community. We honor those service veterans who are also WCHFH volunteers:

John Bohdan
Frank Della Ventura
Tom Massey
John Rolak
Warren Thompson
Donald Burd
Ken Hofgesang
Stuart Ours
Dave Rossi
Russ Widenor
Martin Cassel
In memoriam: Terry Lee Bob Pesaniello
Dave Sharp
...and all others who have served

Bowled Over!

Once again, the folks at Oakwood Lanes have sponsored a day of bowling on behalf of a Warren County Habitat for Humanity Partner Family. For the third year in a row, Oakwood Lanes was set aside for a few hours on a summer Saturday afternoon for use by Habitat and its supporters. This year, the event benefited the Habitat Veterans Build project.

Local businesses by the dozens support this event each year with contributions of money, purchases of lanes, and donations of prizes. The companies purchase banners with their logos and other messages and display them at the bowling alley. Oakwood Lanes allows the banners to hang in the rafters for some time before and after the event. We urge all of our supporters to patronize these companies that support the Warren County community so well.

Habitat's goal is to build simple, decent homes. Mortgage payments on them are kept low by using donated supplies and volunteer labor. Still, it can cost over $100,000 to build a home like this in Warren County. This event raised over $4,600, which directly benefits the current Habitat Veterans Build taking place at 64 Pleasant Valley Road in Washington.

JJ Norment, Resource Development Manager at WCHFH, thanked all involved in the event for their support. "The success of the bowling fundraiser is a credit to our volunteers, sponsors, and participants, all of whom continue moving WCHFH forward by assisting to provide people with simple, affordable housing in Warren County", he said.

Volunteer Spotlight

On Thursday and Saturday mornings, you can usually find **Bob Pesaniello** at the Habitat build site, working with the Partner Family and the rest of the regulars. He has been on the team since 2007 and has had a hand in the construction of several Habitat homes. We recently had a chat with Bob.

What got you started volunteering at Habitat?

I was newly retired and was looking for something to do. At the time, a woman who worked with my wife DJ was a Habitat partner. DJ strongly suggested that I help out! I had done small jobs around the house, but I never had commercial experience as a carpenter or any other trade. But I started, and I was hooked.

What do you enjoy most about volunteering at Habitat?

When we're done, we get a tremendous feeling of satisfaction that we've helped someone, that we've given back. Also, the team is just a great bunch of guys and gals and we always have fun while we're working.

The Habitat Veterans Build reminds us of the incredible sacrifice people have made to keep our nation free. What would you like to tell us about your military service?

I had a twenty four year career in the Marine Corps, with two tours of duty in Vietnam. I enlisted, and attained the highest enlisted rank as a Master Gunnery Sergeant. A memorable assignment was when I was part of an instructor exchange with a British commando unit. I was learning cold weather tactics in Norway, north of the Arctic Circle.

Where else do you donate your time?

I'm a past president and current member of the Washington Rotary Club. I also help out at the Washington Community Food Pantry.

Thanks, Bob. All of us at Warren County Habitat for Humanity value the tremendous contribution you have made. We thank you for your inspiring service to your country and to the Washington and Warren County community.

Welcome New Board Members

Two new individuals have recently been voted onto the Board of Directors and have accepted those positions. **Cynthia Lee** assumed the duties of Treasurer for WCHFH in May 2017. She is a resident of Washington Borough and is retired from the position of Senior Registered Environmental Health Specialist at the Bernards Township Health Department. She also volunteers with the Washington Community Food Pantry. **Louis Cirrotti** is a retired financial executive residing in Washington with his wife Carol. He has been involved in Habitat financial projects the past year, working closely with the administrative and financial staff. Welcome to the Board, and thank you Cynthia and Lou.

WE'VE HELPED BUILD THIRTY HOMES IN HONDURAS!

OUR VISION:
A world where everyone has a decent place to live.

Habitat affiliates such as WCHFH support international development programs by channeling a portion of their undesignated funds to the country of their choice. We have designated the Central American nation of Honduras as the recipient of our contributions.

In Honduras, 67% of its population of almost nine million people live in poverty. More than 46% live in extreme poverty, and half of the population lives in rural areas where poverty reaches 75%.

It only requires about $4,500 to provide simple, decent housing in Honduras. This year, we have reached a milestone with the completion of a thirtieth home from our contributions.

Our partners at "Habitat para la Humanidad" in Honduras wish to thank the many people in Warren County who've made these homes possible through their dedication and generosity.