



PRESS RELEASE

Warren County Habitat for Humanity and Lowe's of Phillipsburg unite women to spotlight need for safe and affordable housing through home builds and repairs during International Women Build Week

On Saturday March 7, 2020 Volunteers from Warren County Habitat for Humanity (WCHFH) joined with Lowe's Heroes of Phillipsburg to celebrate International Women Build Week. Women were painting, performing trim work, and landscaping work alongside the partner family, the McGuires. James Mengucci, Mayor of Lopatcong and Joseph Pryor, Council President came to support the ladies in their work and to tour Lopatcong's newest home.



In towns across the country, approximately 6,000 women volunteers unite in more than 235 communities in the United States, India and Canada for International Women Build Week from March 1-8 to highlight the global need for safe and affordable housing. A prelude to International Women's Day, the global event aims to build and repair nearly 540 homes while raising awareness of housing issues facing women and their families.

The Lowe's partnership with Habitat began in 2003; since then, the company has committed more than \$71.1 million to support the nonprofit, impacting the lives of Habitat homeowners worldwide. Lowe's support of Habitat's Women Build has helped build, renovate or repair more than 5,325 homes with the support of more than 138,000 women volunteers. WCHFH is dedicated to eliminating substandard housing locally and worldwide through constructing, rehabilitating and preserving homes; by advocating for fair and just housing policies; and by providing training and access to resources to help families improve their shelter conditions. Habitat for Humanity was founded on the conviction that every man, woman and child should have a simple, durable place to live in dignity and safety, and that decent shelter in decent communities should be a matter of conscience and action for all.

Habitat houses are sold to partner families at cost and are financed with affordable, no-interest loans. The homeowners' monthly mortgage payments are recycled into a revolving fund that is used to continue Habitat's work. Homeowners invest hundreds of hours of "sweat equity" into building their house and the houses of others. This labor by potential owners reduces the monetary cost of the house, increases the personal stake of the family members in their home, and fosters the development of the true community.

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