



Habitat for Humanity®

Allegheny Valley

225 Freeport Street, New Kensington, PA 15068

Phone: 724-594-1051

Website: www.habitatav.org

Meet Habitat's newest Homeowners- The Butters!



Jonathan & Rachel Butter have long dreamt of being homeowners in the region. Upon his return in 2007 from a 14-month tour of duty in Iraq, with an assigned mission to seek and destroy roadside IEDs, Jonathan had to begin the journey to reacclimate into civilian life. Detonating 392 roadside IEDs that coincided with 16 explosions took a toll on Jonathan. Yet, the challenges of transition began to change for the better as he met Rachel, and the two married. The couple began to plant roots together and share a family, and are blessed with four boys, ages 4-8, (Carson, Gino, Hayden, & Morgan). All this, along with Jonathan recently receiving his welder's certificate and Rachel soon finishing her degree in Health Administration.

"We are so proud to be able to build a home for Jonathan and his family, his sacrifice and service to our nation is truly remarkable," stated Executive Director John Tamiggi. John also expressed joy when he

was able to witness firsthand the excitement of the four sons seeing their new home being built and a backyard. "This truly makes it all worth it, getting to serve a vet and his family is truly a blessing," stated John. The home build is projected to be completed during the first quarter of 2022. Jonathan, Rachael and family cannot wait to call the Allegheny Valley home!

The Passing of a Dear Friend



With heavy hearts, we share in the passing of our dear friend, and Allegheny Valley Habitat for Humanity's inaugural executive

director, Ms. Diane Besiktas. Diane provided over a decade of service leading the organization to generate impacts that were transformative to the region. Current ReStore Manager, and Habitat homeowner, Bryan Heyl stated "Diane was a great teacher and a great mentor. I'm one of those people that always has questions and wants to learn something. That is how I got my great love for Habitat, just hanging out with her." Diane was able to oversee a dozen plus home builds, a multitude of brush with kindness campaigns, and created the foundation of Habitat for Humanity here in the Allegheny Valley we have all come to know and love. We give endless thanks to Diane for her service and recognize that her efforts serve as a true inspiration and legacy for generations to come.

2021

Autumn Newsletter

Board of Directors

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President

Diana Biordi, Ph.D.
Vice Present

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Ms. Kathy Clark
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Ms. Julie Martin
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Ms. Kristin O'Sullivan
Board Member

John Tamiggi, Ph.D.
Executive Director

United Way
Contributor Choice
Code:

Allegheny Valley
Habitat for
Humanity 1319144



Meet our volunteers!!!



Allegheny Valley Habitat for Humanity has been continually blessed by amazing volunteers. We are proud to host some of the most passionate hearts around, and

unsurprisingly, each volunteer understands the unique complexity of our region and the obstacles faced by residents. Meet Milan Larrazabal, a resident of New Kensington, has been with Habitat for Humanity since 2016 and has dedicated countless hours of service to help ensure our ReStore can achieve at the highest levels.

Milan, who is from Bolivia, came to Habitat for Humanity shortly after arriving in the United States to learn and better understand the culture while serving others. Milan got to work side by side with established volunteers and residents of the community. Recently, Milan just received her citizenship and expressed her gratitude for this country and its freedoms. Milan is a regular lending a helping hand at the ReStore, and we encourage you to stop by the ReStore sometime soon to say hello and welcome her as a new neighbor in the Allegheny Valley!

Point Park University – Allegheny Valley 101

At Habitat for Humanity, one of the more challenging aspects of the pandemic has been our inability to tap into our region's various volunteer groups, especially those in higher education. For decades we were blessed to utilize the muscle and might of college students at the University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon, and Penn State University just to name a few. But with pandemic restrictions and precautions, many universities have limited access for students to engage outside of campus. Needless to say, we were delighted when the opportunity presented itself for students at Point Park University to come to our home build in Tarentum. Students were able to partake in build efforts that marked

the first-time university students were on-site since the pandemic began in March of 2020.



Point Park University Students, Class of 25'

Point Park students were not only allowed the opportunity to partake in the build efforts, but also got to learn and understand the unique dynamics of the Allegheny Valley, and how their efforts directly served not only the future homeowners but also the community as a whole. We are hopeful that opportunities like these will continue to present themselves in the future strengthen and rebuild our communities.

More than just a store- a ReStore

At ReStore, we take pride that our efforts serve to provide revenue to support home build efforts around the Allegheny Valley. Yet, we share the same level of satisfaction knowing the impact we have on customers that have come to depend on our goods and services during unstable times. While our store's focus is to receive donated items and resell them back at a discount for profit supporting our mission, our staff and volunteers have created a culture that is unlike any other in the Allegheny Valley.



Whether its Tom Hughes, a Korean War veteran who served two decades on Habitat for Humanity home builds and now creates handcrafted reindeer, or Martha Sproul, who helps decorate and beautify

our store for the current season, our staff and volunteers set an amazingly high bar of excellence.



"Time and again, customers will remark at how excited they are to visit and shop at ReStore, but not only for the discount goods, but because they identify it as a communal centerpiece," states Executive Director, John Tamiggi. John goes on to identify

that the staff and volunteers' efforts speak to hearts that reside in this community, and the desire they have to witness its rebirth.

Exciting times continue for the ReStore as the holidays soon approach. Donations from major big box stores continue to grace our shelves, along with unique hidden treasures from long ago. Upcoming events at the store include participation in "Small Business Saturday" with refreshments, store discounts, and a visit by Santa. Additionally, the ReStore is a hosting center for the "Play it Forward" toy drive that accepts gently used toys for disadvantaged children in the area. Come check out all the excitement at your neighborhood ReStore, open every Tuesday-Saturday 10am to 4pm.

Habitat ReStore + ReSupply

We are so happy to announce our ReStore has teamed up to partner with ReSupply. ReSupply is a veteran-founded organization that began on a military base in Georgia, whose mission is to make it easier for families to donate their gently used goods to non-profit thrift stores. Since its inception, ReSupply has provided support to Habitat for Humanities across 33 states and has excelled at logistics to ensure efficient transport of donated goods to the ReStore.

In the wake of the pandemic, the ReStore, like so many other businesses across the nation, has been hindered by a lack of available employees to drive and transport donated goods. This partnership provides support and strengthens the ReStore's ability to tap into and service a higher donor pool. Interested in donating? It's easy to sign up and make an appointment right online! Visit our

website at habitatav.org and click on the donate button (lower right side) on the landing page for easy access to schedule donations to support your local Habitat!



Why I'm Thankful

Living in a pandemic, it's easy to lose track of the numerous blessings we receive daily. As we quickly approach Thanksgiving and the holiday season, we at Habitat for Humanity took time to reflect on our blessings, and here is what our staff, volunteers, and customers were thankful for this past year.



I'm thankful for my family, the world healing of COVID, and my friends at Habitat"

-Glenn Nordmark
Habitat Volunteer



"I am thankful for my family, and getting to spend time with my grandsons."

-Henry Pieczynski
Habitat Volunteer



"I am thankful for the ReStore, my family, friends and my health"

- Chaz Smith
ReStore Customer

Below are just a few of more recent donations that have come into the ReStore shop in New Kensington. Come visit and find some treasure and help support the mission of Habitat for Humanity. During the month of November, all U.S. Veterans receive 20% off their entire purchase!

HABITAT RESTORE NEW KENSINGTON



Community Partners

Special thanks to the following groups who have dedicated resources to support our collective community endeavors!

LEGRAND COMPANY
WHIRLPOOL
SHERWIN WILLIAMS
VERE INC.
POLYCONCEPTS OF NORTH AMERICA
LOWES PGH MILLS
LOWES GIBSONIA
LOWES MONROEVILLE
MOLYNEUX TILE & FLOORING
LONGWOOD OF OAKMONT
KEY BANK OF NEW KENSINGTON
DONUT CONNECTION OF NEW KENSINGTON
WINDOW NATION
NATRONA HEIGHTS & PGH MILLS WALMART
NORTHWEST SAVINGS BANK
EMERSON CHARITABLE TRUST
PNC CHARITABLE TRUST

We need your help!

To serve and build our communities is a continual process. That being said, we are always seeking to diversify our board of directors and task force committees to strengthen and increase our efforts in the community. Currently, the organization is seeking passionate hearts who are interested potentially serving at a board level capacity, and desires to build an advocacy committee focused on equitable housing opportunities throughout the Allegheny Valley. If you are interested, please forward your resume via email to john@habitatav.org.

Interested in touching a life?

Come volunteer with us!

At Habitat, we build more than houses, we help build lives.

Whether on the construction home build sites or at our ReStore, we love volunteers that assist us in the achievement of our mission!

Come join us today!

Visit www.habitatav.org for more details!

Donate Your Stuff.

Help Us Build Homes. Change Lives Together.



We accept appliances, cabinets, furniture, building materials, lighting and more!

Our store and drop off center is centrally located in downtown Manchester AND we offer free pickup of larger donations.



YOUR PASSION



YOUR PRIDE



Your Habitat!

Donate your vehicle to help build homes.



Habitat
for Humanity®

Cars for
Homes™



877-277-4344

carsforhomes.org

225 Freeport Street
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Hours of operations: Tuesday-Friday
10am to 4pm
Saturday 10am to 4pm
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