



Habitat for Humanity®

Allegheny Valley

**AUTUMN
2022
Newsletter**

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Executive Director

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Strength In Partnership



At Allegheny Valley Habitat for Humanity, partnership is in full force! We are proud to state that over the years

we have partnered on projects and programs with many wonderful organizations across the region. Recently, we have been able to collaborate our efforts and serve with several entities including Meta Mesh Wireless Communications, Animal Protectors of Allegheny Valley, and the Addiction Recovery Ministry just to name a few!

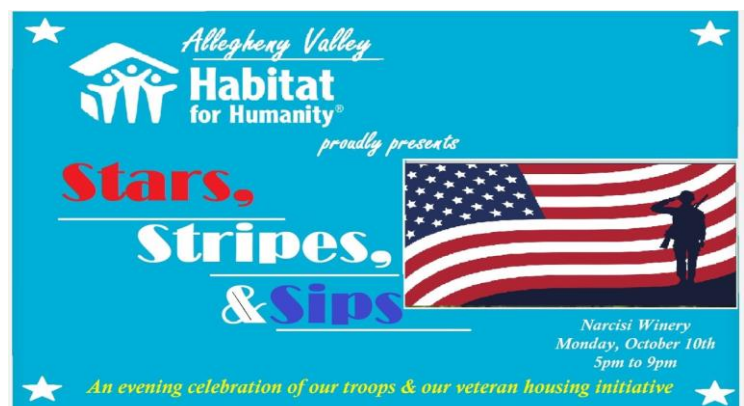
During the summer months, our passionate crews were able to serve the New Kensington region by lending prep support work to enable Meta Mesh Wireless Communications to vanguard over 40 wireless broadband installs as part of their Every1online campaign to provide free access to the internet for all. We also formed a vibrant partnership with the Addiction Recovery Ministry to work as allies in the fight against the opioid epidemic as we assisted in the buildout of their new library to support individuals and families as they enter into addiction recovery. Additionally, with the support of S&T Bank employees, we served to further enhance and repair the Animal Protectors of Allegheny Valley and provided much needed shaded areas for the pups. Our partnership efforts will continue into the fall and winter months and look to further impact residents of the Allegheny Valley.

Fundraising Gala

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we, unfortunately, were unable to host our annual fundraising gala. But this year, we are excited to announce that our annual fundraising gala will be hosted at Narcisi Winery and support our local veteran population and our veteran housing village hosted in New Kensington. "Stars, Stripes, & Sips" will be our first gala to reflect our gratitude for those who have served from our region to coincide with a celebration of our upcoming veteran village that was part of a \$3 million RCAP award.

The gala will feature heavy hors d'oeuvre, live entertainment, games, raffles, along with a reflection of those that served and spotlight on what is ahead for our veteran community right here in the Allegheny Valley!

If you are interested in sponsoring the event, more details can be found directly on our website at www.habitatav.org. For those interested in attending the event as a guest, the cost is \$50.00, and access to the reservation portal can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/StarsStripesSips>.



Financial Literacy & Legal Right Workshops

Speaking of partnerships, we were so excited to hold financial literacy and legal rights workshops with Laurel Legal Services, New Kensington Salvation Army, and First National Bank. The workshops were open to the general public and covered topics that included family budgeting, access to public benefits 101, mortgage foreclosure, bankruptcy & credit 101, and landlord and tenant rights. These workshops were all uniquely crafted by legal representatives of Laurel Legal Services and bank representatives of First National Bank, each of whom dedicated their time and talent to serve our region.

Executive Director, John Tamiggi stated, "We were so fortunate to have such talented individuals from very established entities lend their expertise to residents here in the community, and we look forward to continuing these educational efforts into the next calendar year." Our assessments continue to illustrate the need for such workshops and we are excited to announce that a winter session of these workshops will once again be made available to the general public. We will soon be announcing the dates and times of the events along with potential options to access the information remotely.



ReStore Has Got You Covered!

Turning on the news and hearing the latest economic reports can often be deflating. But the good news, is that deals always exist at the ReStore. Our ReStore Manager, Bryan Heyl, and his crew have dedicated an endless amount of time and energy to create awareness of the mission of Habitat for Humanity to local vendors, corporations, and residents by diverting thousands of useful goods from ending up in landfills.

Bryan stated, "My staff and volunteers continually educate our donors and customers of their importance and commitment to our efforts here at the ReStore and how it supports our mission at Habitat for Humanity" It's efforts such as this that have enabled the ReStore to generate its highest annual revenue, all the while remaining committed to affordable pricing even in the midst of high inflationary times.

When is the last time you stopped at the ReStore? Tis' the season! As we enter into the fourth quarter, lots of goodies will be strolling in, including various fall winter seasonal items and Christmas decorations. Check us out today! Also, planning a fall garage clean-out? We accept gently used donations every Tuesday-Saturday 10am to 4pm. Please visit our website at www.habitatav.org for more details.



"God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." 2 Corinthians 9 7:8

Meet our Crew!

Meet Anthony Carilli, Anthony is a ReStore employee who serves his hometown of New Kensington. Anthony began his service to ReStore earlier this year and has embraced the store's efforts to support the mission of Habitat for Humanity. "I love helping and serving people that come into the store, and conversations we strike up as neighbors in this community" states Anthony.

Anthony has also had the chance to come and help serve in construction repair efforts. Recently, over the summer months, Anthony helped repair and restore a front entrance of a home that was broken into by intruders. His efforts helped an elderly women re-secure her



home and provide comfort to her and her family.

Along with his dedication to help and serve,

Anthony enjoys all of the fun and different donations that come into the store. You can often find him and the rest of the crew sorting and organizing through a donation box or treasure or helping carry items to a customer's vehicle. He is grateful each day to connect and interact with members of the community and we love having him as part of our team! Come on in and see Anthony and other friendly staff members and find your treasure today!

Adventures Volunteering at Habitat Builds

Ever wonder what it is like to volunteer at Habitat for Humanity? Oftentimes, in the beginning volunteers hold a bit of nervousness about what a day is like at Habitat. Do I have the right skill sets? Am I the right size or age? What if I don't know how to operate a piece of equipment or complete a task? All common questions says Executive Director, John Tamiggi. "We see it all the time, volunteers that are concerned they might not know this or that, or

think that they are too old or too unfamiliar with new equipment. Yet, they quickly discover how our leads and management team are able to mold, harness, and utilize their skill sets, no matter at what level, to help out their fellow neighbor!

The virtuous statement by Mahatma Gandhi "the best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others" rings more true all these decades later. Time and again we have heard wonderful stories from our volunteers about how they find purpose and meaning in the service they provide to others. We are proud of the fact that through the services of thousands across our region, we have been able to celebrate over 25 years in operation bringing people together to build homes, communities, and hope.

-Interested in volunteering? Here are some common Q&As-

What to Expect, and How to Prepare

What will I be doing?

It all depends! We appreciate your flexibility and openness to all aspects of building; you'll find out about the day's projects once you arrive at site. What we're working on depends on the current phase of house construction, so you could be doing anything from demolition to drywall hanging to landscaping. Your flexibility is the most important thing to bring with you to the work site...remember that all jobs, no matter how "glamorous," are equally crucial to a well-built Habitat house!

What do I need to bring to the construction site?

We provide the equipment. You should wear sturdy, closed toe shoes and clothes that you don't mind getting dirty. We provide all tools and safety equipment (hardhats, safety glasses, earplugs and dust-masks).

What do I bring for lunch?

To show our appreciation, we got you covered for lunch, including vegetarians!

Are the construction sites safe?

We provide an in-depth safety talk at the beginning of your volunteer day. Our construction leads our OSHA 510 certified and we make sure you have all the training and supervision you need to complete the day's project safely. All safety gear is provided on site, and if you're ever uncomfortable with a task we'll find something else for you to work on.

Find more details and how to volunteer at www.habitatav.org



Chris's Construction Corner

Construction Manager Chris Andring provides some insightful homeownership tips for this fall maintenance.

Examine roof shingles to see if any were lost or damaged during winter.

Weatherize windows and doors.

- Have a professional inspect your furnace unit
- Inspect and seal concrete cracks.
- Remove firewood stored near the home. Firewood should be stored at least 18 inches off the ground at least 2 feet from the structure.
- Securely cover and tarp all outdoor furniture and appliances

Homeowner's Financial Literacy

Stay tuned for our upcoming homeowner financial literacy tips by Habitat for Humanity Board President Rich Kulbacki

Tip of the day:

"The most important factor of your FICO credit score is your payment history. Though FICO keeps its precise scoring formula a closely guarded secret, CreditCards.com has reported via FICO that about 35% of your score is derived from your payment history. If you have a number of late payments and/or collections, your credit score will be significantly lowered."



Interested in volunteering?

Come volunteer with us! 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!



Community Partners

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

RODDEN ELECTRIC
WINDOW NATION
LOWES HOME IMPROVEMENT
B&T TRUCKING
MOLYNEAUX
LEEDS POLYCONCEPTS
DOUNUT CONNECTION NEW KENSINGTON
LITTLE CEASERS NEW KENSINGTON
STAPLES NEW KENSINGTON
THERMO TWIN WINDOW COMPANY
BUSY BEAVER
AEROTECH
FIRST ENERGY CORPORATION
LONGWOOD OF OAKMONT

"We hope our efforts will raise not only walls but awareness of the power we each have to create significant and substantive change."

President
Jimmy Carter



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