

the sawdust

SPRING 2024



Letter from the Director



Dear Friends,

I hope you're enjoying a beautiful spring season by the time you're reading this letter. Spring is always an exciting time of year for Habitat because we start our new projects – two new homes and a rehab this year!

Every Habitat for Humanity of Beaver County home is built through partnerships: we partner with families earning sweat equity, with donors helping to fund our affiliate's programs, with

community partners supporting our mission, and especially with volunteers taking time out of their lives to give back. And through these partnerships, we continue to find ways to expand our impact in Beaver County.

Our most important partnership, however, is with you. The support of donors and volunteers every year is critical to our building efforts and to keeping our homes affordable. In 2023, your partnership helped Habitat Beaver County complete our 60th home! This milestone event was celebrated with a home dedication in October, and our new homeowners, Andy, Jen and their family, were able to spend their first Thanksgiving and Christmas in their forever home. It could not have been done without you, the dedicated Habitat community who helps to make families' dreams of homeownership a reality.

Your support touches so many families every year, and in 2024, it will help us to complete home number 61, start construction on homes 62 and 63, and help us further our mission by expanding our presence in the community with our ReStore. Habitat Beaver County's work is only as strong as the partnerships that make it possible; our effectiveness is a result of your support and commitment. You may have financial resources you can contribute to help build and finance these homes, or you may want to join our essential volunteer corps by building homes or serving in our Restore. Your heartfelt participation is meaningful, not only to us, but to the many families shut-out of decent affordable housing in Beaver County.

It is within our grasp to remedy this critical need together as a community with good spirit and commitment. Please visit our website <u>www.BeaverCountyHabitat.org</u> or contact our office at (724) 846-1630 ext. 11 with questions or for information on how to get involved with our mission.

We are thankful for every partnership, and we look forward to another Spring with you and with the new families, volunteers, donors, and communities we work with throughout Beaver County.

Sincerely,
Denis L. Sutter
Executive Director

Spring: a lovely reminder of how beautiful change can truly be.

~ Unknown



Habitat for Humanity of Beaver County is pledged to the letter and spirit of the US policy for the achievement of equal housing opportunity throughout the nation. We encourage and support an affirmative advertising and marketing program in which there are no barriers to obtaining housing because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, family status, age, or national origin.

Habitat for Humanity of Beaver County is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization, contributions to which are tax deductible to the fullest extent permitted by law. The official registration and financial information of Habitat for Humanity of Beaver County may be obtained from the PA Dept. of State by calling toll-free within PA.1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. EIN No. 25-1694774 | United Way #9197

page 2 sawdust

ReStore Update

Spring into Savings at the Habitat Beaver County ReStore

Looking to spruce up your living space without breaking the bank? Look no further than the Habitat Beaver County ReStore! Open to the public for shopping and for donating gently used home goods, the ReStore offers a treasure trove of furniture, home goods, appliances, and more at fantastic prices.

And here's some exciting news to kickstart your spring: mark your calendars for April 13th because Habitat Beaver County ReStore is hosting a huge sale – everything will be 25% off! It's the perfect opportunity to snag some new stuff for your home.

But that's not all! As the warmer months approach, stay tuned for a lineup of summer sales events. Whether you're looking to upgrade your outdoor living space or revamp your interior decor, the ReStore has you covered with incredible deals you won't want to miss.

So come visit us at the Habitat Beaver County ReStore and discover how you can save big while supporting a worthy cause.

With every purchase, you're not just enhancing your home – you're also helping to build a better community.

And for up-to-date information on new items and sales, follow our ReStore Facebook page: Facebook.com/ReStoreBeaverCounty



2 Ways You Can Help Build a Habitat Home



- Donate your gently-used furniture, appliances, and other home goods.
- Make a purchase! It will help a family build a safe, affordable home.



spring 2024 page 3

Homeownership the Habitat Way



The Steps to a Habitat Home

Owning a home is a dream that many families share, but for those who partner with Habitat for Humanity, that dream becomes a tangible reality. The process, from the initial application to closing day, is a journey filled with hope, hard work, and the unwavering support of a community. Let's take a look at the steps involved in becoming a Habitat homeowner and turning the key to a brand-new chapter in life.

Step 1: The Application

The journey begins with a simple yet powerful act – filling out an application. Families interested in partnering with Habitat Beaver County submit applications that highlight their need for improved and affordable housing, their ability to repay a no-interest mortgage, and their willingness to partner in the construction process and in other Habitat programs. Applying for the program and taking the leap into homeownership begins with the desire for a safe, stable home and the determination to make that happen.

Step 2: The Selection Process

Once a complete application is submitted, Habitat Beaver County carefully reviews the applications and assesses each family's eligibility. It's an involved process that considers factors like income, current living conditions in order to determine the need for improved housing, and the family's commitment to investing "sweat equity" – a term used for the hours of labor they will contribute to building their home. The selection process is both meticulous and fair, ensuring that those applicants who need it the most are given the opportunity.



Step 3: Sweat Equity

Once selected, families begin working on their sweat equity – the heart of the Habitat program. This is more than just a requirement; it's a shared experience that connects families, volunteers, and the community together.

page 4 sawdust

Working side by side with Habitat staff and volunteers, families contribute their time and effort to the construction of their future home, to volunteering in the ReStore, and to participating in other Habitat Beaver County programs. It's a hands-on process that fosters a sense of partnership, pride, and ownership long before the keys are handed over.









Step 4: Homeownership Education

Owning a home comes with many responsibilities, and Habitat Beaver County ensures that families are well-prepared before they get the keys to their new house. Through homeownership education courses facilitated by Habitat volunteers and staff, families in the program learn about and practice budgeting, essential home maintenance, and the nuts and bolts of being responsible homeowners. This knowledge empowers them to be successful and thrive in their new life as homeowners.

Step 5: Dedication and Closing Day



The culmination of this multifaceted journey is the home dedication and closing day, momentous occasions filled with smiles, tears, and an overwhelming sense of accomplishment. At the dedication, Habitat staff, volunteers, and the family come together to celebrate the work that went into building the home and what it represents. On closing day, families sign their mortgage documents and receive the keys to their new home, officially becoming homeowners.

Ultimately, owning a Habitat for Humanity home is not just about having a roof over one's head; it's about building strength, self-reliance, and a foundation for a brighter future. The process requires time,

dedication, and hard work. But the program is a testament to the power of community and the belief that everyone deserves a place to call home. Habitat for Humanity of Beaver County builds houses with people in our community, and together, we build dreams and transforms lives, one home at a time.

Habitat Beaver County is currently accepting applications for three new homes to be built in New Brighton, Monaca, and Patterson Township. If you know someone who is ready to own a home and may be a good fit for our program, please tell them about us. More information and a downloadable application is available on our website: BeaverCountyHabitat.org/own-a-home.



spring 2024 page 5

Thank you to our loyal donors!

Donations listed are from November 1, 2023 - January 31, 2024

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Bill Braslawsce
Thomas Braund
John Brucker & Lori Ann Wolff-Brucker

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Keith & Deborah Rust in memory of Kenneth Rust

Donald Sutter in memory of Leroy Swink

Lucinda Bush in honor of Tom Santry's birthday
Jane Elliott in honor of the Crishi Family

page 6 sawdust

your support

helps a family build strength & stability through decent & affordable homeownership

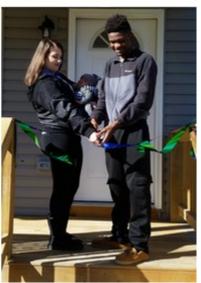
Donate today and change someone's life for the better











<u>Credit / Debit Card</u> <u>Donation</u>

If you would like to make your donation with a credit / debit card, please visit www.BeaverCountyHabitat.org & click the "DONATE" button.

Donate

DID YOU KNOW?

\$25 - 5 lb box of nails \$100 - 1 new window

\$125 – 1 interior door

\$350 – 1 exterior door

\$600 – 1 new appliance

☑ everyone deserves a safe place to call home

Name _____Address _____
City, State, Zip ______Phone _____

This gift is in Honor Of or Memory Of: _

☐ Check this box if you would like us to send an acknowledgement of your donation

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☐ Check this box to have your entire donation remain in Beaver County.

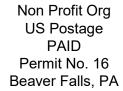
Unless otherwise specified, 10% of your donation is sent to Habitat for Humanity International for global construction. By checking the box above, your funds stay local.

☐ Please forward 10% of my contribution to Habitat for Humanity International for global construction.

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spring 2024 page 7





ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Habitat for Humanity of Beaver County

47 Bridge Street, Beaver Falls, PA 15010

Office Phone: 724-846-1630 ReStore: 724-843-7939 Fax: 724-847-2963

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Thanks to our Sponsors





