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New Year Brings Change of Leadership to Blue Water Habitat

Port Huron, MI—The new year brings exciting changes to Blue Water Habitat for Humanity.

We are thrilled to announce our new Executive Director, Ernest Werth. Ernest has been with Blue Water Habitat for over 5 years as the Fund Development and ReStore director. He has been integral in making the affiliate a sustainable organization through his work in growing the ReStore, creating successful fundraising programs and initiatives, and by developing extensive relationships in the community.

A lifelong Blue Water area resident, Ernest has been serving on boards and volunteering in the community for 25 years and is currently on the board of directors for the Port Huron Hospital Foundation and Blue Water Chamber of Commerce. With these connections and experience, he will bring a fresh direction to Blue Water Habitat while continuing to grow and promote the legacy of successful programs we currently have in place.

After 7 years, Barbara Ernsberger will be retiring from the Executive Director position. She has been with Habitat since 2001 and leaves behind a legacy of initiating new programs and building the affiliate to a sustainable organization that has become an integral part of the Blue Water Community.

Some of the programs she has brought to the affiliate over the years include: A Brush With Kindness, Critical Home Repair, Neighborhood Revitalization, Veterans Repair Corps, and the Homeschooling program for educating future homeowners on financial planning and homeownership fundamentals. Barbara has been a leader both in the community and in the greater Habitat organization. To ensure a smooth transition, she will maintain an advisory role, and will always be an advocate for Blue Water Habitat and its mission.

Ernest has already begun working with staff and board members to begin new initiative planning and has plans to expand community presence, increase program impact, and further develop engagement with both the housing programs and the ReStore.

Blue Water Habitat will be announcing more exciting initiatives in the coming months as we prepare for the spring building season.

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