Habitat Happenings

Where Would You Rather Live?



Chris is a single parent raising two children—Amanda, 8, and Daniel, 12. Chris has been working as a medical billing specialist for more than five years with the same employer.

Chris's children attend public schools, play on local sports teams and as a family, they attend a local church.

Chris enjoys crafting which supplements the household income.

Chris goes to work every day...just like you. Chris is paying bills...just like you. Chris is raising children...just like you. Chris is living in substandard housing...

Chris recently applied for homeownership through Habitat for Humanity. Affordable mortgages on energy efficient homes provide families with a foundation to achieve financial stability and security for their families while stabilizing neighborhoods in our communities. Join us today...

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Successful Projects in 2017

The Cotter and the Smith families celebrated their partnership with us with the purchase of their homes in Port Huron and in Algonac.

The Smith family home was a partnership with MEA (Michigan Education Association) and Algonac Education Association. The pilot program, which was started in St. Clair County with our Yale build, continues to grow and has been adopted by the following affiliates in the state of Michigan: HFH Grand Traverse Region, Genesee County HFH and HFH of Northeast Michigan

We participated in an Owens Corning Roof Deployment Project in the Fall 2017. This was completed by Martino Enterprises, who donated all their labor to help a local veteran with a roof replacement on her home.

Blue Water Habitat

- BWHFH serves St. Clair and Sanilac Counties.
- Formed in 1990, BWHFH has helped 165 families build or improve a place to call home.
- Each housing project required roughly 2,000 volunteer hours from start to finish to complete.
- Families purchase their homes after contributing more than 300 (500 for two adult families) hours of sweat equity with BWHFH.
 - Affordable mortgages and energy efficiency make homes affordable for our low-income neighbors.



The Habitat experience reaches far beyond the stability it creates for homeowners. The volunteer force building and repairing homes brings community members together for a common goal; neighborhoods see an increase in stability with homeownership; and communities benefit from the increase in the tax base.

Answering A Call

Blue Water Habitat for Humanity is currently working on build plans and volunteer opportunities for 2018. To learn more about how you, your business or organization can get involved with projects, contact us today at 810-985-9080.

March-May: Home Rehabilitation on Moak Street, Port Huron

March– November: Partnership with Mid-City Nutrition on the renovation of new location on Griswold Street, Port Huron

July– September: New Home Construction on Howard Street, Port Huron

In addition to working on construction projects, volunteers and volunteer groups are invited to participate in hospitality projects, fundraising events and on committees. Additionally, the Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Port Huron utilizes volunteers in a number of ways. To see a list of volunteer opportunities visit: www.bwhabitat.org

More than Houses

People in our community and all over the world partner with Habitat for Humanity to build or improve a place they can call home. Habitat homeowners help build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage. With our help, Habitat homeowners achieve the strength, stability and independence they need to build a better life for themselves and their families.

While homeownership was the initial focus of Habitat for Humanity, over the years it has developed programs to help existing homeowners with repairs to maintain their homes. Families working in partnership with Habitat for Humanity live within the 25-60 percent median income range for St. Clair and Sanilac Counties. The affordable mortgage, matched with the use of volunteer labor, makes owning a home achievable for those who are unable to qualify for traditional home financing.

<u>Community</u> <u>Partnerships</u>

<u>Mid-City Nutrition:</u> BWHFH is the project manager for the renovation at the new Mid-City location on Griswold.

This partnership is allowing Mid-City Nutrition to access various resources and knowledge from another non-profit organization. This partnership benefits both organizations.

Michigan Education Association (MEA)- Our pilot program in Yale began in June 2015, and continued to develop with our project in Algonac in June 2017. This pilot program has been adopted by three affiliates in Michigan: HFH of Northeast Michigan, Genesee County HFH and HFH of Grand Traverse Region.

<u>City of Port Huron</u>- We partner in many projects with the City of Port Huron. However, this unique partnership with Parks and Recreation established an opportunity for Blue Water Habitat to become the developer and the builder for the *Little Sprout City* that will be located in Palmer Park.





Meet Edward

Blue Water Habitat for Humanity is pleased to introduce you to one of our future homeowners, Edward. Edward was born in St. Louis, Missouri, and his family relocated to Detroit when he was seven. After, some travel and his tour with the U.S. Navy, he moved back to Michigan. When his path directed him to Port Huron, he took part in the *Massive Impact* program. While in this program, Edward realized the significance of the caring people in this community. He has mentioned he was in "culture shock" as there were no security bars on the house windows or doors.

He is an avid chess player and gardener. He gives unselfishly of his time at the Great Commission Church in Port Huron.

When asked what was the one thing about owning a home that was most important to him, Edward's response was "I get to be a participant in the American dream of homeownership!"



Across St. Clair and Sanilac Counties

Families served through homeownership opportunities: Algonac: 6 Capac: 1 Clay Township: 2 Kimball Township: 1 Marine City: 8 Port Huron: 65 Port Huron Township: 3 St. Clair: 4 Yale: 2 Carsonville: 2 Croswell: 1 Deckerville: 3 Melvin: 1 Port Sanilac: 11 Sandusky: 1

Families served through home repair opportunities: Avoca: 1 China Township: 1 Clyde Township: 3 Cottrellville Township: 1 Fort Gratiot Township: 4 Kimball Township: 3 Marysville: 3 Port Huron: 43 St. Clair: 1 Croswell: 1 Lexington: 2

