

# Habitat Happenings

## DID YOU KNOW?

A couple of “Did you know?” questions. Did you know that Habitat for Humanity can and will serve a family more than once on new projects? The answer of course is Yes! A prime example of this incredible fact is the Clark Family. The Clark Family has been served by Blue Water Habitat for Humanity on multiple projects over the past 8 years. The first two were A Brush with Kindness- ABWK (exterior work) and a Critical Home Repair- CHR (interior work). We are pleased to be partnering with the Clark Family again for another CHR project, for a bathroom renovation.

Did you know we serve veterans in both Sanilac and St. Clair Counties? The answer again is Yes! Blue Water Habitat for Humanity serves veterans through home ownership and home repairs programs. We have served many veterans in the past and we are currently serving Lee Tallman with a CHR project for a bath renovation. Please keep in mind each family we serve commits to “sweat equity” hours and a portion of repayment, along with matching donor and grant dollars. We are of course a hand up, not a hand out organization. We encourage you to support our efforts and also to be an advocate.

### In addition to building new homes, Habitat also...



Repairs and renovates existing housing



Leads holistic neighborhood revitalization efforts



Advocates for fair and just housing policies



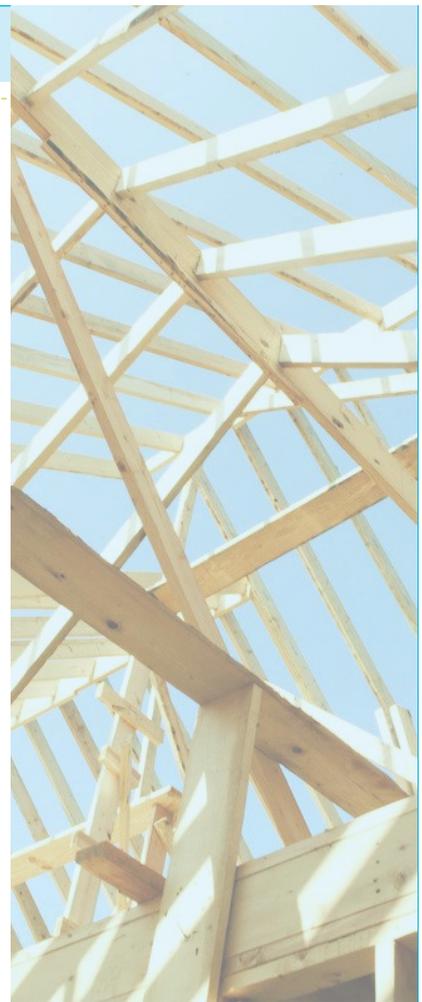
Helps communities clean up and rebuild after natural disasters



Accepts and re-sells donated household materials through our ReStores



Provides microloans for home improvement in many international locations



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## Blue Water Habitat for Humanity

- BWHFH serves St. Clair and Sanilac Counties.
- Formed in 1990, BWHFH has helped 171 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.

## Myth and Fact Section

**Myth:** You have to be Christian to become a Habitat homeowner or volunteer with Habitat.

**Fact:** Habitat for Humanity is a Christian organization. However, homeowners are chosen without regard to race, religion or ethnic group. Habitat also welcomes volunteers from all faiths, or no faith, who actively embrace Habitat's goal of eliminating poverty housing.

## HELLO FROM HOWARD STREET!

We have had a very busy Fall, thank you to the invaluable donors that made this project possible, to all our incredible regular volunteers and to the numerous groups that came out to help with this project! Our first family for Howard Street is mortgaging this January. The house is beautiful and the landscaping will be completed in the spring. Our second project on Howard Street, the home slated for the Galarza Family, broke ground in November and is underway. We will continue to work throughout the Winter and finish the landscaping at the same time that we complete the landscaping for the Wagar Family.



**TEASER ALERT!** The new construction and activity in this area has rejuvenated interest and inspired others to become involved— so much so, that there is a late Spring activity being planned in partnership with Blue Water Habitat for Humanity and the Blue Water Chamber of Commerce, along with numerous other non-profits in the area. Stay tuned for our announcement in the Spring Newsletter.



*Thank you to the invaluable donors that made this project possible, to all our incredible regular volunteers and to the numerous groups that came out to help with this project.*

## ANSWERING A CALL

Blue Water Habitat for Humanity is currently working on build plans and volunteer opportunities for 2019. How can you, your business or organization get involved with projects? Contact us today at 810-985-9080.

January– March: 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. The Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Port Huron utilizes volunteers in a number of ways. Call 810-364-6919 to volunteer at the ReStore!

To see a list of volunteer opportunities visit: [www.bwhabitat.org](http://www.bwhabitat.org)

## MEET THE BWHFH STAFF

We are more than a staff, more than employees and even more than a team— we, like the population we serve, are a family. We may not always agree on everything, but we work together for the good of our family and the families we serve in our community.

### The Staff of Blue Water Habitat for Humanity....here to serve

#### “What makes you a great addition to the Staff of BWHFH?”

“My advocacy and relationship building skills along with 33 years in the nonprofit world make me a catalyst for change.” ECW-Toward

“An advocate for social justice and a part of BWHFH for over 25years...my ability to give housing and hope to those who otherwise would have continued to propagate generational poverty.” D. Miles

“My compassionate and organized enthusiasm, mixed with the experience of over two decades in the non-profit world helps create a collegial, uplifting atmosphere among my peers, the volunteers and families.” R. Yokom

“Through my relatability, empathy and outgoing nature I am able to help serve our families and facilitate our mission within the community.” K. Geib

“With the over 12 years experience with this affiliate, and a rich history of world culture, I compliment the nonprofit and habitat community with a voice of intelligence, reason and compassion.” C. Watters

If you haven’t met us directly, we invite you to meet the staff in person. Stop by our Administrative offices located in our ReStore at 3524 Pine Grove Avenue in Port Huron and say hello. Oh ....we encourage you to explore the store while you are there, drop off donations or do a little shopping. Hope to see you soon!



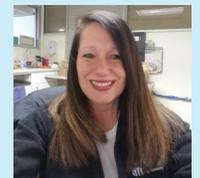
Ernest C. Werth-Toward  
Executive Director

Dave Miles  
Operations Director



Christine Watters  
Office Manager

Michelle Chrivia  
ReStore Director



Robin Yokom  
Family Services Director

Scott Sava  
Construction Supervisor



Michelle Kantz  
Volunteer Coordinator

Kara Geib  
Outreach Administrative  
Coordinator



Jon Browning  
ReStore Coordinator

Cindy Belleau  
ReStore Sales Associate



Debbie Axelrod  
ReStore Sales Associate



Mary Johnson  
ReStore Sales Associate



Rob Neuman  
ReStore Truck Driver



Charlene Burgett  
ReStore Sales Associate



David Shamaly  
ReStore Sales Associate



Lee Tallman  
ReStore Sales Associate



Mary Williamson  
Restore Sales Associate



Habitat for Humanity®  
**ReStore**®

Donate. Shop. Volunteer.

3524 Pine Grove Ave.

Port Huron, MI 48060

810-364-6919

Monday-Saturday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



A new year and a new you. Does your house need a change as well?  
 Come in and check out all the possibilities at the **ReStore**.

## UPDATE US

It's that time of year again and we would like to ensure we have your updated contact information. Please fill out the information below and return to us. You also have the opportunity to receive our regular circulations via e-mail in lieu of a hard copy; please indicate below.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please update me via e-mail in the future

Donations graciously accepted Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_