



Habitat Happenings

Partnerships Empower Change

Blue Water Habitat for Humanity has become a recognized leader in our community. That leadership has helped to inspire and nurture many partnerships, including: The Blue Water Area Chamber Rock the Block partnership, the Mid-City Nutrition New Building partnership, the City of Port Huron Little Sprouts Park Project partnership and others over the past several years. The most recent is The Sanborn Gratiot Memorial Home Ramp Project. This project enabled the two non-profits to work together to establish a new safe, accessible and affordable ramp for the Sanborn's residents.

Bill Johnson, the Home Manager for the Sanborn Home, had this to say about the project "It was a pleasure to put this plan into action. The Sanborn Gratiot Memorial Home and the wonderful volunteers at Blue Water Habitat for Humanity were able to come together and collaborate a safe and secure ramp that will be enjoyed for generations to come. The Sanborn Gratiot Memorial Home is so very grateful for this support and kindness. Blue Water Habitat for Humanity are ordinary people with extraordinary hearts . The gift of your time is priceless."

Habitat for Humanity volunteers are essential to our program including community partnership projects.

Kathy Swantek, the Executive Director of Blue Water Developmental Housing, shared her thought on the partnership between the two organizations and the impact in the community, "Partnerships and collaboration are critical to the ongoing well-being of our local nonprofit organizations and the services we provide. By partnering we come together and share our gifts and when we assist each other in this way we are strengthening our community. Blue Water Habitat for Humanity has a long history of coming along side other organizations and blessing us with your expertise. The well constructed ramp at Sanborn Home will insure that seniors can safely enter and exit the facility for years to come. It is so wonderful that we support each other this way.

A million thank yous!



Inside this issue

Rock the Block	2
513 14th Street	2
Cost of Home	3
BWHFH	3
ReStore	4

New Year- New News



We will be participating in the Spartan Nash Scan fund raising event, featuring our incredible partner, the Marine City, Vg's Grocery on February 10th-21st. Please shop at this store and make a donation. 100% of all donations go directly to Blue Water Habitat for Humanity.



Please watch the virtual informational video for the Rock the Block 2021 event, coming in February to Facebook. The event will be a fun informational program, featuring guests from, The Blue Water Area Chamber, The City of Port Huron, local sponsors, homeowners and volunteers. Join us through The Chamber on the Go sponsored by Grant Smith Health Insurance Agency and GBS Media.

It's the New Year!
Welcome 2021!
Let's celebrate as we look forward to completing the work at our 513 14th Street build, and doing a spring dedication.



Legacy: The Gift that Goes Far Beyond

Though most of us do not want to think of what it will be like when we are no longer here, doing just that, can change your present life and others lives, for many years to come. A decision to meet with your financial advisor or Ernest (BWHFH), can start a simple process that will allow you to decide on various ways to give, including: Designated percentage of estate, Insurance policy beneficiaries, Real estate/Property donations and Memorial contributions. This conversation allows you the opportunity, to continue to fund our mission, while you can see the changes it provides and the peace of mind knowing that even when you can't tangibly see them anymore, you are still making the important impact just like you do today.

Planning a legacy gift is a tremendous act of compassion. We recognize that any size gift can solidify the future endeavors of our organization and we wish to handle this great act of kindness and generosity, with the utmost integrity and sincerity. On behalf of Blue Water Habitat for Humanity and it's Board of Directors, I encourage you to call me to consider discussing your opportunities for providing a Legacy Gift to change your life today and others lives tomorrow.

Rev. Ernest C. Werth -Toward



Cost of Home Advocacy Campaign: Developing Communities of Opportunity

Many cities are struggling to rebound after decades of disinvestment. Crumbling infrastructure, health hazards, abandoned homes and unsafe streets stifle residents' potential and inhibit new development. Years of public and private investment decisions have also left many communities disconnected from jobs, green space, good schools and essential goods and services.

Local and state advocacy is steering new public resources to distressed communities. Advocacy is also advancing policies that help neighborhood residents stay and benefit as overall conditions improve. Along the way, advocacy efforts are empowering local residents to be leaders in these efforts rather than bystanders to ensure that neighborhood revitalization is both equitable and sustainable.

Example Neighborhood revitalization Policies

Habitat and other advocates are pursuing equitable and sustainable neighborhood revitalization in various ways, including:

- Expanding resources for home repair, home modification and weatherization assistance
- Funding lead and asbestos remediation
- Establishing property tax “circuit breakers” to ensure lower-income homeowners are not displaced by rising property values. These policies provide refunds to property owners when property taxes exceed a certain percentage of income.
- Preventing evictions with the help of affordable legal assistance and “just-cause” eviction laws.
- Building the advocacy capacity of local neighbors to take control of their own communities' redevelopment.
- Requiring that a portion of tax increment financing be used to support local affordable housing.
- Creating land banks that facilitate redevelopment of abandoned properties with affordable housing.

Help Habitat make the #CostOfHome something we all can afford.

Blue Water Habitat for Humanity

- BWHFH serves St. Clair and Sanilac Counties.
- Formed in 1990, BWHFH has helped 207 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.



Our reclaimed wood products are regularly being updated, be sure to stop in to find what you need. Featuring Tervol's Wood Products and Raven Farm Recycled Woodworks.

We are continuing to stay up to date on safety guidelines and following COVID-19 protocols. Please remember to keep social distancing, wash your hands frequently and wear a face mask/cover.

We have returned to curbside pick ups. What does this mean? We will schedule a pick up of donated items from your porch, garage or front yard.



WE ALWAYS ACCEPT DONATIONS!
Call 810.364.6919 FOR PICKUP!
 3524 Pine Grove Ave. Port Huron
 Mon-Sat 9am-5pm



Donate. Shop. Volunteer.

Please accept the enclosed gift of: _____
Checks may be made payable to BWHFH



I wish to remain anonymous

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Please bill my credit card (circle one)
 Visa MasterCard Discover American Express

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Cardholder Signature: _____ CCV: _____

Gifts can be mailed to:
 BWHFH
 PO Box 610367
 Port Huron, MI 48061-0367