Habitat Happenings

spring 2022

on the cover:
Kassy and her family celebrate the dedication of their new home on Hulda Ave.

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Longtime volunteer creates lasting legacy
Dear Habitat Community,

This is a year of excitement and transition at Cleveland Habitat.

First and foremost, we are celebrating our 35th anniversary. Since the beginning, we have been blessed to be surrounded by people willing to share their time, talents and resources to further our mission. If you have been involved with us in the last 35 years, thank you. None of this would be possible without our dedicated volunteer base, engaged staff and committed board members.

We have several achievements to hang our hat on — just look at the next page to learn more about our highlights from last year alone — but we have a few to call out from a national level, including:

- We are in the top 25 affiliates for house production
- Of the 435 affiliates with two ReStore locations, we rank 13th

We are projecting another record-breaking year. By the end of 2022, we will be approaching our 350th Habitat house!

There will also be some big changes happening as a new president/CEO will take the helm by the end of the year.

The search is well underway and we’re aiming to announce the new president/CEO by September.

We’ve received several outstanding candidates, which speaks volumes about the strength and stability of our affiliate as a nonprofit leader in the region. We look forward to sharing updates as soon as they are available.

There are great things ahead for us in 2022 and beyond. Here’s to the next 35 years!

John Habat
President/CEO

Michael Owendoff
Board Chair

Since our founding, we’ve helped more than 325 families realize their dreams of homeownership while also helping to revitalize Cleveland communities. Together, we can do even more in the next 35 years.
clevelandhabitat.org/donate
This is an exciting year for the Cleveland Habitat community because 2022 marks our 35th anniversary!

We’ve had a lot of successes since our founding in 1987, with last year being the best yet. We broke three major records, including:

- Most houses completed in a single year (26)
- Most Habitat homeowners moving into their homes in a single month (9)
- Most sales at Cleveland Habitat’s ReStores ($2.7M)

We are now entering the final phase of our Buckeye-Woodhill initiative. By 2024, Cleveland Habitat will have completed more than 100 houses, assisted hundreds of residents with minor exterior repairs and made a financial investment of approximately $13 million in the neighborhood.

This is surely something to celebrate. It’s also important to note our work creates housing stability and wealth creation for historically underserved populations. In fact, more than $2 million in equity has already been realized for an average of $37,000 per Habitat family in Buckeye-Woodhill.

This wouldn’t have been possible without our volunteers and generous sponsors and community partners such as the Cuyahoga Land Bank and City of Cleveland.

Now we have our sights set on finding our next 100-home neighborhood.

As we begin this search for a new neighborhood, we will keep several factors in mind, including if Habitat’s work can be a catalyst for neighborhood revitalization, if there is an immediate/projected supply of lots and vacant houses and if the neighborhood has important amenities.

### 2021 by the numbers

- **26** homes completed
- **$2.7M** ReStore sales
- **$601.29** Average monthly mortgage payment
- **$114,800** Average home sale price (new build/rehab)
- **$49,625** Average home sale price (townhome)
- **614** Volunteers
- **44,552** Hours of work

### Revenue and Expenses

- **Program** $6,029,413
- **Fundraising** $381,871
- **Administration** $379,334

### Breakdown of Revenue and Net Assets

- **Philanthropic** $4,138,675
- **ReStore Sales** $2,706,758
- **Home Sales** $2,100,769*
- **Other** $285,441

* represents new mortgages issued in 2021

**Revenue: $9,231,643**  
**Net Assets: $11,562,935**  
**Expenses: $6,790,618**
Habitat Walk/Run/Mosey & 35th Anniversary Celebration
Saturday, July 30

Those who have joined us in the past might notice that there’s something a little different about this year’s event.

To celebrate our 35th anniversary we’re bringing our donut-friendly, family-friendly event to the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo on Saturday, July 30th and hosting a special brunch celebration following the Walk/Run/Mosey.

There will be a 5k race and a 1 mile fun walk, plus games, face painting and of course, donuts! The brunch will be held at the beautiful — and air conditioned — Stillwater Place, located inside the zoo. Join us for one or both events!

Funds raised will be used to build 8 new homes on Shale Ave. in the Buckeye-Woodhill neighborhood.

Learn more and register today at cleHABITATwalk.org.

There’s still time to be a sponsor! Visit cleHABITATwalk.org to learn more.

2022 Faith Build House to start in May

This year’s Faith Build house will be located on Elwell Ave., just a few minutes away from the 2021 Faith Build house on Hulda Ave. We will host a small house blessing in the beginning of May, with work starting shortly after. For more information, contact Michelle Killin-Keith at 216.358.0576.

Thank you to this year’s participating churches!

St. Mark Parish
King’s Church
Lord of Life Lutheran Church
Church of the Gesu
St. Paul’s Episcopal Church
Old Stone Church
St. Mary of the Falls
The Church of the Covenant
Church of St. Dominic
Church of the Western Reserve
St. Mary’s Catholic Church, Berea
Valley Presbyterian Church
Brecksville United Methodist Church
John Knox Presbyterian Church
Plymouth United Church of Christ
The United Methodist Church of Chagrin Falls
First Lutheran Church of Strongsville
Church of the Redeemer United Church of Christ
Strongsville United Methodist Church
St. Joseph Catholic Church of Strongsville
donations wanted
Donate the items you no longer want or need to the ReStore to support Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity’s mission to help Cleveland families purchase safe and affordable homes.

Reasons why you should donate to the ReStore...

It helps the community
Proceeds from every ReStore purchase empower local families through safe and affordable housing.

It helps the environment
Every donation to the ReStore means less usable material being thrown in a landfill.

It’s tax-deductible
While your donation helps support Habitat’s mission, it also helps you by providing a tax deduction to the extent allowed by law.

Schedule your pick-up online at clevelandhabitat.org/pickup or by calling 216.429.3631.

Is it time for your next home project?
Whether you are a do-it-yourselfer, homeowner, renter, landlord, contractor or treasure hunter, make Cleveland Habitat for Humanity ReStore your first stop when shopping for your next home improvement, renovation or DIY project.

home improvement projects start at the Restore

east: 4601 northfield rd. north randall, oh
tue/wed/thu 10am-6pm
west: 2110 w. 110 st. cleveland, oh
fri/sat 10am-4pm
After his wife, Caryl, passed away, Ken Polanka wanted a way to give back and honor her memory. That’s when Cleveland Habitat came to mind.

Ken has been a regular presence on the construction volunteer team since first coming out with his church, Holy Angels, almost a decade ago. In that time, he has seen how the Habitat community comes together to move mountains to help families in need. One of the best examples of that was his work on a Slavic Village house so desperately in need of repairs it was dubbed the House from Hell.

The fact that Habitat was building in Buckeye-Woodhill — the neighborhood where Ken ran his construction business for years — was icing on the cake.

“I thought sponsoring a house would be kind of nice since we grew up in that area,” said Polanka. “I made my money to support my family in that area and I wanted to give back to the community there.”

This sponsorship is a family affair as Ken’s children, Marc and Dina, are also donating to create this house.

“We all miss mom very much and want her loving spirit that she has given to our family to live on with another family,” said Dina during the house blessing last year.

Ken and his family are excited for what new opportunities this house will open for the family, and hopes this becomes a starting point for more good things to come.

“I hope this house becomes a home for them and that this makes life easier for them,” Ken said. “I hope this house will be a step forward for the new family and they can carry on with that progress from there.”

A union-made Habitat house

The Construction Employers Association (CEA) is bringing its members together to give back to the community in a big way. Union contractors belonging to CEA will be sponsoring AND building a brand new house on Grandview Ave.

“We are excited for this unique partnership,” said John Habat, president and CEO of Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity. “They are pushing their boundaries so we can help even more Clevelanders.”

The project is slated to begin April 18th and will be the 14th Habitat house on Grandview.
Thank you!
We’re growing our team!

We have several openings, including positions in the ReStore and AmeriCorps Construction Crew Leadership. Know of someone who might be a good fit? Have them apply today!

clevelandhabitat.org

Mark your calendars

The 2022 Walk/Run/Mosey is set for July 30th! We hope you’ll join us to celebrate 35 years of building homes and empowering families through affordable homeownership.

cleHABITATwalk.org

$5 OFF $25

Valid at ReStore locations in Cleveland, OH and North Randall, OH. Coupon cannot be combined with other offers; photocopies not valid; coupon to be surrendered at time of purchase. Expires 8/31/2022.