

Habitat Happenings

spring 2024



On the cover:
Naomi & her daughter celebrate at their
home dedication ceremony



Greater Cleveland
Habitat
for Humanity®

Inside this issue

2023 by the numbers, 2024
Walk, Faith Build, and more!

Dear Habitat Community,

I had the privilege of participating in Leadership Cleveland's Class of 2020 a few years ago. We have the moniker of "longest class ever" as Covid extended our program, delaying our graduation and other experiences. This extension helped to hammer home an underlying theme for me; whether the stated theme of the day was education, government, economic development or otherwise, so many of Cleveland's challenges tie back to one thing: redlining. This was the historic practice prominent in the 1930's of not allowing (or severely complicating) mortgage lending to minority communities, thereby eliminating their opportunities for upward mobility. In Cleveland, this practice exacerbated generational poverty and inordinately impacted Cleveland's Southeast side. You could overlay maps of incarceration rates, infant mortality, graduation rates, life expectancy, poverty rates and countless other metrics and find that the lowest lows align with where redlining had occurred.

Having been enmeshed in a career of social service work, these realizations left me to ponder where and how we could possibly make a difference individually, as a class and beyond. To be honest, I really doubted my own effectiveness to adequately meet the need. My work with organizations focused on emergency assistance of one kind or another had me feeling like I was, at best, just helping people keep their heads above water. The work was important and necessary, but what was I doing to help fix what might be Cleveland's greatest mistake?

As I applied to become Habitat's next CEO, I acknowledged the opportunity to make meaningful change but didn't yet realize the form that it had already taken. As I was blessed with this opportunity, what I quickly observed was dedicated staff and volunteers across the organization focused squarely on homeownership. I learned that the work was occurring surgically within those very redlined neighborhoods and the work was both growing and starting to show residual benefits. Crime rates dropped, home values increased faster than normal, communities and block clubs were formed or grew, pocket parks and community gardens were installed and millions of dollars in home equity (and counting) was being built.

Building generational wealth in the face of generational poverty and historical racism is the Habitat way. Today, on Cleveland's East Side alone, over \$7 million in home equity has been realized through Habitat housing since our founding. That number grows every month as over 200 current households make their monthly mortgage payments.

I know that people come to Habitat to give, help and work for many different and noble reasons. Whatever may bring someone to do this work, I am thankful for the privilege of being in your presence, especially as we overcome Cleveland's greatest challenges together!

Yours in community,



John Litten
President/CEO

Critical Home Repair Demolishes Neighborhood Eyesore



Greater Cleveland Habitat demolished an old, severely damaged store on Antoinette's property. This store was condemned by the city and an awful eyesore that the community often complained about. New grass has been seeded in its place and a new fence has been installed to fill the gap. Kudos to our Critical Home Repair team!

The Critical Home Repair team has completed 7 repairs so far and is on track to complete a minimum of 50 repairs in 2024.

The tremendous work of our Critical Home Repair team was covered by Fox 8 News and Spectrum News 1.

Habitat News

Powerful Testimony from Habitat Homeowner Audriana



Habitat Homeowner Audriana Rodriguez, delivered a passionate testimony that received the biggest ovation of anyone at the Ohio Senate Select Committee on Housing. We look forward to continuing to partner with the state of Ohio to help make homeownership a reality for so many others!

Scan to watch testimony:



Modular Home Efforts

Greater Cleveland Habitat is building modular homes to combat the housing crisis. We're in predevelopment on 24 modular homes in 4 different Cleveland neighborhoods. This innovation could allow us to provide more homeownership opportunities and do it much quicker than we ever have. We aim to have our first modular homes finished before the end of 2024!

2023

by the numbers

58

Homes worked on

\$2.84m

ReStore sales

\$531

Average monthly mortgage payment
(with taxes and insurance)

\$124,857

Average home sale price
(new build/rehab)

\$62,000

Average home sale price
(townhome)

1,251

Individual volunteers

48,614

Volunteer hours

\$72,716

Cars for Homes revenue





2024 walk. run. mosey.

Where:
Edgewater Park (Lower)
6500 Cleveland Memorial Shoreway

When:
Saturday, July 20, 2024
10:00 am

Celebrate affordable homeownership by joining us to walk, run, or mosey on Saturday, July 20th. We will gather in fellowship and solidarity that everyone deserves a decent place to call home. Together, we can enjoy the lake breeze, have a cup of coffee, eat a donut and go for a stroll.

Event Schedule

- 8:00am — Check-in Opens
- 8:00am — Games, Activities, Refreshments, T-shirt Decorating, Music
- 9:45am — T-shirt Decorating Contest
- 9:55am — President/CEO Welcome
- 10:00am — The Walk steps off

Enjoy games, activities, refreshments and t-shirt decorating all day!

Registration

Registration is free. Raise \$25 or more and receive a shirt. Register as an individual or as a team. We would love to see you and your friends out in force.

5k or 1 Mile Fun Route

This is a non-competitive, non-timed event. It's family-friendly, dog-friendly and donut-friendly.



Register or Sponsor Today!
Visit cleHABITATwalk.org



Thank you to our early bird sponsors!

Block by Block



Home by Home



Step by Step



Robyne & John Habat



Brick by Brick

Nail by Nail



Debby and Jerry Smith

Donate Today



We want your stuff! The Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity ReStores depend on donations of furniture and household items from people like you. If you have gently used items you are looking to get rid of, consider donating today! We will pick up items from your porch, garage or driveway for free!

Schedule pickup:



Save money, save the planet, save families! For every \$1 in sales at a Habitat for Humanity ReStore, roughly 1.3 pounds of reusable material is diverted from a landfill. That means in 2023, nearly 3.7 million pounds were diverted.

Proceeds from every ReStore purchase help Greater Cleveland Habitat build and repair homes.

Shop With Us



Cars for Homes

Have a car you don't need? Don't let it take up space in your yard — donate it to Habitat's Cars for Homes program, where the donations come directly back to helping build and repair homes for local families. Call **1-877-277-4344** to start the process or **Scan the QR code >>**



FAITH BUILD



We are excited to share that our 15th Faith Build home will be located on Crestwood Avenue. This home will be one of six new builds on the street. By the end of 2024, we will have built/rehabbed more than 100 homes in this neighborhood.

All six of the Crestwood homes have been selected by families for a total of 24 (19 kiddos) new stakeholders moving on the block.

The 2024 Faith Build home has been selected by Shernisha and her four children Ne'Asia (17), Ke'Asia (17), Ambrianna (11), and Nyairra (8). The four bed/two bath house will be happily filled!

"I want stability. I want this home to be me and my kids' forever home. All I want is to give my kids everything they deserve." - Shernisha

Thank You...

At the time of this print, 16 faith communities have committed to the 2024 Faith Build. We are blessed! There is still time to join this ministry.

Not only will this collaboration of faith partners help build a home, but there will also be two Spruce-Up Days. These are days when 50+ volunteers come together to help existing residents with minor exterior repairs, landscaping, and debris removal. If your faith community is interested in joining the Faith Build or working with Habitat – we welcome you!

- Lord of Life Lutheran
- Strongsville United Methodist Church
- Church of the Gesu
- St. Mary of the Falls
- John Knox Presbyterian Church
- Saint Joseph Strongsville
- First Lutheran Church of Strongsville
- St. Paul's Episcopal Church
- The Church of the Covenant
- St. Mary Berea Parish
- Church of the Saviour
- St. Mark Catholic Parish, Cleveland
- St. Mel Parish, Cleveland
- Fellowship City Church
- Old Stone Church
- Church of the Redeemer UCC

Interested in joining the 2024 Faith Build or partnering with Habitat?
Contact Philip at pkatsadouros@clevelandhabitat.org or (216) 318-0274.



PLAYHOUSE PROJECT

A playhouse is one of the first opportunities a child has to imagine what having a home of their own means to them. Would you like to sponsor a customized playhouse for a qualified family in the community?

Contact the Volunteer Department at playhouseproject@clevelandhabitat.org for more information.

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Thank you!

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Neighborhood Revitalizer

\$150,000+



**The Lozick
Family Foundation**

Home Builder

\$80,000+

Anonymous **Dave and Cindy Mancini**

**THE
GEORGE
GUND
FOUNDATION**

The Higley Fund

Foundation Builder

\$40,000+

Cars for Homes
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General Motors Corporation
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The Bank of America Charitable Foundation

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\$10,000+

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The Eaton Charitable Fund
The Kelvin & Eleanor Smith Foundation
The Swagelok Foundation
Third Federal Foundation
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William M. Weiss Foundation
Wells Fargo Foundation

Team Builder

\$2,500+

Anonymous (3)
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Armada Poured Walls
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Burr & Forman LLP
Burten, Bell, Carr Development, Inc.
Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
Church of the Gesu
Church of the Western Reserve
CIBC Bank US
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Lakewood United Methodist Church
Arthur Lindrose
Lord of Life Lutheran Church
MarshBerry and Company LLC
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St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Cleveland Heights
State Farm
Strongsville United Methodist Church
The Church of The Covenant
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