

# toolbox

FALL 2022



Greater Newark  
**Habitat**  
for Humanity®  
Serving Essex, Hudson  
& Union Counties



Expungement Gets  
Lives Back on Track  
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Resolving Asbestos  
to Fix a Family's Heat  
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Renovating?  
Shop the ReStore First  
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# How You Can Help

More than bricks and mortar, an investment in Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newark is life changing and pays dividends into the future. Ways you can donate to our mission:



Secure online contributions  
(one-time or recurring) 



Gifts on behalf of a loved one



Match your gift through your  
place of employment



Sponsorships



In-kind donations



Estate Giving



Donate your real estate



Donate your car

Interested in donating? Contact Danielle Sanchez at [dsanchez@habitatnewark.org](mailto:dsanchez@habitatnewark.org) for gifts of real estate, estate giving, sponsorships, one-time or recurring gifts, gifts on behalf of a loved one, employee giving, in-kind donations, or donating your car.



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

# Building Community and Opportunity

**This year, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newark has been busy building not only community, but also opportunity.**

We're proud to be giving people in Essex, Hudson, and Union counties the resources they need to improve their lives. Your support this year meant that we were able to finish our Livingston build—and then jump right into a gut rehab of an Irvington home. Special thanks to Rutgers Department of Orthopaedics at Rutgers Medical School who came out multiple times with enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers. Please see Page 5 for more highlights on their experience.

Affordable housing isn't just about building new homes—it also means helping low- to moderate-income homeowners remain in their homes. Our Critical Repair and Healthy Homes Program to date has served 24 families and our Food Pantry, located at our West and Central Village Community Resource Hub, has served 2,580 families and distributed 31,854 meals.

Without an ID, it's impossible to get a job, an apartment, or enroll in community college. The Identification Restoration program administered through our West & Central Village Community Resource Hub has issued 629 ID's this year.

Meanwhile, our ReStore at 445 Route 46 in Fairfield is becoming a go-to community resource. Thank you to our shoppers and donors for all your donated furniture, kitchen cabinets, appliances, and more. Please see page 7 for highlights from our ReStore Assistant Manager, Eileen.

Thank you all for your ongoing support and dedication to Habitat Greater Newark..

—**Jeffrey J. Farrell**

Chief Executive Officer

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newark, Inc.  
Serving Essex, Hudson, and Union Counties

## cars for homes

**Donate your vehicle to Habitat of Greater Newark's Cars for Homes program and help a family build a home and attain strength, stability, and self-reliance for the future.**

**To donate your vehicle, call or visit:  
877-277-4344 • [habitat.org/carsforhomes](https://habitat.org/carsforhomes)**

Front cover: A volunteer from Morgan Stanley on our build site at 80 Sheridan Street this summer. Back cover: Grand opening of our ReStore at 445 Route 46 West in Fairfield on March 26, 2022.



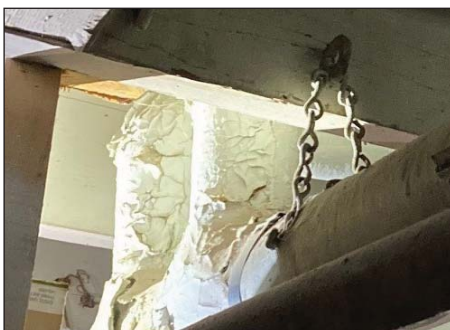
Above: before and after photos of asbestos pipe wrap remediation in Olasunbo's basement.  
Below: crumbling asbestos pipe wrap in Olasunbo's basement before remediation.

#### PARTNER FAMILY SUCCESS STORY:

## West Ward Asbestos Removal

**Partner Family member Mobolaji says that when his family first moved into their home, the basement was "his space." Mobolaji, 24, lives with his mother, Olasunbo, and sisters Ajibola, 23, Temilade, 20, and Tofunmi, 10 in a 4-bedroom home in Newark's West Ward. He and his dog enjoyed both a bedroom and a separate lounging area in the basement.**

Soon, though, the heating system broke down and the basement flooded. Last winter, cold forced the family to temporarily move to a hotel for over a month.



Through Comfort Partners, Habitat of Greater Newark partners with PSE&G to repair and weatherize homes in Essex, Hudson, and Union counties. After the program's initial home assessment, Habitat of Greater Newark fixes problems such as asbestos removal, roof repair, or poor basement drainage. Next, PSE&G boosts homes' energy efficiency through insulating pipes and water heaters, installing energy-efficient lighting, and duct sealing and repair.

Remediation of the asbestos insulation wrapping the home's steam pipes was the first step before any repair work could take place in the basement. Habitat of Greater Newark contractors completed remediation in May 2022. With the asbestos barrier gone, Comfort Partners contractors can begin boiler repair and other weatherization projects.

"PSE&G is proud to participate in New Jersey's Comfort Partners program," said Calvin Ledford Jr., president of the PSEG Foundation. "These energy efficiency measures help members of our community save energy and money while also improving their home's safety and comfort."

Applicants must meet certain guidelines to qualify for the PSE&G Comfort Partners program. For the latest information, or to complete an online application, visit New Jersey Comfort Partners' website or call 1-800-915-8309.



**PSEG**  
*Foundation*

### NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION

## Getting Lives Back on Track

Dealing with bureaucratic paperwork is most people's least favorite chore. Cassandra, the West & Central Community Resource Hub manager and Dan, the Hub's Identification Restoration project coordinator, actually look forward to it! Together, they've been able to get many grateful local residents' lives back on track through restoring their identification and expunging old marijuana offenses.

Having a criminal record can limit a person's ability to obtain a job, rent an apartment, apply to college or limit other educational opportunities.

Marijuana decriminalization laws took effect in New Jersey on July 1, 2021. Now, New Jersey residents with low-level offenses involving marijuana can have those records expunged. Cassandra says that the process takes patience. "Sometimes the online portal doesn't work and we have to submit a paper application. We request a disposition and start the application."

Dan, the Administrative Manager of Franciscan Charities, which runs the program at the Hub, says, "In 2022, a person needs an original birth certificate, a social security card, and a state photo ID to get a job on the books!" During the pandemic, "Police officers were pulling people over and their licenses were expired—but no one could get appointments at the DMV."

Dan resolved this problem with a strategic partnership with the Newark Police Department. Over 40 Identification Restoration program clients received their IDs this summer when the Hub participated in two Mobile DMV events in the parking lot at Newark's 4th Precinct.



## NJBIA/NJBM 2022

# Awards for Excellence

### 17 RECIPIENTS HONORED

*New Jersey Business Magazine* is proud to present the 2022 Awards for Excellence to 4 executives and 13 companies that have improved the quality of life in New Jersey in outstanding ways. Powered by NJBIA, the awards honor select employers from NJBIA's membership for outstanding achievements in the following areas:



### 2022 AFE Executives of the Year

For individuals who demonstrate leadership and passion while achieving business success.

#### **JEFFREY FARRELL**

CEO

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newark



**WHEN JEFFREY FARRELL ASSUMED LEADERSHIP** of Newark Habitat for Humanity in 2011, his goal was to build a broad range of resources and opportunities to be able to enrich the lives of thousands of residents. Under Farrell's leadership and vision, the organization has been renamed the Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newark to reflect its geographic expansion into Essex, Hudson and Union counties.

In 2016, Farrell developed the Critical Repair and Healthy Homes Initiative, focusing Habitat's expertise in identifying and fixing barriers to safe and healthy living conditions. Cobbling together more than \$1 million since the initiative began, Habitat has made repairs such as mold and asbestos remediation, and energy-conserving improvements. Habitat of Greater Newark works to keep low-income families, seniors and veterans in the homes they already own. In addition, more than 100 homes have been built with low-income family partners who otherwise may never realize the dream of homeownership.



Clockwise from top: the Department of Orthopaedics at Rutgers Medical School's build day at our 80 Sheridan Street site, a volunteer takes a break during demolition, and volunteers relandscaping the back yard.

## CORPORATE PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

# Department of Orthopaedics at Rutgers Medical School

**The Department of Orthopaedics at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School is staffed by highly trained clinical and basic science faculty members. The department's faculty use progressive research, educational programs, and state-of-the-art orthopaedic care to help patients suffering from a wide variety of bone and joint conditions.**

The Department of Orthopaedics first volunteered in 2003. In 2022, the group committed to six builds and donated over \$25,000 to Habitat of Greater Newark. "Dr. Fred Behrens was the first chair of the Orthopaedics Department. He cared about the department, cared about patients, cared about everyone. He set up our first build day with Habitat in 2003."

"He passed away in 2005. Seventeen years later, we still talk about him all the time. In his honor, we started the BEHRENS Initiative (Building and Enriching Human Relationships, Encouraging Newark Success!) within the Department of Orthopaedics. This is designed to coordinate the efforts of the department to fulfill the mission and vision of Rutgers New Jersey Medical School. We felt the name for the initiative was fitting, as Dr. Behrens exemplified the values of the medical school in his person.

The focus of the BEHRENS Initiative is faculty and staff development as well as community outreach; humanistic ideals underpin all activities. Our purpose as a department is: To serve so that people can heal, grow, and thrive! When we looked for a project, the natural choice was to do Habitat because it's part of our founding story and fits within our larger mission perfectly."

Mark Adams, M.D., continues, "Beverly Bahamondes and I prepped a room for painting. On another day, Jessica, Rosa, Ziomara, and I were part of teams installing vent fans in the bathrooms. I learned how to spackle, how to sand down a wall, and the funny logistics



of trying to install a vent fan. It gave me an appreciation for the skills involved."

"The larger lesson," he emphasizes, "was that we saw everybody in our group differently after our Habitat build day. We each spent time with other people in the department with whom we ordinarily wouldn't cross paths."

He continues, "Rick and Alphonso have a joy in the way that they engage with their work that you can see. I heard Alphonso singing as he worked. Habitat made all of us look at each other, our department, and the world from a different perspective. It was a really nice way to spend the day. My hope is that volunteering and community outreach becomes woven into the fabric of our department and that we are able to extend it to other departments at the hospital."

Interested in having your company participate in the Corporate Challenge? Contact Vanessa at [vbazydlo@habitatnewark.org](mailto:vbazydlo@habitatnewark.org) or call 973-624-3330 ext. 100 to discuss your company's options.



**RUTGERS**  
New Jersey Medical School  
NORTH JERSEY ORTHOPAEDIC INSTITUTE



## CORPORATE CHALLENGE

# Fall 2022 Kickoff

Our bi-annual Corporate Challenge welcomes companies who help build homes and dreams for hardworking families.

Thank you to our fall sponsors!

Amazon Edison Division • DTCC •  
Anthony Pope Law Firm • Trane •  
AWS Professional Services •  
Bank of America • Conti Civil, LLC •  
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York • Ferring Pharmaceuticals •  
Greystar Real Estate Partners •  
JPMorgan Chase • LoanDepot •  
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M&T Bank Commercial Real Estate  
Group • Prudential Financial, Inc •  
New York Community Bank •  
Panasonic • M&T Bank •  
The Rotary Club of the Caldwell •  
TowerBrook Capital Partners, L.P.

Interested in volunteering? Please  
contact Vanessa Bazydlo, Deputy  
Director of Fund Development &  
Corporate Engagement at 973-  
624-3330 ext. 100 or vbazydlo@  
habitatnewark.org about how your  
employees can get involved!  
Follow us on social media for the latest  
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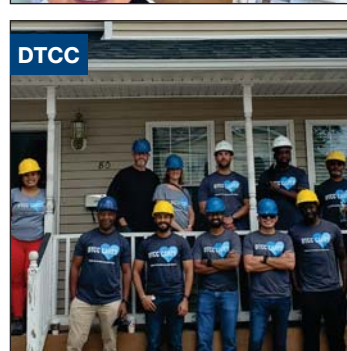
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Greater Newark

**Habitat for Humanity®**

Serving Essex, Hudson & Union Counties

2023 Spring Corporate Challenge Dates:

**April 11 – June 17, 2023**



# Renovating? Shop the ReStore First!

**We're excited to announce that the ReStore at 445 Route 46 West in Fairfield, NJ is now open on Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Even more good news: the ReStore now has its own truck, which means more pickup slots are available!**

Habitat for Humanity's ReStores accept donations and sell gently used, high quality furniture, building supplies, and housewares at a fraction of the retail price, while diverting reusable household items and building materials from area landfills. Sales of donated items at the Fairfield store help Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newark partner with local families to build, rehabilitate and repair safe and affordable homes in Essex, Hudson, and Union counties and around the world—a good deal for you, your community and the environment.



New shipments of tile arrive weekly. The ReStore also sells ReColor paint, premium quality, recycled paints in up-to-the-minute shades perfect for transforming a ReStore furniture find.



## Kitchen and Bath Bargains

Remodelers, Carlos says, will be especially excited by the ReStore's kitchen appliance prices: ranges from \$275, refrigerators from \$250, and dishwashers starting at \$225. The ReStore also stocks sinks, vanities, lighting, and more. New boxes of tile arrive every week.

Assistant manager Eileen emphasizes that the ReStore contains something for everyone. "We have lots of unique, unusual pieces."



ReStore assistant manager Eileen says, "Remodelers donate whole kitchens of high-end cabinets. Customers can buy a whole set for \$450 – or just the cabinets they need starting at \$35 each!"

Eileen says that one customer bought many, many Italian pasta bowls... for his pigeons! Standard pigeon nesting bowls retail for \$33. At \$3 each, the ReStore's pasta bowls kept the birds happy at a fraction of the price.

Frequent shopper Kim says "I started shopping at the ReStore when my dogs were puppies. I put my furniture in the basement and bought furniture that I didn't mind getting chewed. Then I realized that the ReStore has good stuff! I've recommended the ReStore to tons of people."

Shoppers can take advantage of the store's new frequent shopper program and senior and military discounts. The best way to keep up on sales and other events at the ReStore is to "like" and "subscribe" to the ReStore's Facebook and Instagram pages, [@habitatrestore-fairfieldnj](https://www.facebook.com/habitatrestore-fairfieldnj)

## Get Started!

Interested in donating to the ReStore? [Visit the website to get started](https://www.habitatnewark.org/donate). We ask that all merchandise be in excellent condition, be 100% operable and be thoroughly cleaned. Would you or your group like to volunteer at the ReStore? [Email Carlos](mailto:Carlos@habitatnewark.org) or call 973-840-7442. We look forward to seeing you!

# 20% off

**with this coupon**

**No other promotions or sales apply. Valid at the Fairfield, NJ Habitat for Humanity ReStore only through 12/31/2022.**

FALL 2022

# toolbox



At Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newark, we don't just build houses. We build community. This issue of the *Toolbox* showcases our community-building projects: our Neighborhood Revitalization work in Newark's West and Central Village, and our ReStore at 445 Route 46 West in Fairfield, and our Critical Repair program.

Read how your thoughtful donations are transforming the communities around both the ReStore and the West & Central Village Community Resource Hub. How can you get involved? Open up this issue and find out!