

toolbox

FALL 2021



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

**Food Pantry Serves
72,539 Families**
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**Hurricane Ida Damage
Prevented due to Critical
Repair/PSE&G Partnership**
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**Our ReStore in Fairfield
Opens Soon**
[Page 7](#)

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 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

Preparing for a Hard Winter

This winter promises to be a challenging season for many. Meteorologists project a long, cold and snowy winter. Supply chain disruptions mean that goods and services will be hard to find, delayed, and more expensive. Your support will make a difference for many local residents this year.

For elderly homeowner Doretha, repair work with our Critical Repair & Healthy Homes Initiative came just in time. See page 4 for details on how her family avoided damage from Hurricane Ida and their next steps with PSE&G Comfort Partners.

COVID-19 challenged disabled residents of Newark's West & Central Village. Opposite, food pantry clients Cathy and Phyllis talk about how food pantry mobile delivery allowed their families to avoid infection. Now that infection rates are down, we're partnering with University Hospital to bring pop-up health events to the neighborhood—see details opposite.

If COVID-related delays are disrupting your own building or remodeling project, consider stopping in at our soon-to-open ReStore on Route 46 in Fairfield. Habitat for Humanity ReStores sell gently used furniture and appliances at prices far below retail. Read on to learn more, and note that you buy a stove, a couch, or cabinets at our ReStore, you'll be able to take them home that same day!

And, finally, we're pleased to report that our Livingston home at 24 Burnet Street is nearly complete. We are so proud of our Partner Family, our volunteers and our staff for staying on track during the pandemic. Our work wouldn't be possible without donors like Weber Gallagher (see photos from their Corporate Challenge build day later in this issue). We are also very grateful to you, our supporters, for recognizing the special circumstances of this build and stepping in with thoughtful and extremely generous donations of materials and funds.

—Jeffrey J. Farrell

Chief Executive Officer

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newark, Inc.

Above: L-R: Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newark CEO Jeffrey J. Farrell with Partner Family member Donna. Cover: Sika Corporation on-site at 24 Burnet Street for a Corporate Challenge build day.

Food Pantry Distributes Over 72,539 Meals

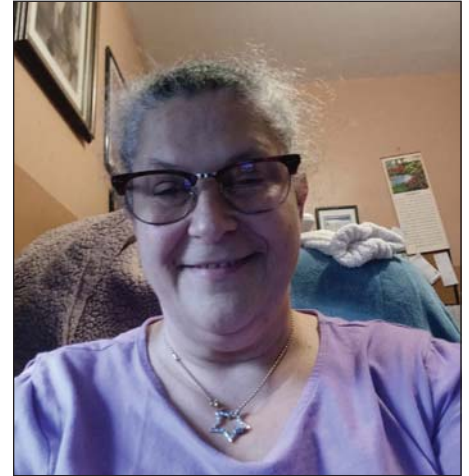
COVID-19's economic effects hit New Jersey hard: unemployment rose to 17% in June 2020. Business leaders estimate that approximately 30% of the state's small businesses closed for good. Unemployment in New Jersey declined to 7.2% as of August 2021—still well above the 5.4% national average.

In April 2020, we opened a food pantry at the West & Central Village Community Resource Hub to provide food assistance for residents of Newark's West & Central Village who were reeling from pandemic-related job losses. As of October 2021, the West and Central Village Community Resource Hub food pantry has distributed over 72,539 meals and connected with 6,199 families.

Central Ward resident Phyllis says that when COVID-19 infection rates in Newark were high, "I stayed in my house. I'm very aware of it being out there. I try to protect myself as much as I can."

"We were very affected by the COVID-19 shutdown," reports Cathy, a disabled food pantry client. "It was kind of hard for my husband to work. My income alone was covering everything." Her family visits multiple food pantries a week. "You kind of get used to living on a budget. I'm grateful for everything we are able to receive."

Today, the food pantry is supporting Newark residents as they get back on track post-pandemic. Corporate donors have helped us continue our work in the West & Central Village, but we still need your help. Donate now and help hungry families weather this crisis.



Disabled food pantry client Cathy has mobility problems. Food delivery from the Hub's food pantry literally brings food into her home and she's very grateful.

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newark and University Hospital Host Pop-up Wellness Clinic at the Hub

On Saturday, September 18, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newark and University Hospital hosted a Pop-up Wellness Clinic. Neighborhood residents were able to



Neighborhood residents enthusiastically signed up for blood pressure checks at the Hub's Pop-up Wellness Clinic.

get routine wellness screenings such as blood glucose, blood pressure, and other screenings for children and adults, along with a free hot meal.

Habitat of Greater Newark and the PSEG Foundation sponsored the event, and ShopRite Newark provided healthy snacks. Participants could

also learn more about physical and financial fitness with partners LA Fitness and Peapack-Gladstone Bank.

Habitat of Greater Newark staffed a table with information about programs ranging from homeownership to lead abatement/remediation to our food pantry. "It was great to get out and connect with the community," commented Habitat of Greater Newark Family Services Coordinator Gabriela Bernal. "Our outreach has a lot more impact when we're speaking about our programs onsite at a Habitat of Greater Newark building."

"We hope to host more of these programs," says Habitat of Greater Newark CEO Jeffrey J. Farrell. "Poverty, substandard housing, and educational inequities mean that residents of the West & Central Village suffer substandard health compared to more affluent areas of New Jersey. Accessible healthcare is a must for the West & Central Village."

Top: Partner Family member Doretha. Second from top: gutter in the front of her home before repair. Third from top: repaired gutter in the front of her home.

Partner Family Success Story:

Repaired Gutters Prevent Hurricane Damage

Partner Family member Kisha reports. “We actually had no damage from Hurricane Ida. My mother, Doretha, is so grateful. If we had not had our gutters repaired prior to that, they would have fallen off!”

After Doretha was diagnosed with kidney disease in 2013, Kisha says, it became increasingly difficult for her to keep up with maintenance and repairs for her four-family home in Newark’s South Ward. “My mother stays in one unit, and we have two people upstairs, including another senior.”

Kisha called PSE&G’s Comfort Partners program in August 2020. 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 roof repair, asbestos removal, or poor basement drainage. Next, PSE&G boosts homes’ energy efficiency through measures such as:

- efficient lighting products
- water heater insulation
- water heater pipe insulation and energy-saving showerheads and aerators;
- replacement of inefficient refrigerators;
- thermostat upgrades;
- wall/attic insulation upgrades;
- blower-door guided air sealing;
- duct sealing and repair;
- heating/cooling equipment maintenance and other measures.

PSE&G also teaches Partner Families new

ways to conserve energy and how to create an Action Plan to support their efforts.

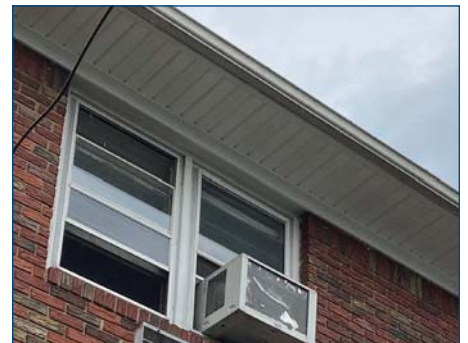
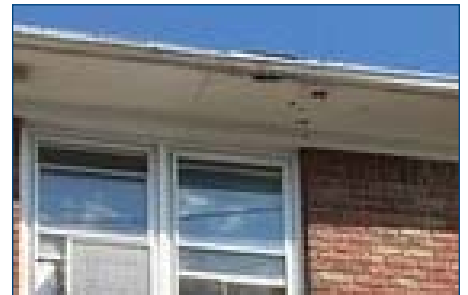
“Gabriela, Habitat of Greater Newark’s Family Services Coordinator, immediately called back.” Projects got put on hold due to COVID, but Kisha says, “Gabriela reached back out to us in summer 2021 to tell us that things were rolling again and that she was going to schedule a visit to assess our home’s repair needs.”

Habitat of Greater Newark worked with her mother’s health issues, “Her mobility is limited. She can’t really get around too much.” Gabriela not only visited their house, but also scheduled visits at the same time as PSE&G’s Comfort Partners program representatives to lessen disruption to the family’s schedule. Keisha notes warmly, “I really appreciate Gabriela. She’s so patient!”

When Gabriela and the Habitat of Greater Newark contractors looked at the house, “they made special note of our gutters. The wood was falling off the tops of the gutters. They replaced them right before the hurricane.”

“I don’t see how anyone could pass up this program,” Kisha enthuses. The next step will be window replacement and weatherization through the Comfort Partners program. “My mother’s electric bills are sky high. I can’t wait until they start the weatherization!” Habitat of Greater Newark’s work in the Comfort Partners program is funded by the PSEG Foundation.

“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.



Clockwise from top: Weber-Gallagher's build day at our 24 Burnet Street site, a volunteer transporting landscaping rock, and workers shoveling landscaping rock.

CORPORATE PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Weber Gallagher

Weber Gallagher began in 1991 when four partners, three associates and three assistants started a new litigation firm in Center City Philadelphia. The firm more than doubled its size in the first year and has continued to diversify its practice in a variety of disciplines and locations—usually at the specific request of the firm's clients.

Partner and Firm Chair Andrew L. Indeck says that what makes the firm so successful is that the firm creates an atmosphere in which attorneys can do their best work. "We have a highly collegial atmosphere, even though we have over 200 employees," Michael J. Cavacini, Weber Gallagher's Marketing Manager, concurs. "We were one of the pioneer mid-sized firms to embrace a hybrid work-life balance philosophy. Once the pandemic hit, we just turned up the dial on what we were already doing, rather than creating it from scratch."

Andrew says that opportunities for philanthropic and pro-bono work proceed naturally from the firm's working style "We try to do charitable initiatives in every community where we are located, many times food insecurity and educational charities. Habitat was a natural extension."

He continues, "Logistically, with COVID, it's been difficult to get together. Habitat offered the opportunity to get together in person outdoors." Signing up to do a build day was "very easy," Andrew marvels, "It didn't seem like we had any hiccups at all. I was pretty surprised by that."

"I had the privilege of getting a lengthy strength training for the workday," he laughs. "Wow, that was some pretty heavy labor! I personally spent the day shoveling stone and dirt into a wheelbarrow and transporting it front to back. Other people were painting." It was easy for everyone to participate, he stresses. "If you knew how to shovel dirt or stones or push a wheelbarrow it was pretty fundamental labor. The painters pretty well jumped in on it."

Andrew says he would recommend Habitat of Greater Newark's Corporate Challenge to other companies. "Absolutely! It's a great team-building activity! People had a great time being in each other's company and doing something positive and charitable together. You see tangible results. We also decided to make a monetary contribution."

Interested in having your company participate in the Corporate Challenge? Contact our volunteer coordinator at volunteer@habitat-newark.org or call 973-624-3330 ext. 100 to discuss your company's options.

Weber 
Gallagher



CORPORATE CHALLENGE

Fall 2021 Kickoff

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

Thank you to our fall sponsors!

Bloomberg Philanthropies
Behaviorally • Columbia Bank
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Mace Group • Morgan Stanley
Peapack-Gladstone Bank
Rotary Club of the Caldwell
Sierra Health • Merck
Urban Property Managers
Weber Gallagher • Zoetis •
Womens@Amazon

Interested in volunteering? Please contact our volunteer coordinator at 973-624-3330 ext. 100 or volunteer@habitatnewark.org about how your employees can get involved!

Follow us on social media for the latest information on builds and other Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newark news!



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Greater Newark
Habitat
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Serving Essex, Hudson
& Union Counties

2022 Spring Corporate Challenge Dates:

April 12 – June 18, 2022

ReStore Opening Soon

We're excited to report that our new ReStore's building at 445 Route 46 West in Fairfield, NJ, is nearly complete.

Habitat for Humanity's ReStores accept donations and sell a constantly changing inventory of diverse, high-quality merchandise to the public at a fraction of the retail price, while diverting reusable household items and building materials from area landfills. Sales of donated items at this 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.

Meet the Manager

Rosa, a Jersey City resident, has worked in retail operations for more than thirty years. She says that she was attracted to the ReStore both by Habitat for Humanity's mission and her love of do-it-yourself projects. "I have three hobbies that I love: reading, DIY'ing and upcycling. What I lack in skill, I make up for in effort!"

She's excited about the range of products—from building materials to furniture to paint—that the ReStore will carry. "During the pandemic, my husband and I stayed busy by working on our home. I revamped a door with paint and paintable wallpaper and my husband tiled our stairs with luxury vinyl tile. Both the stairs and the door look so much better!"

The ReStore Is Hiring

Do you know someone who needs a job? The ReStore is hiring a driver and a driver's assistant for our donations truck. Applicants should have a clean driving record, be able to drive a 16ft-22ft truck, and be able to pass a background check and drug testing. Our new store is also hiring cashiers. Successful cashier candidates will be able to effectively communicate

fluently in English and be comfortable with basic math, calculator use, and basic computer skills.

Start a ReStore Donation Now

Interested in donating to the ReStore? We are accepting gently used and new furniture and building supplies. [Send an email](#) with your name, phone number, a list of the items you want to donate, dimensions of the items (length x width x height), and photos of the items. Emails about donations that do not include photos of potential donation items will not receive a reply. Rosa, our ReStore manager, will get in touch with you to discuss your donation. Pickup may be possible.



Our store manager Rosa looks forward to welcoming customers to our soon-to-open ReStore at 445 Route 46 West in Fairfield, NJ.

Volunteer at the ReStore

Interested in volunteering at the ReStore? [Email Rosa](#) or call 973-624-3330 ext 100. We look forward to seeing you!

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



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