

# toolbox

SPRING 2022



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



Food Pantry Serves  
7,940 Families  
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ReStore Grand Opening  
in Fairfield  
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A Finished Home  
in Livingston  
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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 or estate giving, Vanessa Bazydlo at [vbazydlo@habitatnewark.org](mailto:vbazydlo@habitatnewark.org) for sponsorships, one-time or recurring gifts, gifts on behalf of a loved one, employee giving, in-kind donations, or donating your car.



L-R: Carlton Daniels, Board President, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newark; Jackie Coombs-Hollis, MPA, Livingston Township Planning Administrator and Municipal Housing Liaison; Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newark CEO Jeffrey J. Farrell; Partner Family homeowner Keisha Winston; Livingston Township Mayor Edward Meinhardt; Council Member Shawn Klein; Council Member Alfred M. Anthony; Deputy Mayor Michael M. Vieira; and Council Member Rudy Fernandez.

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

# Celebrating A Home Dedication!

**Congratulations to our newest Partner Family member Keisha Winston, who closed on her new Habitat home at 24 Burnet Street. Our work wouldn't be possible without generous donors like Huber, Peacock-Gladstone Bank, the Township of Livingston, and James Hardie who not only funded our home, but supplied materials and sent volunteers.**

If supply chain delays are slowing down your own building or remodeling project, think about stopping by our new ReStore at 445 Route 46 West in Fairfield. Habitat for Humanity ReStores sell gently used furniture, kitchen and bath cabinetry and fixtures, appliances, building supplies at prices far below retail. Planning to buy a stove, a couch, or cabinets at our ReStore? Bring a truck and a friend and take them home that same day!

ReStore profits will fund new home construction and Critical Repair projects like Nancy's, on page 4. Habitat fixed the heating system in Nancy's Jersey City home so that water from the radiators no longer streams through her ceiling when the family turns on their heat. We are already planning new builds from scratch, one in Livingston, and also our high-impact condo project in Newark's West Ward. Interested in volunteering for one of these projects through our Corporate Challenge? Call Vanessa, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newark's New Deputy Director of Fund Development & Corporate Engagement, at 973-624-3330 x100 or email her at [vbazydlo@habitatnewark.org](mailto:vbazydlo@habitatnewark.org).

We are very grateful to you, our supporters, for your thoughtful and extremely generous investments in creating caring and thriving communities.

—**Jeffrey J. Farrell**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newark, Inc.

# Still a Dedicated Partner, Thirty Years Later

**“Our building was the first Habitat for Humanity project in Newark!” says Partner Family member Shirley with pride. “We’ve been here 30 years!”**

“Me and my husband and seven kids, we lived in an apartment. The original owner died and the apartment building was sold to a slumlord. He took the automatic water feeder off the boiler system and in the summer the electric bill was over 800 dollars!”

“My friend Donna Jackson had been reading articles about Habitat for Humanity and found out that Habitat for Humanity’s Newark affiliate was interviewing potential Partner Families for the co-op on East Orange Avenue. Donna convinced Shirley to apply. Once Shirley showed Habitat’s Family Service managers where she was living, she says, she was accepted.

Every Saturday, Shirley recalls, she went to work on the build site with Habitat volunteers. “The building had been empty for ten or twelve years. We had to make an entrance through the back yard.”

“Donna and I would not only come on Saturday, but also on Thursday evening when

we finished work.” Shirley credits Habitat leadership with maintaining an extremely positive, equitable atmosphere during the years it took to transform the building. “Everybody that came on board was introduced to the new families and welcomed to the Habitat family.”

Thirty years later, being active in the community remains one of Shirley’s core values. Although she retired from her job as a clerk with the Newark School system in 2013, Shirley was still volunteering in the local schools and with her church in early 2020.

When Habitat of Greater Newark started the food pantry at the West & Central Village Community Resource Hub in April 2020, Shirley says, it was clear that staff needed help with distribution. “You had a line from the Habitat door to past our parking lot!” The building’s Partner Families jumped in to volunteer, and they are still volunteering every Wednesday.

To date, the West & Central Village food pantry has distributed 93,395 meals and assisted 7,940 families. We continue our support for Newark residents as they get their lives back on track post-pandemic.

You can contribute too! Donate now to fund the food pantry at [www.habitatnewark.org](http://www.habitatnewark.org).



It’s easy to spot Shirley at neighborhood events—she’s the Pittsburgh Steelers fan! Her wardrobe of Steelers gear is neighborhood-famous.

[org/donate](http://www.habitatnewark.org/donate). Would you like to volunteer? Contact Cassandra Dock, West & Central Village Community Resource Hub Office Manager, at 862-288-8365. Volunteer slots are limited and COVID protocols are in place.



## cars for homes

**Donate your vehicle to 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](http://habitat.org/carsforhomes)**

Bottom: Partner Family member Nancy.  
Right: heating system repairs brought reliable heat back to Nancy's home. Second right: Repairs to water-damaged walls are next.



## Partner Family Success Story:

# “The Plumbers Were Really, Really Good”

**Jersey City homeowner Nancy says that she believes that God has a purpose for her because “I’m still here!” While living with diabetes, high blood pressure, and rheumatoid arthritis, she’s survived MRSA, two rounds of cancer, COVID-19, and a stroke.**

Persistent medical problems have not left Nancy much time, energy, or money to get her house’s heating problems fixed. Her steam boiler broke in 2008, a year after she bought her house. She replaced the boiler but could not afford to fix the leaking steam pipes. “Water was coming through the ceiling from the radiators.”

The problem worsened every year. “We were trying to get it fixed, but with COVID, there weren’t enough funds.” By 2021, she, her daughter Bevey, and grandson Zion relied on space heaters to heat their bedrooms and the bathroom.

The family learned of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newark’s Critical Repair & Healthy Homes Program through the Jersey City Department of Housing. Habitat of Greater Newark works to keep low-income families, seniors, and veterans in their homes through repairs such as mold and asbestos remediation, energy-conserving

improvements, and the addition of aging-in-place functionality. Nancy adds, “The housing department told me that even though Habitat of Greater Newark is based in Newark, it also works in Jersey City.”

Doctors’ appointments and chemotherapy consumed most of Nancy’s fall last year. She was relieved to get a call from Gabriela, our Family Services Coordinator, scheduling heating repairs for December 2021.

“God bless that it didn’t get cold until after the heat got fixed.” Nancy continues, “It’s not leaking at all now. They fixed it! The plumbers were really, really, good.” Gabriela reports that Habitat of Greater Newark contractors are now working to repair the home’s radiators and replace water-damaged drywall.

Nancy’s Critical Repair project was funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies.



Habitat Partner Family member Nancy on the porch of her Jersey City home.

**Does Someone You Know Need Critical Home Repair?**

Visit the [Critical Repair](#) page on our website or email our Family Services Coordinator at [gbernal@habitatnewark.org](mailto:gbernal@habitatnewark.org) to find out more.

## STAFF NEWS

# Meet Vanessa, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newark's New Deputy Director of Fund Development & Corporate Engagement!

**Vanessa joins us after five years at Community Hope, Inc., a Parsippany-based nonprofit organization serving more than 1,000 homeless veterans, their families and individuals suffering from mental illness. At Community Hope, Vanessa rose from Executive Assistant to Development Assistant to Marketing and Development Coordinator.**

Vanessa will be handling the Corporate Challenge, group volunteering events, and grant opportunity identification. She also has extensive experience in developing and executing special events. At Community Hope,



Vanessa reports that the chairs at our new ReStore in Fairfield, NJ, are "very comfortable." The ReStore sells a wide selection of gently used and new furniture and building materials at deeply discounted prices.

she coordinated the logistical aspects for the annual Sparkle of Hope Gala that hosts 900 guests bringing together New Jersey's major pharmaceutical and biotechnical organizations. As a runner, she says that she's proud to have chaired Community Hope's annual Flag Day Run for Veterans, which welcomes over 500 guests and vendors.

She reports, "I'm looking forward to the Corporate Challenge this spring and working on Habitat of Greater Newark's Veterans Initiative. Veteran housing is an issue that's very dear to my heart."

"I reevaluated my life goals a few years ago and realized that helping people was very important to me. Spending five years fundraising for homeless veterans and their families only strengthened that commitment."

She continues, "I'm very impressed by the Habitat of Greater Newark community. We have so many dedicated volunteers and donors!"

Is your company signed up for the spring Corporate Challenge? Vanessa reports that days are filling up fast. Contact Vanessa at [vbazydlo@habitatnewark.org](mailto:vbazydlo@habitatnewark.org) or 973-624-3330 x100 to plan your corporation's build days!

Can't make it out for our Spring Corporate Challenge? Not a worry. Our Fall Corporate Challenge will take place from September to November! Book now to secure your preferred dates.

## PROGRAM PROFILE:

# Veterans Initiative

More than 400,000 U.S. military veterans live in New Jersey. New Jersey's veterans have served in World War II, the Korean War, the Cold War, the Vietnam War, Grenada, Panama, Lebanon, the Persian Gulf War, Afghanistan, Iraq, and other conflict locations.

Did you know that approximately 86,921 New Jersey veterans live in homes with one or more major problems of quality, crowding, or cost? 13.1% of New Jersey's veterans have a service connected disability, including PTSD. Nearly 30 percent are 75 or older.

In appreciation of local veterans' service, Habitat of Greater Newark created the Veterans Initiative to support our local veterans by providing critical repairs to existing homes and by helping families achieve first-time homeownership.

Veteran Partner Family member Michael says that he "greatly appreciates the help from Habitat," noting with frustration "It's difficult to get help when you are a veteran homeowner, as opposed to a veteran who's homeless or facing homelessness."

**DONATE NOW**

## RESTORE NEWS

# ReStore Opens!

**Are you looking for a new couch?  
Trying to clear out an estate?  
Frustrated because supply-chain  
issues mean a long wait for your  
new appliances? Good news! Our  
ReStore at 445 Route 46 West in  
Fairfield, NJ opened on March 30!**

The store sells gently used and new furniture, building supplies, and home décor items. Store hours are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday – Saturday. Our ReStore accepts donations and sells 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 help Habitat for Humanity partner with local families to build, rehabilitate and repair safe and affordable homes in your community and around the world — a good deal for you, your community and the environment.

Habitat of Greater Newark's CEO Jeffrey J. Farrell enthuses, "This year, we plan to

break ground on another Livingston home and on 6 condominium units in Newark's West Ward. ReStore proceeds will be instrumental in funding our building projects and our Critical Repair and Healthy Homes Initiative, which works to keep seniors, veterans, and low-income families in the homes they already own."

Store manager Rosa Carvajal says that the store has something for everyone. "If you're renovating and don't want to wait six months for a key piece for your room, the ReStore is a great place to shop! We consistently have large appliances, cabinets, and light fixtures in stock. I'm also very excited about the ReColor chalk paints we carry."

Downsizing before a move or clearing out a house? The ReStore has two pickup options. One, a partnership operated with veterans' organization resupplyme, will pick up gently



Habitat of Greater Newark staff gather for the ribbon cutting March 30 at the new ReStore at 445 Route 46 West in Fairfield.

used furniture, home decor, and building supplies from your home within 48 hours of your call for a small fee which goes to fund resupplyme's work with veterans. The ReStore also offers free pickup of items, but Rosa urges donors to book ahead, "Anticipate a 2-3 week wait period before our trucks can pick up your donated items. Our ReStore is blessed with very generous donors and they keep our pickup staff busy!"



Kitchen cabinets and appliances? Living room furniture? Our ReStore has it all.

## Donate to the ReStore!

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newark's ReStore in Fairfield, NJ welcomes all offers of new or very gently-used furniture, building supplies, and home decor. We ask that all merchandise be in excellent condition, be 100% operable and be thoroughly cleaned.

**START A DONATION NOW**

# Home Dedication for 24 Burnet

On March 30, 2022, we dedicated our 1,350-square-foot three-bedroom, three-bathroom single-family home project at 24 Burnet Street to its Partner Family: Keisha and her three children: Alexander, Aaron, and Arianna.

Keisha says that she had resigned herself to possibly never owning her own home. “Never in one million years” would she have dreamed to have a house in Livingston. Still, she kept applying for one affordable housing program after another. When she received word that she was short-listed for the home in May 2019, she thought, “God, if it’s your will for me to have this home, make a way.”

At that time, Keisha and her three children were shoehorned into a small two-bedroom apartment in Elizabeth. The apartment’s size suited a one-child family, she says, but when her second son and then her daughter arrived, the family outgrew their space. The kitchen was closer to a kitchenette, which made cooking for a family challenging.

Keisha characterizes herself as a very hands-on person. She relished the 200 “sweat equity” hours she has to put in as a Partner



LEFT: The finished home at 24 Burnet Street in Livingston. RIGHT: Keisha (third from left) poses during construction with a crew from whole-house build sponsor Huber.



Family member. “I always wanted a house I could build.” She loves all of the storage space in the new home and that her daughter finally has her own room.

Her advice to other potential Habitat of Greater Newark Partner Families? “If you get the opportunity to apply for a home, do it!” She says that the paperwork and the process weren’t difficult. When she had questions, she felt comfortable asking and getting answers.

Volunteer groups such as the Livingston High School Habitat for Humanity campus chapter, faith-based organizations, Boy and Girl Scouts, members of the Livingston Town-

ship Council, and many Corporate Challenge sponsors donated over 13,000 hours doing everything from fireblocking to sheetrocking to painting work for the house, under the supervision of Habitat of Greater Newark construction staff. Habitat of Greater Newark CEO Jeffrey J. Farrell says enthusiastically, “We could not have asked for a more welcoming community than the Town of Livingston.”

This project was also made possible by J.M. Huber Corporation and Peapack-Gladstone Bank. J.M. Huber Corporation sponsored the build in full and also donated its ZIP System sheathing. Peapack-Gladstone Bank worked with our Partner Family to provide a discounted interest rate, 30-year fixed rate mortgage, and also arranged for a \$20,000 NeighborhoodLIFT grant towards the down payment. James Hardie Building Products Inc. donated the home’s siding.

Habitat of Humanity of Greater Newark Chief Financial Officer Danielle Sanchez emphasizes, “Our work with Partner Families is only possible because of the willingness of communities like Livingston to partner with us and the generosity of individual and corporate donors in funding our continuing work in Essex, Hudson, and Union Counties.”

Learn more about becoming a Partner Family: <https://www.habitatnewark.org/our-programs/homeownership-program/>. “Like” and “follow” our social media for the latest updates.

## New Projects

Interested in joining Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newark for a build? We have many opportunities. Our current project, at 80 Sheridan Street in Irvington, is a gut rehab of an existing home. This year, we plan to break ground on six new units at Harmony Point, our high-impact condominium development in Newark’s West Ward. We are also planning another project in Livingston.

If you want to volunteer on your own, the best way to sign up is through the [volunteering calendar](#) on our website. Interested in signing up with your work group or faith community? Contact Vanessa, our Deputy Director of Fund Development and Corporate Engagement, at [vbazydlo@habitatnewark.org](mailto:vbazydlo@habitatnewark.org). Volunteering opportunities are also available at our ReStore in Fairfield.

**CORPORATE  
CHALLENGE**

# Spring 2022 Kickoff

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

Thank you to our spring sponsors!

Amazon

Behaviorally

Bloomberg Philanthropies

Grand BK

Department of Orthopaedics  
at Rutgers, NJ Medical School

Sika USA

Trane Technologies

Interested in volunteering? Please contact Vanessa, our Deputy Director of Fund Development and Corporate Engagement, at [vbazydlo@habitatnewark.org](mailto:vbazydlo@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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DEPARTMENT OF ORTHOPAEDICS AT RUTGERS



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**2022 Fall Corporate Challenge Dates:  
September 14 – November 19, 2022**