



**Habitat
for Humanity®**
Allegheny Valley

Summer
2023

Newsletter

225 Freeport Street, New Kensington, PA 15068

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The Power of Partnership

To continue our veteran initiatives that coincides with our veteran village developments in New Kensington, Allegheny Valley Habitat for Humanity has partnered with Allie-Kiski Veteran Foundation to acquire four residential properties on the 4th Avenue block of New Kensington. Both organizations will acquire two of the properties for home rehabilitation for provide future homeownership. “We are delighted to announce that we are making a real concentrated effort to help redefine community paradigms through home ownership, states Habitat for Humanity Executive Director John Tamiggi.



Pictured 544 & 547 4th Avenue, New Kensington

With the support of PNC Charitable trust, the partnering organizations will place focus on rehabbing each home starting this summer with efforts to complete the project by Q3 of next year. Homeownership placement will continue to focus on veterans and their families along with other vulnerable segments of the population. To coincide with these

rehabilitated properties, the partnership is focusing on exploring how also complement these efforts by providing exterior home repairs on the 4th Avenue block to established residents. “Our ultimate goal is to not only provide homeownership, but also enhance the blocks we build on and create further pride and passion for the neighborhood we call home. More details and homeowner applications can be found online at www.habitatav.org

Busy Bees in New Kensington

Our crews have been called and exemplified their leadership efforts to help further transform the New Kensington Community by empowering established residents for opportunities in home repair and restorations. Through our Brush with Kindness program and with the direct support of Westmoreland Community Action, we have been able to execute service to some of our most at need neighbors by providing home repairs including porch repair, gutter and downspout repair, and replacement, foundational repair, window replacement, just to name a few.



Porch repair on Main Street

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Executive Director

New Kensington resident and program participant Danny Simone stated “I’m proud to live and reside in a community that works to help and serve each other” By the end of this summer, we will have completed over a dozen home repair projects while further directing residents with educational instruction to better ensure home upkeep and maintenance.

Amazing Neighbors!

Years ago, Diane Beckstead had a vision and developed Musicals for Change, a mission that partners with nonprofits to raise awareness and funds through original children’s musicals. This vision has come to life as her efforts have supported nonprofits over the region and most recently, Allegheny Valley Habitat for Humanity was nominated to be the beneficiary of St. Luke’s Lutheran Church in Cabot, PA “Good Times on Grandfather Mountain.”

The school and its student cast hosted an amazing musical production to the vibrant community in Cabot, PA. “The production and performance was top shelf, as the students put their heart and souls to create an amazing performance” stated John Tamiggi. This performance was not only a hit with the audience but also generated over \$600 in donation funds for Allegheny Valley Habitat for Humanity to continue its mission of service. The sincerest gratitude and appreciation to Diane and all the students at St. Luke’s Lutheran Church!

Such a wonderful production and a vibrant school community have us hoping to visit again soon!



ReStore Appreciation Day

Summer sun means summer fun at the ReStore in New Kensington. To express our appreciation for everyone in the community who helps make our mission continually possible; we hosted a ReStore Appreciation day in August.

Everyone was welcomed and joined our ReStore celebration located at 225 Freeport Street in New Kensington, as we served free food, meet and greet with Habitat Homer, craft tables, and of course, all of our amazing deals in the store! We are also very fortunate to host Maddie Jo, as she once again performed at the ReStore and entertained us with some great sing along and some hits of her very own!

Our ReStore Appreciation Day is a meaningful one for us because it is through your support we can take partake in some amazing efforts to rebuild, recreate, restore the community through hope, housing, and unity. We look forward to seeing and celebrating with everyone again next year!

All of our Hearts & Prayers to Our Plum Neighbors

Upon hearing the tragic news of the home explosion event that took place at Rustic Ridge in Plum Boro, we were deeply saddened to hear of the loss of Michael Thomas. Michael served as the Boro Manager and was a vital part of our efforts to create the region’s first inclusive playground. He was one of the first to show up and one of the last to leave, states Executive Director, John Tamiggi. Throughout the initial planning stages and on the actual build days, Michael dedicated his time and expertise to ensure our dream of inclusive play could become a reality for the residents of the Plum Boro and beyond. At this time, our hearts and prayers go out to Michael and all of the families who lost loved ones at Rustic Ridge.



A Hand Up, Not a Hand-Out

Oftentimes we hear from members of the community their preconceived notions that Habitat for Humanity provides free houses. But this faulty understanding is the furthest from the truth about our works and mission. Habitat for Humanity believes that every person deserves to have secure and stable housing. We recognize that there is a level of pride and honor among people that must be maintained. That is why the Habitat for Humanity's Homeowner Program offers hard working families a hand-up, not a hand-out.

We understand that sometimes people need a little help to break the cycle of poverty. Through their programs, houses are built and sold to Habitat Families with financing provided through affordable, no-interest mortgages. Families must also invest a significant number of hours of their own labor, what is referred to as sweat equity, into building their own houses and those of other families.

In this way, Habitat for Humanity doesn't simply provide housing, instead, we lead, guide, and help people attain housing themselves. Habitat home ownership gives families more than just a house – it gives them a sense of pride and responsibility. The impact is immediate and the effects are ever-lasting.

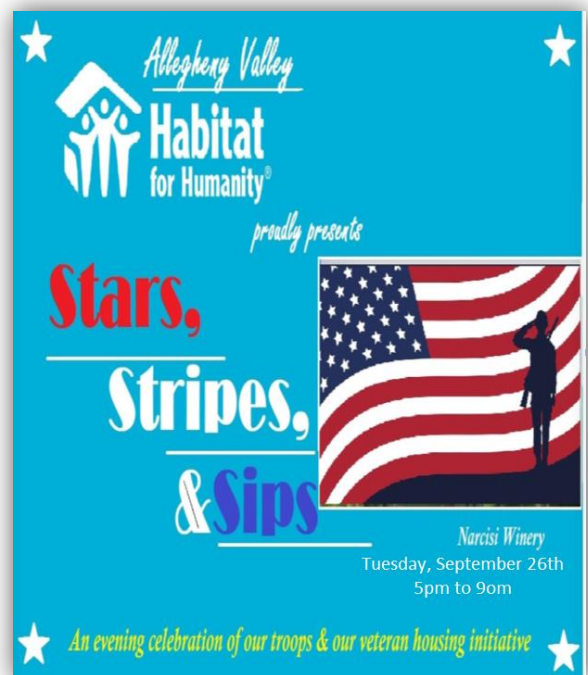


Annual Fundraising Gala

And we're back! We are excited to announce that our annual fundraising gala will be hosted once again at Narcisi Winery to support our local veteran population and our veteran housing village hosted in New Kensington. "Stars, Stripes & Sips" will continue to reflect our gratitude for those who have served our region to coincide with a celebration of our upcoming veteran village build initiative.

The gala will feature heavy hors d'oeuvre, live entertainment, games, and raffles along with a reflection of those who served and a spotlight on what is ahead for our veteran community right here in the Allegheny Valley!

Currently, we are seeking corporate sponsorship to help create further success for this year's gala event. If you are interested in sponsoring this year's gala event, please contact john@habitatav.org or telephone us at 724.594.1051. For those interested in attending the event as a guest, we will soon provide information and ticket pricing and availability on our website at www.habitatav.org.



Chris's Construction Corner *Construction Manager Chris Andrig provides some insightful homeownership tips for this spring maintenance.*



1. Keep trees and bushes trimmed at least 6 inches away from your house to help prevent mildew and peeling paint.
2. If you have a deck that needs sealing, you'll need to wait until after the oak tree pollen is done falling and the morning dew has stopped. Schedule your work after Memorial Day.
3. Install screens on your gutters. Leaky gutters are a big source of peeling paint and rotten trim.
4. Replacement windows are great for improving energy efficiency. However, if new windows are out of your budget, new storm windows will offer you protection from extreme temperatures.
5. Make sure your leaders are running away from the house, and down a hill. Bad placement can flood your basement.
6. If you have plantings around your house, schedule your painting job for the early spring or late fall. Painters need to lay down tarps which can damage budding plants.
7. Replace rotted wood with composite trim so that it will never rot again.

Homeowner's Financial Literacy

Stay tuned for our upcoming homeowner financial literacy tips by Habitat for Humanity Board Treasurer Rich Kulbacki

Tip of the day:

1. **Earn.** Understand your pay and benefits to make the most out of what you earn. Take advantage of your workplace benefits and your company's match policy for your 401(k) account.



Interested in volunteering?

Come volunteer with us! Whether on the construction home build sites or at our ReStore, we love volunteers that assist us in the achievement of our mission! Come join us today! Visit www.habitatav.org for more details!



Come meet Henry, our passionate volunteer that served over two decades for Habitat and his hardware corner at the ReStore located at 225 Freeport St., New Kensington! We are open Tuesday – Saturday
10am to 4pm.



Community Partners

Special thanks to the following groups who have dedicated resources to support over the last few months for our collective community endeavors!

- RODDEN ELECTRIC
- WINDOW NATION
- LOWES HOME IMPROVEMENT
- B&T TRUCKING
- MOLYNEAUX
- CHICORA HARDWARE
- FIRST ENERGY
- CARDELLO ELECTRIC
- STAPLES NEW KENSINGTON
- BUSY BEAVER
- LONGWOOD OF OAKMONT
- VERE INC.
- BOY SCOUT TROOP 215