

Habitat on the Home Front

Wabash Valley Community Foundation Awards Habitat \$20,000 for a ReStore Truck

The Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity ReStore isn't your average resale shop; it's also an important and ongoing fundraiser for the local Habitat affiliate as the income generated from the ReStore contributes to building efforts each year. However, it's hard to raise funds and be profitable when one of the critical components of your operation is no longer safe or reliable.

In the past few months the box truck, which is often used to pick up larger donated items, has taken a turn for the worse. One of the very lifelines that connected the ReStore to the community was fading fast and there was little that could be done to stop it. At the heart of the problem was the lift gate which no longer functioned properly making the loading and unloading of objects nearly impossible for volunteers. Calls kept coming in, but unfortunately pick-ups were becoming more and more sporadic as safety became a primary concern. Repairs were out of the question as they would have cost more than the truck was worth. Thankfully, another option presented itself.

Enter the Wabash Valley Community Foundation (WVCF). Each year the foundation awards grants to non-profit organizations in Vigo, Clay and Sullivan counties in the areas of Community Development, Education, Arts & Culture, Religion and Health & Human Services. Often, these grants align with their mission of "engaging people, building resources & strengthening community". It seemed like the perfect solution, so in the spirit of Habitat, we applied for a grant because as we tell potential applicants, there is no shame in applying. In fact, often times it's the best thing you can do.

Thankfully, we were fortunate enough to receive a grant allowing us to purchase a newer box truck. The newer truck will enable the ReStore to continue with their normal pick-up service and expand to neighboring communities such as Marshall and Paris, IL, West Terre Haute and Brazil. We are currently getting bids on signage for the truck which will let people know who we are when driving through their neighborhoods.

WABASH VALLEY
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

Grant Recipient

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Through the ReStores success, the local Habitat affiliate continues to receive a steady cash flow for their building efforts from the net proceeds. The ReStore enables Habitat to build more houses in our area, allowing more families in need, the ability to purchase a simple, decent, affordable home of their own.

So when you're spring

cleaning and you don't want to throw your unwanted items away, call the ReStore. We accept donations, all of which are tax deductible, from individuals, businesses, contractors and builders. Thanks to the Wabash Valley Community Foundation, we'll even pick up your donated items in our new truck.

To schedule a pick-up or speak to someone about items at the ReStore, please call 812-232-9200.



Volunteer Spotlight: Tim Littlejohn



Kicking off our first Volunteer Spotlight is Tim Littlejohn! Tim has been able to dabble in various aspects of Habitat for Humanity in the past year, but he got his start with the organization long before. His father helped to get the organization going in his hometown, so Tim had a solid history of volunteering with Habitat before he ever started at this affiliate. He came in with a prior knowledge of the program and a background in construction management and residential housing, so he proved to be committed and reliable on site. Others quickly noticed and suggested that Tim meet with our Executive Committee to discuss joining our board. This was one aspect Tim had never been involved in, but his desire to help the community pushed him to get involved on another level. And though he enjoys serving on the board, the construction site is where his passions truly lie. The homeowners on site and other volunteers are what keep Tim coming back each Saturday. He loves being able to see people who have never used a tool in their lives learn something new. Plus, Habitat allows him to put his residential construction knowledge to good use while giving back to the community which he feels is very rewarding. He encourages others to come out and lend a helping hand and often calms their fears by letting them in on a little-known Habitat secret. "For people interested in volunteering, I tell them it's really not that hard". We couldn't agree more! Volunteering may seem daunting at first, especially if you have no prior experience, but really it's not that hard. The hardest part might just be deciding how you'd like to be involved. But once you've figured it out, there is no stopping your potential.

Know someone who should be featured next in our volunteer spotlight? Email nbeyer@wvh4h.org with someone you think is deserving. Stay up to date and get to know other volunteers throughout the year by visiting our website (wvh4h.org) and Facebook Page!



AmeriCorps Year 2

We are pleased to announce our AmeriCorps service member, Nicole



Beyer, is going to continue her service with Habitat for another year. This past year Nicole has been assisting homeowner selection volunteers and

re-vamping the homeowner support program. Always eager to help, she has also been active in fundraising and special events, construction, newsletter production, and volunteer recruitment. In her next year, she will be working on community outreach.

AmeriCorps is a national service program that provides thousands of Americans of all ages and backgrounds with educational awards in exchange for a year of community service. AmeriCorps members help meet the nation's critical needs in the areas of public safety, education, human needs, and the environment. It was created in 1993 with bi-partisan support by Congress, President Clinton, and community groups nationwide.

From the Executive Director...

2015 has already seen many changes for Habitat for Humanity affiliates as new mortgage lending laws have now begun to take effect. The new rules fundamentally impact portions of our affiliate's mortgage lending practices, including many aspects of mortgage origination and ability to repay, servicing, appraisal requirements, and required background checks on homeowner selection volunteers and staff. In other words, Habitat affiliates are now considered "lenders" just like your local bank and loan officer.

Besides the background checks for volunteers and staff acting as Mortgage Originators, we are required to take 12 hours of on-line training courses, such as Fair Housing Act, Equal Credit Opportunity Act, and Truth in Lending Act, just to name a few. I recently completed the training and I need to applaud our 4 homeowner selection volunteers who also completed the "pain-staking" courses. What happened to the warm, fuzzy and nurturing process of selecting our families? For 38 years, Habitat has been selecting responsible homeowners based on 3 simple principles – income and ability to pay; need for decent housing; and willingness to partner with Habitat. This model for affiliates has proven to be successful with an overall foreclosure rate of less than 2%, even during the foreclosure crisis in 2010.



We seldom enjoy challenges while in the midst of them, but with every new and difficult task, we ask our higher power to guide us, reminding ourselves that the foundation of Habitat is built on faith. I foresee an amazing year ahead of us, with more awareness, community support and an increase in donations. Thank you for helping us improve our community by building decent, affordable houses for people in need.

Thank You Jerry!

Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity would like to thank Jerry Hochstetler for serving as Treasurer on the Board of Directors. Jerry has volunteered with Habitat for two years and aside from the board and finance committee, he has helped on the construction site and graciously hosted our AmeriCorps members. We wish him well and hope he won't be a stranger! Tammy Lowe, who has been a member of the board since 2014 will take his place as Treasurer.



Welcome Cindy!

WVHfH would like to welcome Cindy McEwen as our newest staff member! Cindy, previously an AARP volunteers, was hired full time as an Administrative Assistant at the end of March. Cindy is also our resident crocheting guru and baking extraordinaire! We are delighted to welcome her full time!



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- Ian Titus
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- Bill Warden
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- Dale Johnson
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
- Pat Brown
CONSTRUCTION/
RESTORE MANAGER
- Tammy Sindors
FINANCE PROGRAM
DIRECTOR
- Cindy McEwen
ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT
- Nicole Beyer
FAMILY SERVICES COORD.
AMERICORPS MEMBER

ReStore Staff

- Christa Caton
CASHIER
- Rosie Church
CASHIER



Cover Indiana 2015

Driving to Lafayette on the morning of May 10th for the start of Cover Indiana, the sky was cloudy and gray and though the sun tried to peak through and shed a little light on the roads soon to be overtaken by Habitat cyclists, the rain would inevitably come. It could be heard gently tapping on the roof of the Amphitheater as participants ate breakfast, stretched and listened to the morning's devotions and route information. It could be felt steadily pounding the riders as they began the journey from Lafayette to Crawfordsville. It could have been a burden, but over the course of the week, it would pale in comparison to the huge hills, deep potholes, crazy dogs, strong headwinds

and even colder, harder, more persistent rain. But even all of these seemingly challenging aspects of the tour would not be enough to deter the spirit and camaraderie that built with each passing day.

Cover Indiana, which was started in 2004, is a 380 mile, week-long bike tour through Central Indiana. Originally intended to bridge the gaps between Habitat affiliates, it has now become an annual way to raise awareness and money as each week-long rider must raise at least \$350 of support, later designated to the affiliate of their choice. Along the way, community centers and churches, with the help of volunteers, provide breakfast, dinner and a safe place for riders to sleep. "Joe Marks" as they have been affectionately called on Cover (after the man who has marked the route for years) help guide riders correctly from one location to the next. In addition, SAG vans stop every 20 miles with snacks, water, tire tubes, pumps and everything else you might need during the course of the day. And things the vans couldn't provide- enthusiasm, support, advice- the other riders certainly could.

Each year the amount of participants continues to grow with an appropriate mix of experienced and novice riders. Much like the Habitat Homeowner Support system, which helps first time homeowners through the homeownership process, all experienced riders were willing to help first timers through the long days. They were encouraging and enthusiastic and gave advice on anything from bicycle adjustments to "hole in the wall" places to stop and eat along the way. It was the same kind of support you hope to give your homeowners so that their experience is delightful, fun and worth looking back on. It's the kind of support that makes you want to keep going and come back for another year. So day in and day out, regardless of any fatigue or rain, we strapped on our helmets, wrapped our hands around our handlebars, placed our feet securely on our peddles and kept moving forward.



May 8-14 are the proposed dates for Cover Indiana 2016. If you are interested in learning more about the ride visit hfhcoverindiana.org

Wish Lists

HABITAT OFFICE

- 32" or larger television (for Homeowner Education purposes)
- DVD Player (for Homeowner Education purposes)
- Picnic Table
- Committee Volunteer Members
 1. Homeowner Advocate Committee
 2. Special Events Committee
 3. Church Relations Committee
- Freelance writer/editor/designer for future Newsletters
- Executive Desk
- Hallway Carpet Runner

HABITAT RESTORE

- Bobcat Fork Attachment
- In-Kind Advertising Donation
- Larger building for a larger ReStore!
- Large Donations



ADDRESS: 1831 Wabash Ave. (Corner of 19th and Wabash) PICK-UPS: Wednesday and Friday
 HOURS: Wed, Thurs and Sat: 9:00am - 2:00pm, Friday: 9:00am - 6:00pm PHONE: 812-232-9200

ROSIE AND THE RESTORE

On the corner of 19th and Wabash, you'll find an old firehouse which has been transformed into a resale shop brimming with a variety of gently used items. You'll find everything from household appliances to lights, paint, books and movies. Many of you probably know this location as the Habitat for Humanity ReStore. What you may not know is that aside from a few paid staff, the ReStore functions mostly with the help of volunteers. Our volunteers come from all different backgrounds. Some are participating in the AARP program (as the ReStore is currently a host site), some are working towards community service hours and others still are simply looking for something to keep them busy a few days a week. That's what originally led one of our volunteers, Rosie, to the ReStore. Rosie, who had retired in May, started volunteering in July. She had always enjoyed working around other people and had experience in retail having been the co-owner of an antique shop in her native Minnesota. Her husband John has also been volunteering in the ReStore since 2012; therefore, the ReStore seemed like the perfect organization to lend her time to. With Rosie's background experience, she became the perfect candidate to temporarily replace Christa, our regular cashier, while on maternity leave. Rosie enjoys working upfront and having the opportunity to interact not only with other volunteers, but also with the customers who donate and purchase items from the ReStore. Habitat ReStores are "nonprofit home improvement stores and donation centers that sell new and used furniture, home accessories, building materials and appliances to the public at a fraction of the retail price." They help affiliates as income generated by ReStores offset building costs, but more than that Rosie believes they help the community as they "give people a chance to contribute used items to the betterment of the community and they help raise funds for people who are in need of decent, affordable housing."



The ReStore would like to extend a special thank you to the following businesses in the community for their donations and support-

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Lowe's | Superior Cabinets | Thompson Thrift | Sherwin Williams | Abby's Carpet |
| Kiefer's Furniture Store | Mascari Landscaping | City of Terre Haute | Pro Build | |

Shopping at Kroger's

Did you know that by shopping at Kroger's you could help Habitat for Humanity earn money? That's right! Simply register your plus card online at www.krogercommunityrewards.com, using our organization name and/or NPO number. Habitat is registered as:

Name: Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity
 NPO #: 85940

Then every time you shop at Kroger's for groceries, have your card swiped. Wabash Valley Habitat automatically starts earning a rebate. How easy is that?!



HELPING HABITAT

Amazon Smile

AmazonSmile is a simple, automatic way for you to support Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity everytime you shop through Amazon! The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from eligible products. To shop, simply go to smile.amazon.com and select WVHfH as your charitable organization before you begin shopping. AmazonSmile will remember your selection and then every eligible purchase you make will result in a donation to



Wabash Valley Habitat.

FIRST ANNUAL CHAIR-ITY EVENT

On March 26th WWHfH held its first ever Chari-ITY Event at the Indiana Theater. Live music by Mullet Over and the iconic theater interior set the mood while MC Scott Gant kept us entertained. The evening started out with bidding on our 41 silent auction items/baskets followed by dinner provided by Louise's Copper Catering, and culminating with our live auction of chairs entered from local organizations, businesses and individuals. Judges handed out awards for "Most Whimsical", "Most Creative", "Most Unique" and "Best of Show". Auctioneer, Max Hochstetler, had quite a bit of fun auctioning off the 23 chairs and kept the bidding wars strong! All proceeds from the event went to the Fears Build. We invite everyone to join us next spring for our 2nd Annual Chair-ITY Event! And remember- it's never too early to start looking for the perfect chair or bench to decorate!



MARCH

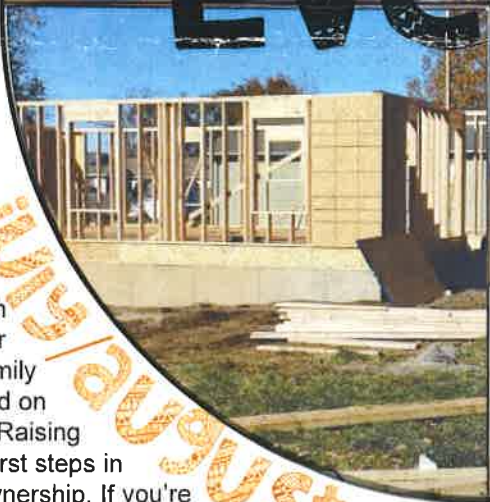


EVENTS!

WALL RAISING & FRAMING DAY

The Wall Raising and Framing Work Day for Habitat house #63 has been scheduled for Saturday July 11th from 9am to 4pm. Lunch is provided. Homeowner Melinda Bell and her family are excited to get started on their house as the Wall Raising and Framing mark the first steps in their journey to homeownership. If you're interested in helping build a house from the ground up, stop by and lend a hand! No experience necessary and all tools are provided. The house is located at 922 Gilbert Ave.

JULY/AUGUST



PORK BURGER DRIVE-THRU

WWHfH is in the process of planning a Pork Burger Drive-Thru fundraiser for back to school! We are planning the event for Saturday, August 8th and are currently working on securing a location. What is a Pork Burger Drive Thru you may ask? We are grilling pork burgers (sourced from local farmers) and providing buns, condiments, chips, cookies and a drink all in a sack lunch! All you have to do is pay and drive thru! All proceeds will go towards our 63rd house. Check our Facebook and website for updates.

FEAR'S HOUSE BLESSING

On May 17th, Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity celebrated the completion of another house with Partner Family, Dawn Fears and her sons CJ and Chase Brown. This house was the first to receive a metal roof thanks to a new partnership with Honest Abe Roofing. In addition, other community sponsors such as the Wells Fargo Housing Foundation and the Vigo County Public Library contributed. After completing all of her sweat equity hours and picking out lights, vanities and flooring, Dawn was ready to make their house a home. Making the blessing extra special, was the presence of Dawn's grandfather, Tony Fears, who was visiting from Texas. He was able to participate in the ceremony by blessing the house and presenting the family with a bible. Construction Manager, Pat Brown, was also on hand to present each member of the family with a key to their new house.

After the ceremony, people were invited in to tour the house and enjoy some refreshments. Eager to move in, Dawn had her family and friends stick around afterwards to help her unload the U-Haul that was parked around back during the House Blessing. After getting settled, Dawn plans to continue volunteering as a Homeowner Support Advocate for future homeowners.

MAY



BOB EVANS COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER



Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity partnered with Bob Evans on June 12th in order to hold a community fundraiser during which Habitat for Humanity received 15% of all meals purchased throughout the day with the presentation of a Habitat flyer. Family and friends turned out

throughout the day to help us raise money for our next build. We are planning on doing another Community Fundraiser later in the year so be sure to check our website and Facebook for updates. Thank you to our community for supporting our first Bob Evans Fundraiser! (Photo Credit: Bob Evans)

REPLENISH AT THE RESTORE

On June 20th Chase Brown, one of our most recent homeowners sons, participated in Terre Haute's Lemonade Day by setting up a stand in front of the ReStore. Chase sold his lemonade from 9am to 2pm and donated his proceeds to Habitat for Humanity. The lemonade was delicious and we are very proud to have been selected as his charitable organization. A big shout out to Chase for his entrepreneurial spirit and support of Habitat!



Wabash Valley
Habitat
for Humanity®

What Will
YOU BUILD?

Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity
2313 Tippecanoe - Terre Haute, IN 47807
Tel: (812) 235-5914 - Fax: (812)-232-8719
Email: habitat@wvh4h.org
Website: wvh4h.org

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Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity



EXCLUSIVE FRIENDS OF HABITAT DISCOUNT PACKAGE

Honest Abe Roofing would like to offer special discounts organization-wide. Exclusive offers listed here:

- Exclusive discount up to 20%
- Exceptional work from a locally owned/trusted company
- Multiple financing options available
- Lifetime warranty and guarantees offered
- Free gutters with new roof installation
- Siding specialists/Roofing repair specialists

Phillip Clark
Finance Manager/Roofing Specialist
(C) 916-849-7550 (O) 812-877-7663
plcark@honestaberoofing.com
Available any time on my cell. I look forward to speaking with you!



Habitat for Humanity is an equal housing lender and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, handicap, or familial status.