

HABITAT on the HOMEFRONT

A New and Improved Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity: Grants, Partnerships and New Programs through the Guidance of God

John 14:13, NIV, is as follows, "And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son." This scripture could not have been more true this past year at Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity. We have long felt a calling to do more in our community, but often questioned new ways we could be impactful without straying from the mission and values that define our organization. We sought God's guidance; and, in doing so, He provided in so many ways. Not only did he bless us with the courage and strength to start a Neighborhood Revitalization Program, he also provided us the tools to do so through new community partnerships and a grant to update our office equipment.



Neighborhood Revitalization (NR)

Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity has been building homes in Terre Haute and Vigo County since our founding in 1989. That's nearly 30 years of partnering with families in need and working with volunteers in our community to build decent, affordable homes. In that time, we've been able to help 68 families become homeowners. And while we're proud of this number, we also realize it is but a small percentage of the total number of homeowners in our community. Approximately 50% of homes in Terre Haute are owner occupied. But that is not to say that all of these homeowners have the capacity to maintain their homes whether it be from aging, a disability, or even low income. So why should we not strive to extend a hand up to them as well?

Habitat for Humanity's mission is to bring people together to build homes, communities, and hope. Our efforts have predominately focused on building new homes; however, there is a growing need in our community for repairs and renovations to homes already standing and neighborhoods already defined. Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity wants to use our construction experience and our strong volunteer base to begin addressing that need. We realize we cannot do this work alone as it takes much more than repairing houses to revitalize a neighborhood. Collaboration with donors, residents and other community organizations is key.

In 2015, we were extremely blessed to be invited to a series of community meetings organized by The Vectren Foundation. These meetings brought together local leaders with a vested interest in revitalizing the Ryves Neighborhood, and in the blink of an eye, God provided us with new partnerships to make a difference in our community. Through this collaboration, we will be able to make a bigger, lasting impact and serve more families in areas that go beyond housing. We will be able to repair homes and restore dignity to the surface of neighborhoods, assist our partners with community gardens and education, and most importantly empower neighborhood residents.



In 2017, we were able to complete our first NR project with the help of a grant from The Vectren Foundation. Homeowner Vickie Thompson, a longtime resident of the Ryves Neighborhood, was the first approved applicant of the new program. Vickie had a variety of exterior projects ranging from replacement of siding to fixing a garage door opener, but perhaps most beneficial was the new porch and railing installed in front. "The porch was uneven and when it rained, the water just sat up there," remarked Vickie. "And I know it was probably seeping through, making it bad for the foundation...so that [repair work on front porch] was a good blessing."

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A blessing that Vickie says people have been keen to notice, "It looks nice and I get so many compliments. 'Your house looks nice.' You know? People are paying attention."

And it is that highly visible improvement that makes Neighborhood Revitalization so impactful, empowering and successful. It's a simple change that acts as a catalyst attracting new homeowners, sponsors, donors, volunteers and community partners to our organization.

Homeowners are able to restore their homes; and often, their pride in homeownership. Sponsors and donors are able to see their dollar go further as these projects cost less than new construction. Therefore, with each donation, more families are served. Volunteers are able to get involved with seemingly less intimidating projects, and see benefits of

their service almost immediately as these projects have quick turnaround. And finally, community partners are able to lend a hand in their area of expertise making neighborhood revitalization go further than home repairs.

It's an exciting step forward in our mission to serve more families in Vigo County while raising awareness for our organization. And though it may be different from what we've done in the past, it will no doubt propel us into the future, our vision, mission and values unchanged.

For the next few years our program will focus on exterior home repairs ranging from replacing lights and siding to pouring new porches and installing stable railings. This program is only open to current homeowners in the Ryves Neighborhood, though we plan to expand in the next five years. If you are interested in applying for or volunteering with this new program, please visit the WVHFH office. We are also looking for individuals who would be interested in supervising projects, or businesses who would be interested in sponsoring homes, or donating materials and services.



WVCF Grant Awarded to Update Office Equipment

The Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity office was in desperate need of a new server and laptop to maintain efficient working conditions. We rely heavily on technology for our day to day business needs like any organization in the 21st century; however, it also helps us track donor information, volunteer hours, homeowner sweat equity hours, and service mortgages. As we wanted to be good stewards of our money, it was not an option to purchase the new equipment ourselves; therefore, we submitted a grant to the Wabash Valley Community Foundation (WVCF).

The WVCF is a foundation that awards grants to nonprofit organizations in Vigo, Clay and Sullivan counties in the areas of Community Development, Education, Arts & Culture, Religion and Health & Human Services. Their mission is to engage people, build resources and strengthen community in the Wabash Valley. As our missions align very closely, we thought the WVCF would be an excellent resource to help us make necessary changes.

Thankfully, the WVCF blessed our affiliate with a \$5,000 grant, which we were able to use to purchase new office equipment including a server, which is basically the technological heart of our organization, and updated computers for staff. With this updated technology, we are able to serve our homeowners better, keep our records safe and updated, and work more efficiently in ridding the community of inadequate housing.

So, as you can see, it's been quite a year for changes at Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity. The Lord has truly provided for us in ways we couldn't possibly imagine at the beginning of 2017. He's helping us to expand our mission and go further as a housing organization to serve more families. He's providing us the tools to do so successfully and without fear. So this next year, we will let Him guide us and listen to advice set forth long ago, "Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." (Isaiah, 41:10, NIV)



Meet Tim Vilbrandt! Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity's New ReStore Manager

The ReStore has seen quite a few changes over the past few years. Most of our regular customers and donors probably recognize Pat Brown from the ReStore. For a time, he was managing the ReStore in addition to designing, supervising, and constructing all new builds. But the time came for him to follow his passions and make a choice; and, with the great need for adequate housing and home repairs, Pat has made the jump to full time construction. He spends his days working with our volunteers and homeowners on their new homes, and he has taken on the responsibility of overseeing our Neighborhood Revitalization efforts as well. Pat is excited to see more families become homeowners through Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity and we're so glad he was able to transition to

full time construction. With this move for Pat, we've brought on new staff and most recently welcomed a new ReStore Manager- Tim Vilbrandt.

Tim is a long time native, having been born and raised right here in Terre Haute. He attended South Vigo High School and later went on to earn his B.S. in Business from Indiana State University. Since graduating, he's put his degree to use working in a variety of business management capacities in the areas of appliances, home improvement and furniture. These past experiences, his degree and his connection to Terre Haute, made him a natural choice for a local ReStore Manager. Aside from these qualifications, Tim believes personally in the mission of the ReStore. "I feel that the ReStore is of great value to the community helping local families improve their homes and living environments in a cost effective manner, as well as providing funding toward building affordable housing." And this belief also guides his long term goals for the ReStore. Tim envisions a ReStore that is bigger, in terms of both physical space and revenue, so that we can grow the number of affordable homes we build each year for qualified, low income families. When he's not at the ReStore, Tim can be found enjoying the great outdoors. He likes camping, fishing and horseback riding, as well as attending concerts and sporting events. He's volunteered with several local charities and even spent time as a volunteer youth football coach. We believe this desire to be involved and help others will make him very successful as our day-to-day operations manager at the ReStore. Welcome Tim!

Volunteer Spotlight: Robin Myers

Homeowner Selection Chair

Robin Myers started volunteering with Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity in 1996 after seeing first hand the need for improved housing. Her church at the time worked with kids from low income families in Terre Haute, so she was able to see the conditions some of these families were living in. Conditions, that Robin was able to relate to, "I had grown up through grade school with a single mom and had some of those experiences of living in not so great conditions." Her own personal experiences, coupled with those of families at her church, moved her to become an advocate for improved housing with Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity.

Over the years, Robin has taken on many different roles within our organization giving her true insight into all facets of Habitat for Humanity. Initially she served on the Board chairing a committee that organized the annual Hammer 'n' Nails BBQ. She then transitioned to Vice President of the Board. Around this time, board members were also asked to serve on some of our committees. Robin had long been interested in how our families were selected, so she chose to get involved with our Homeowner Selection Committee, which she has now chaired for the past several years.

She learned the ins and outs of selecting families based on Habitat's three foremost qualifications-need for improved housing, ability to repay the loan and willingness to partner through sweat equity. She's seen years where Habitat has had an abundant number of applicants apply for our homeownership program, and she's seen years where finding qualified applicants has surprisingly been a struggle. Luckily these ups and downs have never been a deterrent to Robin's belief in the need for improved housing. "The need is still there and God has blessed me with the time and circumstances to be able to continue in the work [of] helping families genuinely improve an aspect of their lives," says Robin. "It is rewarding to try to help people that are doing their best to help themselves."

After all these years, Robin continues to volunteer with Habitat for Humanity and we are truly blessed to have someone within our organization with the insight, empathy, compassion and unwavering desire to help others. Robin has truly become one of our greatest resources and community advocates, and we are so thankful for her 20+ years of service.





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From our Executive Director...

For the past two years, I have had the pleasure of serving as Secretary on the State Board of Directors for Habitat for Humanity of Indiana. At our last meeting, Gina Leckron, Habitat State Director, handed everyone a piece of paper and a marker. Written across the top of the paper were three simple words, "Why I Build"; and, with our marker, we were instructed to use one sentence to answer that imperative question. The first thing that came to my mind was "I build for the love of all children."

Every morning on my way to work I drive through the Ryves Neighborhood. Year after year I see children standing on street corners waiting for the school bus, wearing only sweatshirts and hoodies in freezing weather. I see boarded up doors and windows on old 2-story condemned houses. I see blue tarps flapping freely on roofs of countless homes. I see families consistently moving in and out of rentals, unable to find stability in housing. And though many are affected by this poverty, perhaps most impacted are the children.

Statistics tell us that poverty affects children in various aspects of their lives ranging from poor academic achievements to physical health problems. They get in trouble at school. They don't have a warm meal waiting for them when they get home. And what I've begun to understand recently since reading "A Framework for Understanding Poverty" is that children, who have been in poverty and have made the journey to middle class, largely do so through success in their relationships. Relationships which we, myself included, can begin to foster.

My main job at Habitat for Humanity, aside from keeping the affiliate focused on serving more families, is building new relationships whether that is with a resident of Ryves or with corporate funders such as The Vectren Foundation. In 2016, these two responsibilities came together when the affiliate made a conscience decision to start a Neighborhood Revitalization Program. Through relationships we had formed with other members of our community including corporations, nonprofits, and residents, we came to realize that we could serve more families by expanding our housing solutions to include home repairs and weatherization. And although new construction continues to play a vital role for our affiliate, this new step is a critical one in making a larger impact.

Moving forward, funding will be our largest constraint. We know there is as great a need for repairs as there is for affordable housing; however, there is less funding available for this type of work.

And, while homeowners will pay for repairs done to their home, these payments will do little to make a Neighborhood Revitalization Program sustainable due to quick turnaround of projects. We will need other sources of funding-grants, individual donations, in-kind services-if we wish to continue this program for years to come. We are asking for your help. We've included a remittance envelope in this newsletter to make sending a donation quick and easy. Please help us to help more families in Vigo County.



Shop at Kroger! Fundraise with Habitat!

Did you know that you can support Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity financially through everyday purchases using your Kroger Plus Card? That's right!

Kroger is committed to helping communities grow and prosper by making fundraising easy for local organizations. All you have to do is register your Plus Card online at <https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow> and select Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity as your community organization using our organization name and NPO number:

Name: Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity
NPO#: 85940

Every time you shop at Kroger, simply swipe your card! Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity earns a rebate and you help families in need of decent, affordable housing in your community. How easy is that?!

Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity has recently partnered with online fundraising nonprofit, Network for Good, in order to raise funds for our Neighborhood Revitalization efforts in the Ryves Neighborhood. These efforts will focus on exterior home repairs for homeowners led by Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity, and partnerships with other community organizations to address the need for improved educational opportunities for youth and adults and the need for fresh produce from community gardens.

Network for Good allows us to reach individuals through an online campaign, making it easy for them to donate. Find more information about our campaign and please donate to help revitalize Ryves: <https://habitatindiana.networkforgood.com/projects/39510-help-make-ryves-thrive>

Help Make Ryves Thrive!

You Shop. Amazon Gives. It's that simple!

AmazonSmile is a simple, automatic way for you to support Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity every time you shop through Amazon. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. To participate, simply go to smile.amazon.com, login, and select WVHFH as your charitable organization before you start shopping.

AmazonSmile will remember your selection and then every eligible purchase you make will result in a donation to Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity. It's a super easy way to raise funds and is sure to make everyone smile.

With the holidays fast approaching and a large percentage of us partaking in online shopping, it's a great, simple way to give back and help others.

Easy Ways to SUPPORT Habitat!

SAVE THE DATE!

because this February, Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity is throwing our 4th Annual No Show Event! This unique fundraiser focuses on raising funds without all the stress and planning of securing locations and catering food on our part, and finding a sitter and buying fancy clothes on your part! Instead we're asking you to stay in and enjoy your evening from the comfort of your own home. Simply donate the amount of money you think you would've spent had this been an actual, in-person event! It's a super easy way to help your local affiliate!



SAVE THE DATE
SWEETHEARTS NO SHOW DANCE
FEBRUARY 10, 2018

Upcoming Habitat Fundraiser!

every visit
is a new adventure.

Habitat for Humanity
ReStore

Did you know that Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity also operates a local ReStore on the corner of 19th and Wabash? The ReStore is a great place to donate your gently used furniture, usable building materials and even working appliances. We then sell them at a fraction of the price making all items affordable for members of our community! Did you also know that the ReStore plays a very important role in our construction efforts? All income from these sales goes towards building homes. So every purchase at the ReStore helps families in need build with Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity!



All donations are tax deductible and are accepted at the ReStore during normal business hours. We also provide an expanded pick-up service to make donating easy. Pick-ups must be prearranged and scheduled with our ReStore Driver. We are unable to haul away trash or sort items, so please have donations ready to go for a pick-up.

The ReStore will accept the following items...

- New and usable building material such as lumber, insulation, hardwood and tile flooring, windows, doors, etc.
- New and usable kitchen and bathroom cabinets, faucets and counter tops
- New and used appliances that are in good working order
- New and gently used indoor and outdoor furniture
- New, surplus or discontinued items from local hardware stores, building contractors, landscape companies, etc.
- New and used light fixtures that are in good working order
- Kitchen items such as cups, plates, bowls, etc.

*please note the ReStore has the ability to turn down any donation based on demand, space, condition, etc.

The ReStore will not accept the following items...

- mattresses and box springs
- clothing, bedding, etc.
- broken items
- items needing repair as we don't have the facilities to make even minor repairs

RECYCLE! REUSE! RESTORE!

Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity has partnered with Hoosier Energy to help assist in their WIN Energy Program. This program allows their customers a rebate for recycling their old appliances. The ReStore staff will pick up old appliances and take them to a recycling center. Not only does the customer receive a rebate, but Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity receives a small amount from the recycling center in addition to a stipend from Hoosier Energy. Together we are helping the environment by keeping items out of landfills and helping to raise funds to build more homes and help more families in Terre Haute.

1831 Wabash Ave (Corner of 19th & Wabash) • Terre Haute IN 47807 • 812-232-9200

every connection creates the opportunity to build a better life.

Thank you everyone who donated to Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity in 2017! We'd love to recognize you all individually, but that would take an entirely new newsletter! We are so grateful for your support in helping us to build new homes in our community. We truly appreciate every individual who gives a gift whether that be financially, donating materials or even donating their time on our committees or construction site. We would be unable to fulfill our mission without your generous support.

We are also very appreciative of the new community partners we've been able to connect with in order to make a larger, lasting impact on our communities together. Connections with others are critical for our organization. So to everyone—every individual, business, organization, institution—thank you, thank you, thank you for your unwavering support.



Donors with our Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) Tax Credit Program

Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity would personally like to thank the following donors who participated in our 2016 NAP Tax Credit Program donating between \$1,000 and \$5,000! Because of these amazing donors, we were able to fulfill the NAP credits allotted to us in less than two weeks!

- James Thompson
- Gloria Jackson
- Charles & Karin Felling
- Anita Poorman
- Charles & Pam Federle

NAP Credits for 2017 are still available! If interested in donating, please contact the office at 812-235-5914.



Community Partners

Thank you to our new community partners: Vectren Foundation, ReThink Inc., Ryves Youth Center, Thompson Thrift, Indiana State University, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Vigo Co. School Corp., Launch Terre Haute, Catholic Charities, Hoosier Energy, and The Salvation Army.



In-Kind Donations

Thank you to the following business, institutions and organizations: Vectren, Elanco, Square D, Whirlpool Corporation, City of Terre Haute Department of Redevelopment, GE Aviation, Sherwin-Williams, Lowes, Hendrich Title Co., Vigo County Public Library, Myers Engineering, Central Presbyterian Church, Trump Residential Appraisals, LLC, Indiana State University, Rose-Hulman University, IU School of Medicine, Cowan & Cook Florist.



Habitat Global Conference 2017

On March 27, Annette, Brent and Heidi boarded a flight to Atlanta, home of the 2017 Habitat for Humanity Global Conference. Over 2,500 individuals from all over the world gathered not only



to interact with one other, but also to learn new ideas of making Habitat even better! During the conference guests heard from great speakers including Habitat CEO Johnathan Reckford, Dr. Tererai Trent, and former President Jimmy Carter and Mrs. Carter. We were all cheers as President Carter announced his 2018 Carter Work Project would be right here in Indiana! The week was very busy and tiring; however, the connections made and things learned were worth every early morning and late night. We look forward to bringing new ideas to the WVHfH affiliate to serve our partner homeowners even better!



Pastor Breakfast

Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity is encouraging all community churches to get involved by funding, building and volunteering on a specific build designated as our Faiths in Action Build. We believe every faith can be put into action. Thank you to those who participated in our various Pastor Breakfasts this fall

- Bernie Jackson- First Baptist
- Dan Gisel- Maryland Community Church-12 Points
- Tracy Sutliff- Cross Lane Community Church
- Clark Cowden- Northside Community Church
- Ann Thomas- Seelyville United Methodist
- Teresa Higus- St Mark United Church of Christ
- Fred Harrison- Oregon Baptist Church
- David Rawls- Agape Christian Church
- Judy Reed- First Congregation Church
- Mel Camp- Centenary United Methodist Church
- Kevin Buchanan- Central Presbyterian Church

Office Wish List

- Laptop (for staff and homeowner education purposes)
- Construction Truck
- Neighborhood Revitalization Volunteer Site/Project Leaders
- Committee Volunteer Members
 1. Homeowner Advocate Committee
 2. Homeowner Selection Committee
 3. Housing Team Committee (for Neighborhood Revitalization Projects)

ReStore Wish List

- Large warehouse space for a combined office and ReStore Location!
- In-Kind Advertising Donation
- Bobcat Fork Attachment

Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity
2313 Tippecanoe Street - Terre Haute, IN 47807

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**every family
deserves a decent, affordable home**

**Congratulations to These
New Habitat Homeowners!**



**Bell
Family**

4 Bedroom

Started: July 11, 2015

Completed: December 13, 2015



**Kelley
Family**

4 Bedroom

Started: December 5, 2015

Completed: June 15, 2016



**Stanley
Family**

3 Bedroom

Started: May 14, 2016

Completed: October 16, 2016



**Gunn
Family**

4 Bedroom

Started: October 29, 2016

Completed: March 23, 2017



**Hanes
Family**

4 Bedroom

Started: February 18, 2017

Completed: July 28, 2017



**Story
Family**

3 Bedroom

Started: August 19, 2017

To Be Completed: December, 2017