

Inhabit

A look inside Habitat for Humanity of Franklin County

Brechbill & Helman BLITZ BUILD

Late last year, Habitat received a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) through the Franklin County Planning Department. The funding helped us purchase a building lot on Richard Avenue in Hamilton Township, but it also came with a very tight construction timeline. To get the house enclosed before winter weather arrived, we knew we needed experienced hands on-site. Fast. That's when Brechbill & Helman stepped in. The local commercial building company, now celebrating its 60th year, has been connected to Habitat for decades and has supported our mission in countless ways throughout our 30+ year history. When asked if they could help, they didn't hesitate. "I see Mark at



B&H Blitz Build on Richard Ave - A house in just 5 days!

different functions throughout the year and he asked if we could help," said Barb Runyon, CFO of Brechbill & Helman. "We were able to make it work within our schedule and we're thrilled to give back to the community to keep this project moving along." And move it along they did! Brechbill & Helman immediately committed to a "blitz build" of Habitat's 63rd home, taking the project from a bare foundation to a covered and weather-tight structure in just five days. Because of their employees and leadership, Habitat was able to maximize these grant funds and fast-forward our mission for a local family. A short video of the blitz build can be viewed on Habitat's YouTube channel. This is what community partnership looks like. And we are deeply grateful.



Spring / Summer
2026

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Scan to watch the blitz build video!





HFHI 50 YEARS

This year, Habitat for Humanity International celebrates 50 years of "creating a world where everyone has a decent place to live." What began with humble roots in rural Georgia has grown into a globally recognized movement for affordable homeownership and stronger communities. Since its founding in 1976, Habitat has helped more than 65 million people around the world build or improve the place they call home.

Think about that for a moment. Millions of doors opened.

Millions of dinner tables gathered around.
Millions of children sleeping in safer, healthier homes.

This fall, our local Habitat staff will join more than 3,000 Habitat leaders in Atlanta for a global learning conference commemorating this milestone anniversary. It will be a time to celebrate, learn, and prepare for the future of affordable housing ministry both here and abroad. Global vision - Local mission. And because of supporters like you, Franklin County families are a part of that story.

Local family letter *What it feels like*

As I sit inside our new home, surrounded by the warmth, safety, and hope it represents, I am overwhelmed with gratitude. It is difficult to put into words what this life-changing experience means to my family and me, but I want to express our deepest appreciation to Habitat for Humanity and to every remarkable person who played a part in making our dream of homeownership a reality.

From the beginning of this journey, we were met with kindness, encouragement, and a genuine spirit of compassion. Their support went far beyond logistics or construction oversight - they offered understanding, reassurance, and a belief in us that helped carry us through every step. We will never forget the impact they had on our family.

Yet this home was built not just by two people, but by an entire community of volunteers, staff, and partners who showed up sometimes in the heat, sometimes in the cold, sometimes after long days of work and still poured their hearts into creating something beautiful for a family they barely knew. To all the incredible people who lifted hammers, painted walls, carried building materials, and shared encouraging words along the way, please know that your efforts have changed our lives. You built more than a house; you built a foundation for stability, growth, and opportunity.

Our new home represents safety, something we've always looked for. It represents a fresh start, a place where my brothers, sisters, and mother can dream freely, where memories will be made, and where love will continue to grow. Every corner of this house reminds us of generosity, community, and the belief that everyone deserves a place to call home.

We are endlessly thankful for Habitat for Humanity's mission and the people who bring that mission to life. You have given my family more than shelter; you have given us hope for the future. Your kindness will live with us forever, and we promise to honor the gift you have given us by taking care of this home, nurturing it, and filling it with love.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you to every single person who contributed their time, labor, support, and compassion. We will never forget what you have done for us.

Four Things = One House

One of our founding board members, Shirley Howard, would often say with a twinkle in her eye, "It takes four things to build one Habitat house: A family, a lot, volunteers, and money. We're always good at only getting three of those four things ready at the right time!" While Shirley was right, with God's help and this community, the necessary elements for our housing program have been supplied for over 30 years. This year, we've set our loftiest fundraising goal ever. Please consider a financial gift to advance the mission and ministry of Habitat. A remittance envelope is included for your convenience, or you can give online by scanning the QR code. If you would like to discuss estate giving, a qualified charitable distribution from an IRA, or other ways of donating, such as gifts of stock or cryptocurrency, please contact Mark Story: mark@habitatfranklinpa.org or 717-267-1899. We appreciate you!



SCAN THIS CODE WITH YOUR
PHONE TO GIVE ONLINE

A MORNING OF MOMENTUM: FOUNDATIONS BREAKFAST SURPASSES \$100K AND BUILDS MORE THAN HOMES

What began just a few short years ago has quickly become one of the most impactful gatherings in Franklin County. This year's Foundations Breakfast once again brought together a full room of community leaders, partners, and supporters - all united by a shared belief: everyone deserves a safe, affordable place to call home. And together, that belief turned into action. At this year's sold-out event, attendees answered a simple but powerful question: Can this room raise \$100,000? The response was overwhelming. By the end of the morning, the community had raised over \$100,000 to support Habitat for Humanity of Franklin County's mission. It was more than a milestone - it was a testament to what is possible when people come together with purpose.



150 guests attended the 2026 Foundations Breakfast

One of the most powerful moments of the morning came through Ryan Sanchez's vignette, where he shared a deeply personal story of overcoming generational adversity. His story was a moving reminder that transformation doesn't happen by accident - it happens through intentional investment from a



Jenna Kaczmarek presents Phil Pantano with the 2026 Hard Hat Hero award

loving community and the faithful commitment of Habitat volunteers. His words brought the mission to life in a way that no statistic ever could. The event also provided an opportunity to celebrate those who have gone above and beyond in their support of Habitat's work. This year, Phil Pantano was honored as the third Hard Hat Hero, joining past recipients Michelle Rebok and Jenna Kaczmarek. These

individuals represent the heart of Habitat - people who not only believe in the mission but actively help build it, one relationship and one home at a time. As the morning wrapped up, one thing was clear: this wasn't just an event - it was momentum. The funds raised will directly support ongoing and future builds, helping more families step into stability, dignity, and opportunity. And the story doesn't end here. We're already looking ahead to next year's Foundations Breakfast, which will take place on April 20, 2027. If this year is any indication, it will once again be a sold-out room filled with people ready to build something bigger than themselves. To everyone who attended, gave, volunteered, and believed - thank you. Together, we're not just building houses...we're building futures.

Korey Paff - Habitat Breakfast Club
Agency Owner / Broker
Goosehead Insurance

2026 PROJECTS

House # 62

Buchanan Trail West,
Greencastle - *Espinosa Family - COMPLETED!*

House # 63

Richard Ave,
Chambersburg -
Stouffer Family - July completion

House # 64

Katie Lane,
Waynesboro -
Runniger Family - est. August completion

House # 65

Main Street, Saint
Thomas - *Reeder Family - est. December completion*

House # 66

Main Street, Fort Loudon
- *est. Under roof before winter*

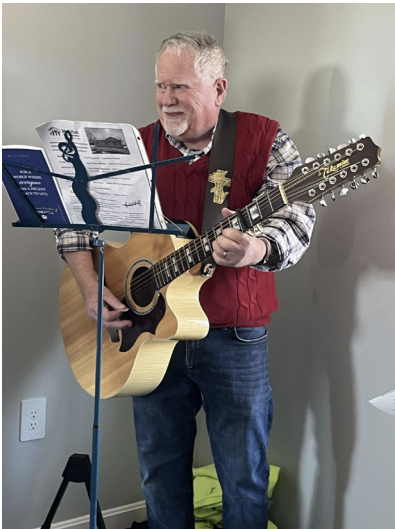
House # 67

Ridge Avenue,
Waynesboro - *est. Under roof before winter*



ILLUMINATE

OUR VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

MEET *Bruce Burr*

Bruce and his 12-string leading a song at our 62nd house dedication

Volunteer extraordinaire Bruce Burr has done it all. Bruce first joined Habitat in 2011 during a duplex build in Shippensburg. Before long, he embraced our vision for a weekly volunteer construction crew and became the leader of the “Master Builders” - now known as the Mission Builders. This dedicated group of men and women gathers each week for camaraderie, purpose, hands-on learning, and the occasional unofficial “staff meeting” after hours.

Bruce’s Habitat journey has also included hardship. During one of our downtown Chambersburg projects, he suffered a terrible accident on-site. We praise God for his recovery and for the steady optimism and encouragement he showed in the months that followed. Fittingly, Bruce now serves on Habitat’s Safety Committee. But his service doesn’t stop there.

When Habitat first dreamed of opening a ReStore, Bruce and his beloved dog Baxter faithfully staffed the empty building while we collected drop-off donations and prepared for opening day. Baxter, who had lost his eyesight, wandered the store with a bell around his neck so we could always hear where he was. Habitat volunteers still smile when they hear Bruce’s Baxter stories.

You’ve probably also seen Bruce around the community behind the wheel of his classic 1950 GMC deluxe cab truck, proudly displaying Habitat signage at fairs, festivals, and parades throughout the county. For the truck enthusiasts among us: yes, it has a heater, AM radio, and a 5-speed transmission with “creeper” mode for farming and parade duty alike, with only 46,000 miles on the 228 cubic-inch 6-cylinder engine.

But perhaps Bruce’s most meaningful contribution comes at our home dedications. With guitar in hand, he leads families, volunteers, and supporters in celebration and song as another family receives the keys to homeownership. Bruce: Thank you for sharing your heart and hands, your wit and wisdom, your music and ministry. Habitat is better because of you. And by the way, there’s always room for more Mission Builders. If you’d like to spend time with Bruce on the jobsite, c’mon over. We’ll build together.



Mark Story & Bruce Burr in the Greencastle Old Home Week Parade

MONTESSORI - BAKE SALE & BOARD

"The children are our future" is more than just words to Montessori Academy of Chambersburg. Investing in them academically is just as important as teaching them to give back to the community. Students ranging from Kindergarten to 4th grade came together with the idea of a bake sale to raise money for organizations in their community. One of those organizations was Habitat. Their goal was to raise \$75. They worked hard and baked so much that they were able to bless our organization with a total of \$450! Our hearts were so moved by their love and generosity that we decided to have them give one more thing. Each Habitat house is built with lumber that is signed with names and words of encouragement by donors and volunteers. The students got to sign and decorate a 2x4, which was used to frame the ceiling at our Saint Thomas project. The sense of community we share with them is overflowing with excitement as we work hand in hand to bring families together in a home. We are blessed and honored to partner with the students and teachers at Montessori Academy in Chambersburg.



Kent Carpenter - A sincere servant leader

Kent was a stalwart Habitat supporter, both here in Franklin County and previously in Connecticut, where he and his wife Sigrid lived before moving to our community. Quiet but resolute, Kent brought wisdom, steadiness, and leadership to Habitat for Humanity of Franklin County. He never sought the spotlight, but he consistently stepped forward wherever help was needed. Before long, he was serving in multiple roles: safety officer, volunteer committee chair, member of the weekly Master Builders crew, and eventually president of the board of directors.

Kent's most significant contribution may have been his leadership during the planning and launch of the Chambersburg Habitat ReStore. At the time, the vision was ambitious. The plan needed approval from Habitat International, confidence from our board, support from community stakeholders, and trust from local residents. Kent was part of every conversation and every key decision along the way. And when the doors finally opened in 2015, no one celebrated more proudly than Kent. He also joyfully celebrated the ReStore's 10th anniversary in 2025, a milestone he helped make possible. Even in recent years, Kent could still be found wearing his blue ReStore vest and volunteering alongside staff and fellow supporters. Service was simply part of who he was. It is no stretch to say that many more families are living in safe, affordable Habitat homes today because of Kent and Sigrid and their faithful investment in this community.

We miss Kent deeply. But we also smile, knowing he has simply moved on from Habitat for Humanity...to Heaven for Humanity.



Thank you, Kent Carpenter! 1938-2026

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*A world where everyone has
a decent place to live.*



BBQ & Bags with Keller Williams: A Family Fun Day Event

This family-friendly event will feature a great BBQ meal with ice cream and a casually competitive cornhole tournament. Kids' activities will include bounce houses, barrel train rides, face painting, and crafts. The Dunk Tank will be back! Tons of prize giveaways and fun for all ages. Held rain or shine. Hosted by KW Realtors Lane Thrush and Tim Fisler, who believe in the mission and ministry of Habitat.

Saturday, Sept 19 from 10-1
Mark your calendar and join us!

REGISTER FOR THE
SEPT 19 CORNHOLE
TOURNAMENT WITH
THIS CODE



5th Annual
**USED
BOOK
SALE**

Our friends at St John's Church in Chambersburg are again hosting the annual used book sale. This 5th sale will help Habitat realize a special milestone - a house completely funded by used books! Five years of YOU generously donating and purchasing books will make a local family's dream of home ownership a reality. We will begin accepting donations inside the lobbies at Franklin County Patriot Federal Credit Unions (as well as a few other local spots) from Aug 31-Oct 10. **Sale days are Oct 23-25.** New this year: Special early access via ticket on Thursday evening. Watch our website for more information. Let's make this year's sale the best and build a whole house!

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