



# Site Lines

NEWSLETTER OF HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF CHESTER COUNTY

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*Crystal working hard on insulation*

## A Journey to Homeownership

Crystal Boggs started her journey as a Habitat homeowner on a warm July evening at a baseball game when she checked her phone to hear the wonderful news that she was accepted into the Habitat program.

Shortly after, Crystal’s whirlwind journey to homeownership began. After attending the welcome orientation, she quickly began chipping away at her 200 hours of sweat equity with some help from her children. By earning A’s and B’s on their report cards, Antonio Jr. and Amaya were able to contribute the equivalent of 18 hours of sweat equity in just two marking periods. “The children were very excited to know that they had put in a full day’s work just with their grades.” Her daughter added extra motivation by promising to make a “Happy Completion Day” banner when her hours were completed.



*Crystal with her children, Amaya and Antonio Jr.*

As the cold weather arrived, some lingering health issues forced Crystal to shift her focus from working at the site to the Caln ReStore where she rapidly earned more responsibilities and felt a part of the ReStore team. “It was fun working at the store and learning different sides of Habitat.” By February, she was already at 100 hours and halfway through her sweat equity.

Once the weather warmed in April, Crystal reacquainted herself with the construction site and left the ReStore to finish her hours. It was then that she also completed the Open Hearth program and was prepared to make the down payment on her new Habitat home. Open Hearth, Inc. works with our potential homeowners through their Family Savings Partner Program. When our partner families deposit money into their Open Hearth account for the down payment on their home, Open Hearth matches the money. They also hold workshops on budgeting and first time buyer programs to help our families become fiscally responsible homeowners.

Crystal originally planned to finish her sweat equity in June, but when she realized how swiftly she was approaching 200 hours, her goal became May 22—her birthday. True to character though, on May 21, covered in paint from head to toe, Crystal reached 200 hours.

Unsurprisingly, Crystal did not stop when she finished her required hours and continued to volunteer at the site. “It’s just too exciting seeing it all come together!”

This month, Crystal and her children will move into their new home. “This has been one of the most amazing rides of my life. Not only do I get a home, but my children will see that you can do anything you set your mind to.” To see Crystal’s complete journal, visit [hfhcc.org/homeownership/a-journey-to-homeownership](http://hfhcc.org/homeownership/a-journey-to-homeownership).



*Antonio Jr. & Amaya with the Completion Day banner they made for their mother*

## Meet the Managers

Have you noticed the new faces in the ReStores? We are proud to introduce Leticia Fallis and Mike Trader as our newest ReStore managers.

From the moment she started in April, Leticia hit the ground running. As an Avon business-owner, recent graduate of San Jose State University, and ReStore customer, Tish was the perfect candidate to take the lead at the Caln ReStore. She has worked quickly to redesign the layout of the store, saying, "We've been working really hard to provide a more welcoming environment, both personally and aesthetically." Even her husband, Tim, a professor at Immaculata University, can be seen lending a hand in the reorganization efforts. Leticia says, "I love the mission of what we do and all the people involved in making it happen. Everyone from our amazing staff, volunteers, and customers play a vital role in making sure we reach our goals."



*Leticia at her graduation from San Jose State University*



*Mike Trader*

Mike Trader began his career with Habitat as a ReStore Associate at the Caln store. Thanks to his previous experiences in sales and as a Habitat volunteer, we quickly knew Mike would be a perfect fit in the ReStore! As he became familiar with the ReStores and a fast favorite among customers, it was clear Mike could bring a lot of energy and ideas to the Kennett Square ReStore and was promoted to manager in February. Like he did when he was in Caln, Mike quickly established a rapport with the regular customers, volunteers, and staff. Constantly thinking of new and creative ways to engage customers and his ReStore team, Mike always looks to optimize the customers' shopping experience. "I love the team I work with from our volunteers to our employees along with our customers....it's our store to run as a team."

Together, Mike and Leticia are committed to having the ReStores reach their full potential so they can help build even more Habitat homes in Chester County!

## ReStore Renovations



*ReStore staff and volunteers all moved into the new checkout counter*

If you have visited the Caln ReStore in the past few months, you may have noticed the store layout has changed. Thanks to our continued growth, it became clear that our cozy ReStore needed to expand and make use of every square foot available.

The first step in the renovation process was moving the checkout counter back to its original location near the front door. Shortly after its completion, the next phase of renovations began with the demolition of the old counter as well as some of the interior walls. These walls

originally divided the ReStore from HfHCC's administrative offices. However, in May 2014 the office staff moved out of the building, creating valuable empty space in the ReStore.

Now that the renovations are complete, we have added around 1,500 square feet of showroom space and are just adding finishing touches to beautify the entire store. Be sure to stop by to see the new changes for yourself!



Spring/Summer 2015



## Site Lines

*Building homes,  
communities,  
and hope*

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[Restore.hfhcc.org](http://Restore.hfhcc.org)

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### KENNETT SQUARE RESTORE

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### STORE HOURS

Tuesday-Friday: 9AM-6PM  
Saturday: 9AM-4PM

# 12th Annual Driving to Build Golf Outing a Hole in One!

It was a beautiful day at Radley Run Country Club on Monday, June 15 as 120 golfers enjoyed a round of golf in support of decent, affordable housing. The event was a tremendous success, thanks to the golfers and following sponsors:

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**Sly Fox**

Thanks also to a record number of tee sponsors, silent auction donors, the Radley Run staff, volunteers, and our dedicated golf committee, who helped make the outing a special one!



## Construction Updates



Construction at Cambria Terrace is continuing with the completion of six new Habitat homes. The first home is going to settlement this month, with three others only needing final touches. With an influx of groups in the coming months, the crew will have plenty of help to finish the remaining two homes.

In other news, preparations are underway to being construction in West Chester. Groundbreaking will occur this month with the site tentatively opening to volunteers by the end of the summer. To keep up-to-date on West Chester and to find out when you can volunteer, visit [hfhcc.org](http://hfhcc.org).

## Volunteer Spotlight: Stu Miller

There is no doubt that Caln ReStore volunteer Stu Miller was destined to be featured in the Volunteer Spotlight. In November 2013, when he retired from his 38 year career at Lockheed Martin, Stu quickly began searching for volunteer opportunities. As a donor to the ReStore, he was subscribed to the HfHCC newsletter and happened upon the



*Stu working hard at the register while fellow volunteer Maryann looks on*

Volunteer Spotlight featuring a Caln ReStore volunteer. Because he had worked in retail throughout high school and college, he realized that volunteering at the ReStore would be a perfect fit. He says, “I always liked working in retail and missed it those 38 years. To be honest, I have two left thumbs and wouldn't be much help at the site...Helping indirectly to build houses is very satisfying.”

Once he began, Stu quickly fit into the ReStore team. You can usually find him working at the cash register, where he

enjoys chatting with the regular customers. Though he originally only planned on volunteering one day a week, Stu recently decided to add on an extra day because of how much he enjoys the company of the customers, staff, and his fellow volunteers. We are so grateful for regular, yet quite exceptional, volunteers like Stu who are so imperative to daily ReStore operations. To those thinking of getting involved, Stu encourages, “Being able to help others is a wonderful thing. Giving people shelter and dignity is very powerful.” Come be a part of Habitat’s mission and volunteer today!



*Stu shows-off a recent ReStore donation*