



Site Lines

NEWSLETTER OF HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF CHESTER COUNTY

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LENDING A HAND TO HONOR THEIR MOTHER

On a warm Saturday afternoon in August, the Nichter family broke for lunch after a morning of painting an entire house at the Coatesville job site. The family was at the site for their first annual *Terry's Day*, a day of service they implemented to honor their mother, Teresa Nichter, who passed away in June.



Terry Nichter

The idea for *Terry's Day* was born from conversations Terry had with her adult children as her health began to decline. Through these conversations, it was discovered that although Terry was fiercely loyal, loving, and passionate, she did not feel like she had left her mark on the world. When talking about things she wished she had accomplished, she told her daughter, Beth Stiles, that she wished she had pushed her children and grandchildren to become more involved in the community. Thus, began the idea of making a legacy for Terry that she would be proud of, and partnering with

Habitat seemed like the perfect choice. The family was familiar with Habitat for Humanity and shopped regularly at the ReStore, saying that Terry “always liked Habitat and believed in the idea and mission.”

So on August 22, a day before she would have turned 67, Terry's husband, four children and their spouses, and a handful of her eldest grandchildren gathered to volunteer at the construction site. Instead of a day of



The Nichter family

sadness because their beloved wife, mother, and grandmother was no longer with them, *Terry's Day* quickly became a fun, joyful day of service where the family shared fond memories. In fact, they were so enthusiastic that a homeowner living several houses away could hear their shouts of excitement after just watching the safety video.

Though the family is community-oriented and does service in their own way, they said that “the point was to be together,” to honor Terry. Stories flew back and forth during the day, including one that influenced the design on their matching t-shirts. On the back of their shirts was a hand with the pinky down, inspired by Terry's carpal tunnel surgery which left her unable to raise her pinky. Instead of asking her for a “high five”, her children and grandchildren would say, “high four and a half!” Beth explained, “She would think it was hilarious because she had a great sense of humor!”

Now that the first *Terry's Day* was a success, the Nichter family looks to return around the same time every year to honor their family matriarch. It is clear that Terry not only left a mark on her loving family, but on HfHCC by inspiring such a beautiful day of giving. We look forward to seeing the Nichters again next year and for many more to come!



Construction Update



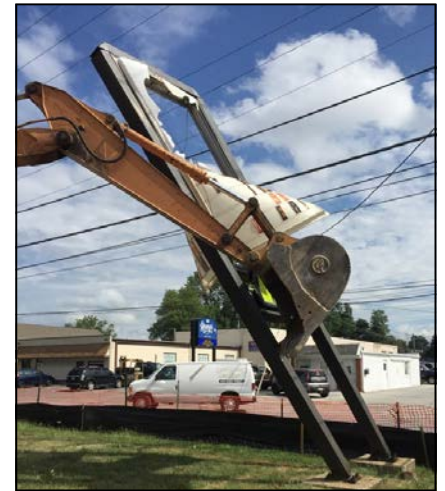
West Chester Groundbreaking—From left: Councilwoman Cassandra Jones, Councilman Don Braceland, HfHCC Board Vice President Charles Whitford, Reverend Ann Hatfield of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Robert Smith of First Presbyterian Church of West Chester, Senator Andy Dinniman, and Pastor Steve Clark of First Presbyterian Church of West Chester

It was a busy summer for construction at HfHCC. In the past few months, a piece of property in West Chester has gone from completely empty, save for a decrepit sign, to an active Habitat construction site!

In early July, volunteers, supporters, and local dignitaries gathered at the then-vacant lot on the corner of South Bolmar and East Barnard Streets in the borough to hold a ceremonial groundbreaking. A few weeks later, an excavator tore down the sign that kept Habitat from developing this last lot in the Bolmar Place neighborhood. Shortly thereafter, Volunteers and construction staff descended on the site to really kick off building and took it from foundation to roof in less than two months!

Thanks to our sponsors, Westminster Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of West Chester, we have had both the funds and manpower to build quickly. It is estimated that the home will be done in early spring.

Back at Cambria Terrace, Coatesville, construction has slowed down while the crew focuses on completing West Chester. Homes for this year's family applicants only require finishing touches and will be completed in time for the holidays. We cannot think of a better way to celebrate the festive season!



The West Chester sign comes down!



Framing the second floor in West Chester

Welcome 2016 Homeowners

Earlier this summer, HfHCC was excited to welcome seven new families into Habitat's affordable housing program. This group of nine adults and their children will move into their Habitat homes in 2016. Five of these homeowners will be joining the Cambria Terrace community, while two other families will move into the last twin home currently under construction in West Chester at Bolmar Place.

Already, the homeowners are busy hammering away on their 200 hours of sweat equity by volunteering at the construction sites, ReStores, and by attending financial literacy and home maintenance classes. This requirement allows the families to feel invested in their new neighborhoods as well as introduces them to their future neighbors and fellow partner families. But most notably, sweat equity gets the entire family excited about their new home. Future homeowners Lauren and Andy say, "Our kids are so excited to have their own rooms and to move somewhere that we have helped to build."

It may be the beginning of a long journey for these seven families, but we know it will be one they won't soon forget. Adds Lauren, "The most memorable part of this experience so far is the gratitude and excitement that we feel every day. We have countless conversations with each other and our children about how lucky we are."



Future Habitat homeowner, Andy, works hard at the West Chester site

ReStore Update

After several months of renovations, reorganization, and preparation, the Caln ReStore has opened up a new showroom area. This space was the former home to the administrative offices, but now has been reimagined into a space perfect for showcasing vignettes and antique pieces that are donated to the ReStore. This was the final stage in the renovation process that began earlier this year, creating an extra 1,500 square feet. Stop by the Caln ReStore today to see the finished product of months of hard work!



Volunteer Spotlight: Anne-Marie Walters

Anne-Marie Walters is the ultimate Habitat volunteer. Whether you've volunteered at the build site, shopped at the ReStore, or attended a Habitat event, the odds are good that you've met her. As the new president of HfHCC's Board of Directors, she brings enthusiasm and passion to every aspect of our mission.



Anne-Marie first joined Habitat in 2011 when she was approached about joining the Board. With both her church and company already heavily involved in HfHCC, Anne-Marie says, "I knew God was asking me to get involved." And get involved she did! Since then, she has assisted in fundraising for the Coatesville build, organized regular build days for her company, volunteered at the Kennett ReStore, and served on various committees. Those opportunities culminated into her nomination to secretary of the Board of Directors in 2014 and president in July 2015.

Though she has reached the pinnacle of volunteer roles, Anne-Marie still finds ways to get more involved. She can be found at the construction site regularly with her company or church, or at an outreach committee meeting, or working with the other directors to continue HfHCC's mission. When asked what her favorite part about volunteering is, she couldn't help but pick a favorite part of every aspect whether it was the "construction site and

working alongside the homeowners, learning about their lives and what a difference we can make to their families," or meeting ReStore volunteers, donors, and shoppers.

To those thinking of volunteering with HfHCC, Anne-Marie highlights the number of different opportunities and the new skills that can be acquired doing so. But most importantly, she notes the impact that a volunteer can have. "There are many opportunities where you can help and make a difference. Most of all, you can learn more about the needs of our community here in Chester County and be a part of transforming the lives of many low-income families."



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*Building homes,
communities,
and hope*

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Donation Hotline: 610-466-1890

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KENNETT SQUARE RESTORE

345 Scarlet Road, Kennett Square
ksrestore@hfhcc.org
610-925-2585

STORE HOURS

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

There was no room for them... Luke 2:7

Many years ago, Joseph and Mary traveled through Bethlehem looking for a safe and dry place to have their baby. Repeatedly they heard the message, "There is no room". Finally, they found an empty stable and Jesus was born.

By Christmas, three homes that you helped build on Community Lane with Tracy, Portia and Tasha and their respective families will be complete. They will have a safe and decent place to live this holiday season.

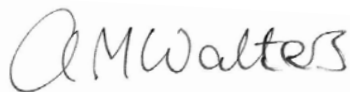
Seven more families are approved and working on their sweat equity. All we need is your donation and we can complete their houses in the New Year – so they can settle and build a life in this thriving community.

Finances are tight and everyone is being more careful this year with their spending. I shortened my shopping list. My family will be fine since we have enough already. I can still make my end of the year donations.

Even in these tough times, I believe that our God is truly a God of abundance. There is still enough to go around. I know you will help us provide simple, decent, affordable homes to eager, hard-working families waiting for a decent place to live where they can thrive.

Thank you for your support this past year. Thank you for giving Crystal, Portia, and Tasha and their children a home.

In partnership,



Anne-Marie Walters
President, Board of Directors

P.S. During this holiday season, as you finally find time to sit and relax in your house, I hope you will slowly and thankfully look at your home and the community. I hope you will join me in thanking God for allowing all of us to enable these three families to move into their new homes in time for the holidays. The annual appeal will soon be in your mailbox; please consider a gift to help us continue our mission.