

INSIDE...



# Site Lines

NEWSLETTER OF HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF CHESTER COUNTY

Winter 2017



## Year in Review

For many, a new year is a time to reflect on what we accomplished the previous year while optimistically looking ahead. Here at Habitat, 2016 was a successful year thanks to your support.

Most notably in 2016, we welcomed six new families into their affordable homes! (Our seventh homeowner just settled on her home this month.) This stellar group of homeowners worked faster than any group in recent memory, with many finishing their sweat equity in less than twelve months. New homeowners Lauren and Andy moved into their home with their three children in October and have happily reported that all of the excitement and relief they expected to feel with owning a home has come to fruition.



*Andy & Lauren with their children and dog in front of their new home*

While 2015 was the year we broke ground on the last two lots of the Bolmar/Poplar Place community in West Chester, 2016 was the year we finished the homes and two new families moved in to complete the

neighborhood. Shortly after moving in, new homeowner, Jeanette, sent a note exclaiming, "You don't have any idea how happy my family is in the new house. Thank you so much!"

Last year was also an outstanding year for volunteer support. Over 1,200 volunteers spent a collective 25,000 hours of their time at the ReStores, construction sites, special events, and on committees. These hours did not go unnoticed by the grateful new homeowners, who were amazed at how joyfully and selflessly so many strangers sacrificed their time to build other people's homes. Whether loading a ReStore purchase into someone's car or raking grass seed on a new front lawn at the site, we are truly fortunate

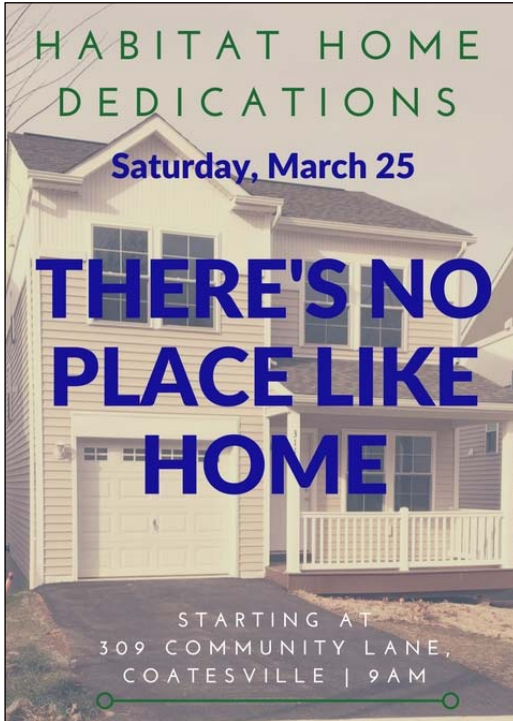


*Homeowners working hard on their sweat equity. Top: Jeanette Bottom: Monique & Porsha*

to have so many volunteers who come out once a week, or even once a year, to help us further our mission.

But most impressively, the work of all of our volunteers and donors paid off and brought these families home and into a new phase of their lives as homeowners. We look forward to an equally successful 2017!

## Spring Home Dedications



There is nothing quite like celebrating home dedications in the midst of the holiday season. Unfortunately, Mother Nature had different plans for us and a winter storm on December 17, our scheduled dedication date, forced us to postpone. To avoid any more winter weather and unsafe conditions, we have decided to reschedule for Saturday, March 25 at 9am. We hope that you will join Habitat homeowners, donors, volunteers, local dignitaries, and other community supporters for a morning of celebration and achievement with five new Habitat families. After the brief ceremony, we will meet in the construction trailer for snacks and mingling with the homeowners.

This is a rain or shine event, but in case of inclement weather, check [www.hfhcc.org](http://www.hfhcc.org) for updates.

## Looking Ahead to 2017

Looking ahead, your continued support in 2017 will bring four recently selected families to Habitat homes in Coatesville. Though two homes will be new construction in Cambria Terrace, the other two homes will be rehabilitation projects.

This year's group of newly selected homeowners includes Bill and Linda. Like many current Habitat homeowners, it took multiple attempts for them to be selected for the program. However, their faith and desire to have a stable home for their teenage daughter and son with special needs made them persevere. While waiting outside the Habitat office for their first prospective homeowner orientation, they saw a rainbow, and while they eventually were not approved for homeownership that year, they felt that God had given them a sign. The following year, they reapplied and were accepted! They are thrilled to soon own a home that will have enough space for their teenagers to have their own bedrooms!



*The future site of the next Habitat home. This will be the last home on this side of the street.*



Winter 2017



## Site Lines

*Building homes,  
communities,  
and hope*

### OFFICE

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[www.restore.hfhcc.org](http://www.restore.hfhcc.org)  
Donation Hotline: 610-466-1890

### CALN RESTORE

1853 E. Lincoln Hwy., Coatesville  
610-466-7364

### KENNETT SQUARE RESTORE

345 Scarlet Road, Kennett Square  
610-925-2585

### STORE HOURS

Monday-Saturday: 9AM-6PM

## Driving Toward Summer

The weather may be chilly now, but some of us are already dreaming of golf! We are excited to announce the fourteenth annual *Driving to Build* golf outing on Monday, June 12 at French Creek Golf Club in Elverson. Gil Hanse, renowned for the Rio 2016 Olympic Golf Course and Craighead Golf Links in Scotland, designed the course which features flowing brooks, woodlands and natural golf hazards.

Last year's outing raised more than \$25,000, which paid for a basement foundation and all of the lumber needed to frame a home for a hard-working family in need of decent, affordable housing in Chester County!

Sponsorship opportunities and registration are available upon request by contacting Jason Pyrah, Associate Director, at [jason@hfhcc.org](mailto:jason@hfhcc.org) or 610-384-7993, ext. 12.



## ReStore 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

While Habitat International just celebrated the ReStore's twenty-fifth anniversary, this spring we are celebrating fifteen years since our Caln ReStore opened!

In 2002, Habitat board members Art Munson and Burt Rothenberger investigated the ReStore concept as a way to raise money for Habitat's construction fund. With the help of John Noland, a member of the construction crew who also had a business degree, they drafted a business plan, and, once approved by the Board of Directors, the ReStore was born. Art and Burt volunteered an estimated 50 hours each week getting paperwork in order and picking up donations from local retail partners and residents. Their hard work paid off three months later in March 2002, when the Caln ReStore had a soft opening, followed by a grand opening in May. The success of the Caln ReStore prompted us to open another store in Kennett Square in 2012 to engage shoppers and donors in the southern end of Chester County.

Today, there are 985 Habitat ReStores nationwide and counting. Your purchase not only provides you with quality items at a great price, but helps to build Habitat homes in our community!

## Build a House...Build a Dream



Did you know that there's still time to enter this year's *Build a House...Build a Dream* contest for kids? If you know of a fifth-grader that loves to build, design, and create, this contest is for them!

Fifth-graders from across the Delaware Valley are challenged to work individually or in pairs to create a three-dimensional model of their dream home. Then, on March 18, at Church Farm School in Exton, contestants present their models to judges who are experienced in the construction, engineering, design, architecture, and real estate fields. The top three entries earn prizes, but all contestants receive a certificate of achievement and the chance to win great prizes!

Register online today for this family favorite event! You will not want to miss the great raffles, prizes, food, and fun! Visit [www.hfhcc.org](http://www.hfhcc.org) for details and to register.



*The original ReStore sign at opening in 2002*



*A glimpse of the Caln ReStore before its grand opening*

## Volunteer Spotlight Burt Rothenberger & Art Munson

It is difficult to think of the ReStores or Habitat in Chester County without Burt Rothenberger and Art Munson immediately coming to mind. These two local Habitat icons have spent countless years volunteering at the construction site, on committees, and most notably, in the ReStores.

Burt and his wife Gail began volunteering with Habitat when they lived in Toledo, Ohio in the early 1990s. Upon returning to Chester County, Gail was quick to get back into volunteering and when she heard there was an open position on the Board of Directors, she encouraged Burt to get involved, too. From there, Burt delved into many responsibilities, including the ReStore and the *Build a House...Build a Dream* contest.

Art and his family are avid community volunteers, so it's impossible to pinpoint exactly how he became involved in Habitat all those years ago. But by the time we were building homes in Phoenixville in 1992, Art was involved at the construction site and finance committee and was on the Board by 1994, where he met Burt.

Burt and Art became known as a dynamic duo during their time spent putting together the Caln ReStore in 2002, an experience they call a "real adventure." One of their favorite memories is driving the Habitat box truck around the county picking up donated materials. When first starting out, they were not familiar with the best way to secure smaller items in the back of the truck and after making a turn, they could hear everything fall over!

When asked what has made their time at Habitat so special, they made it clear that the biggest reward was seeing the families in their new homes. But ultimately, Burt and Art note that it's not just about building a few houses, but about building a community.

If you want to join stellar volunteers like Burt and Art, you can learn about our current opportunities by visiting [www.hfhcc.org/volunteer](http://www.hfhcc.org/volunteer).



*Art Munson*



*Burt Rothenberger*