

## BUILD A HOUSE...BUILD A DREAM CONTEST A VIRTUAL SUCCESS



First place winners Remy D. and Naish L. from Barkely Elementary



Second place winners, Camden B. from Garnet Valley Elementary and Dylan W. and Bennett S. from Media Elementary



Third place winners, Chandler S. from Charlestown Elementary and Faridah I. from K D Markely Elementary

This year's 18th Annual "Build a House ... Build a Dream" contest for fifth-graders was held virtually on March 20th. The prior 16 years, the event had been held in person with hundreds of attendees joining the organization to celebrate the students' creativity and hard work. This year's virtual event hit a new record with more than 200 students registered to participate with 108 submitting photos and videos of their 3-D dream homes.

In this competition, students from more than 200 area schools were invited to work individually or in pairs to build their own three-dimensional, model dream home. Contestants then submitted photos or videos of their projects along with a description explaining their inspiration behind their design and aesthetic choices.

This year's creations included homes made of shipping containers, homes stacked with multiple floors to take up less space on the ground, and multiple houseboats, one of which even floated. An in-house judging process selected the top 16 dream home architects to be virtually interviewed by a panel of judges. All of the participants' submissions were displayed in an online presentation with a special welcome message from NBC10 meteorologist Bill Henley, who ordinarily emcees the event.

The contest is free for participants, but thanks to local businesses, the event is one of the main fundraisers for Habitat throughout the year. Founding sponsor Fox & Roach/Trident Charities has championed the event from the beginning. "In the past 18 years, we have helped raise over \$500,000 to support Habitat's mission to build strength, stability, and self-reliance through shelter," said CEO Larry Flick. "This is one of our favorite events. Over the years, more than 6,000 fifth-graders from 750 schools have used their ingenuity to build their incredible dream houses."

Other sponsors that supported this year's event included Bentley Systems, Eadeh Enterprises, Citadel, Martin Architectural Group, Saint-Gobain, RKL LLP, E.B. Walsh and Associates, McMahon Associates, Great Valley Racquet Club, JBC Associates, and Home Depot. Through these generous donors, the event was able to raise more than \$17,000 to support Habitat for Humanity of Chester County.

The goal of "Build A House ... Build A Dream" is to introduce elementary-age students to Habitat's crucial mission of building affordable, accessible housing. Volunteer opportunities start at age 15, making it difficult to share Habitat's mission with younger students. This event is a fun, creative way to remind the students that Habitat doesn't just build a home; it builds a dream for a family in need.



# Quarterly Update with Chris Wiseman



The world as we know it has changed over the past year, but Habitat’s resolve to continue our mission to build homes, community and hope remains steadfast.

We will be hosting virtual quarterly updates with Executive Director Chris Wiseman and members of the Habitat for Humanity of Chester County’s board of directors. Friends of Habitat are invited to join as we discuss current and future projects as well as new program initiatives on the horizon.

Our first quarterly update will be on April 22nd from 6:30pm-7:30pm. Topics to be covered during the update include:

- An update on construction happening on our final homes in the Cambria Terrace Development
- More on our progress of the next five homes being built at the West Grove Development
- An in-dept look at our future plans including critical repair initiatives and renovations

Please register at [www.hfhcc.org/rsvp](http://www.hfhcc.org/rsvp) to be sent a Zoom link to attend the meeting.

You can also scan the QR code on the right to take you directly to the registration page.

**Registration closes Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup>.**



Spring 2021



Building strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter

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## UPDATES FROM THE CONSTRUCTION SITES



### Cambria Terrace Development | Coatesville

After 10 years at this construction site, we have broken ground on the final seven homes with hopes of completing the project entirely by this summer. We currently have five future families working on their sweat equity and are searching for the final three future homeowners.

We would like to congratulate Jack Monaghan on his retirement after helping to build over 200 homes with Habitat for Humanity of Chester County. Jack has been a critical part of helping so many families move into well built, affordable homes and leading a team of volunteers that we would be lost without. We send him off with well wishes of enjoying the Florida sun!



### Fuller Meadows Development | West Grove

The first five homeowners have been settled into their new homes since December 2020. We have broken ground for the next five homes and have five future families accepted into the program and starting their sweat equity. We are still accepting applications for anyone interested in a West Grove home!



**Your donations help build affordable housing and strong, stable communities.**

Donating your gently used appliances, furniture, home accessories and building materials stocks your local Habitat for Humanity ReStore. Proceeds help Habitat partner with local families to build, rehabilitate and repair homes, helping them achieve the strength, stability and independence they need to build a better future.

Visit [www.ReStoreChesco.org](http://www.ReStoreChesco.org) for donation details and to request a free pickup!

Open Wednesday - Saturday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

**go green with  
your spring  
clean**



Join us April 22nd from 11am-2pm  
for our Earth Day E-Waste Event  
in partnership with

**The JUNKLUGGERS**

**We'll pick it up!** .....



## DONOR SPOTLIGHT: JOHN SPURLINO



John Spurlino has been an active part of Habitat for Humanity of Chester County for over 19 years, joining the board in 2018. “The idea of giving people a hand up, not a hand out struck a resonant chord with me,” he said. “By involving people in the work of building a community, they learn valuable skills in home maintenance, a sense of accomplishment and evolve the spirit of community.”

When the Spurlinos moved to Chester County, they were surprised at the high cost of living. “What would be a solid middle-class income in many areas is barely enough to provide housing.” Realizing the burden this causes for so many families; he started looking for the best way to help.

“As a donor, I met with the HfHCC team and saw what a tremendous job they were doing to create affordable homeownership opportunities. Chester County’s rapid growth and commitment to preserving open space make it a wonderful place to live but also expensive. The chance to work on the board to help HfHCC deliver more homes to deserving families offered a great opportunity to do more.”

“We need to leave the world better than we found it. My father taught me that everyone needs to work to improve the community in any way that they can. Habitat offers one of the critical necessities, affordable quality housing. Providing hope for everyone’s improved lifestyles is important because it enables people to improve lives for generations to come.”

We are incredibly fortunate to have such a caring, skilled, and dedicated director on our board. Thank you, John and the Spurlino family, for your continued support of Habitat’s mission and for all you do to make it possible.