



HELPING HANDS

E-EDITION, DECEMBER 2017

"A candle is but a small thing.
But one candle can light another.
And see how its own light increases,
as a candle gives its flame to the other.
You are such a light."

— Moshe Davis

Sharing Your Light

By Cathy Collins

There are many things that I love about this time of year. The music, the beauty of the December night sky at dusk, the magic of memories awakened by each decoration placed on the Christmas tree, and the spirit of reflection about values to hold dear—love, joy, peace, and hope. It has always seemed rather fitting to me that light (candles) plays such an important role during this season. I can think of no better way to symbolize its spirit.

The Jewish tradition has the Menorah and the Christian tradition the Advent Wreath. Kwanzaa celebrations incorporate candles, as do those that honor the winter solstice. Candles and light abound at this time of year.

A tradition that I particularly love is the Christmas Eve service in which at the end we gather in a circle singing *Silent Night*. Each one of us has our own small candle. We must share the light from our candle to light our neighbor's candle. Our individual candles do not give off much light; yet together our candles create enough light to see the beauty of our community.

Working at Habitat, I get to witness this image all through the year. Each family, staff member, volunteer, and donor brings her/his own light to fulfilling our mission. Together we help families thrive, neighborhoods regain strength and health, and the community find its vibrancy. Our work cannot be done alone. It relies upon the beauty and brilliance of your individual light.

May this holiday season fill you with all that your light needs to shine brightly so that you may continue to help us create the beacon of hope that Habitat Newburgh is to the families with which we partner and the community in which we build.

HOUSE Blessings

10:00 AM

26 S. Miller Street

Home of Guadalupe, Estéban, & Family

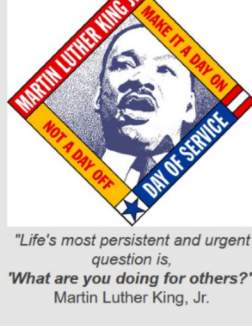
1:30 PM

131 Carson Street

Home of Magdalena, Jesus, & Family

ANNUAL MLK Day of Service

Make it a day on, not a day off!



"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"

Martin Luther King, Jr.

SAVE THE DATE

MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 2018

The Habitat Newburgh Crew helping with Thanksgiving Meal Distribution

A team of staff and volunteers joined Newburgh Loaves & Fishes to help set up and distribute Thanksgiving meals to over 1,000 local families!



Habitat Newburgh in the News!

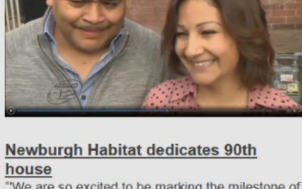
Family's Habitat home stands tall thanks to something iconic

"The family worked with Habitat For Humanity, putting in 400 hours of work into other people's homes to make their homeownership a reality. They had to take home ownership education classes on topics like financing, budgeting, and home maintenance."



Newburgh Family set to move into new Habitat for Humanity home

"The Guevara family, who have four children, says they are excited about moving in to their five bedroom, two bathroom home which was renovated from basement to the roof. The family put in 400 hours of 'sweat equity' into the home, as required by Habitat. As an added boost for the holiday spirit, lumber from the 2016 Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree was used to construct the home."



Newburgh Habitat dedicates 90th house

"We are so excited to be marking the milestone of our 90th completed house today," said Habitat Executive Director Cathy Collins. "It is fitting that the Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree is being recycled and given new life as part of this house, as this house is one of five gut rehabs that Habitat Newburgh is giving new life on this block."



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

20 South Miller Street:

With the dedication of 20 S. Miller Street, volunteers will be heading a few doors down to 20 S. Miller, where we will be framing interior walls and putting down subfloor. Bundle up and come help us build!

15 1/2 Overlook Place:

This house has been buzzing with activity as volunteers work to finish demolition and continue interior framing at this beautiful gut rehab project in Washington Heights. Our 8th Women Build house, 15 1/2 is already a volunteer favorite. Come be a part of this home's rehab process and sign up!

324 Robinson Avenue

The first floor deck is on and this site is buttoned down for the winter—ready to begin framing in the spring.

Holiday Hours

OFFICE & SITES CLOSED

Saturday, December 23 through Monday, January 1

RESTORE CLOSED

Sunday, December 24 through Monday, January 1

OFFICE OPEN

Tuesday, January 2

FIRST VOLUNTEER DAY BACK

Wednesday, January 3

RESTORE OPEN

Wednesday, January 3

Thank you to the Volunteer Groups who joined us this month!

Enterprise
West Point
Mercy College
Alpha Si Omega, SUNY New Paltz
Hudson River Healthcare AmeriCorps
Excelsior Academy
Catholic Daughters

TWELFTH NIGHT CELEBRATION

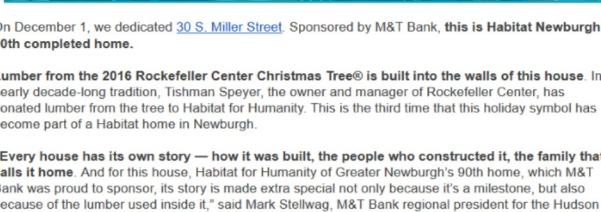
Sunday, January 7, 2018
3 PM

St. James Church
Goshen, NY

Our 90th House!

Sponsored by M&T Bank

Built with lumber from the 2016 Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree®



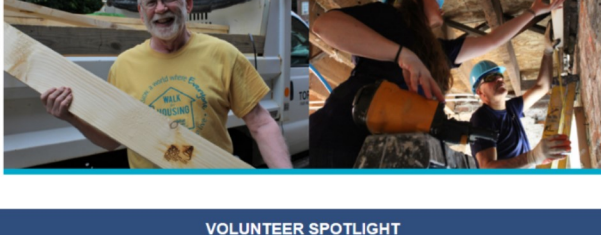
On December 1, we dedicated 30 S. Miller Street. Sponsored by M&T Bank, this is Habitat Newburgh's 90th completed home.

Lumber from the 2016 Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree® is built into the walls of this house. In a nearly decade-long tradition, Tishman Speyer, the owner and manager of Rockefeller Center, has donated lumber from the tree to Habitat for Humanity. This is the third time that this holiday symbol has become part of a Habitat home in Newburgh.

"Every house has its own story — how it was built, the people who constructed it, the family that calls it home. And for this house, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newburgh's 90th home, which M&T Bank was proud to sponsor, its story is made extra special not only because it's a milestone, but also because of the lumber used inside it," said Mark Stollweg, M&T Bank regional president for the Hudson Valley. "The 2016 Rockefeller Center Tree was admired by millions and now it lives on here in the Hudson Valley. Congratulations to Habitat Newburgh on its 90th completed home, and best of luck to the new homeowners who will fill this house with their own stories and memories."

Cathy Collins, Habitat Newburgh Executive Director, says, "We are so excited to be marking the milestone of our 90th completed house today. It is fitting that the Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree is being recycled and given new life as a part of this house, as this house is one of five gut rehabs that Habitat Newburgh is giving new life on this block. Thank you to our long-time partners at M&T Bank, and thank you to the many hearts and hands that went into building this house."

If you are interested in becoming a homeowner or a volunteer with Habitat Newburgh, visit habitatnewburgh.org or call (845) 568-6035.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Rich & Kathy Fenwick

When trying to decide between two key volunteers to write a spotlight on, it certainly helps when they are married. That way, we can make the easy decision and simply do a write up on both of them. This is what we did this month with core Habitat Newburgh volunteers Kathy and Rich Fenwick. With a combined 33 years of experience with Habitat Newburgh, their list of stories is as long as their passion for our cause is deep.

Rich Fenwick is a Newburgh native and member of the NFA Class of 1964, a class well represented at Habitat Newburgh. During the first year of Habitat Newburgh, back in 1999, Rich was approached by a founding member regarding getting involved. Nearly 18 years later, Rich rarely goes a week without lending his skills as a retired electrician to the Habitat community. Rich has literally lit the way at the majority of Habitat Newburgh homes.



Three years after Rich became involved, Kathy Fenwick joined Habitat Newburgh as an office staff member, before moving on to volunteer on various committees and at events. These days Kathy can be found helping out with the Volunteer Committee and basically anywhere else she can serve Habitat Newburgh.

Combined, Kathy and Rich have served Habitat Newburgh as Construction and ReStore Volunteers, as well as being members of the Family Services, Volunteer, Build, and Safety Committees. The Fenwicks point to the homebuyer families as their #1 reason for continuing to volunteer. Their #2 reason? Kathy and Rich rave about the great people they get to work with, many of whom volunteer their time several times a week.

Illustrating how deep the Fenwicks connection to Habitat Newburgh goes, Rich's mother lived at 100 Rockwood Avenue and his father lived at 13 South Miller Street, two current Habitat Newburgh homes which volunteers and staff rehabbed. These two homes had fallen away over the years since Rich's family inhabited them, but the Fenwicks were able to play a major role in both saving these homes and helping deserving families purchase them. Rich and Kathy both take a great deal of pride in the turnaround of these specific homes, as well as Habitat Newburgh's leadership role within the greater Newburgh community.

With all the work Kathy and Rich do around our organization, you'd think they get tired of running into each other. When asked about this, Rich offered, "We're rarely in the same place. We're like two ships passing in the night." For volunteers and staff, Kathy and Rich are mainstays. We are never surprised to see them helping out with events, meetings, and day-to-day tasks. Habitat Newburgh is extremely grateful the Fenwicks call us their 'port of call'.

Habitat Newburgh in The Wall Street Journal!

After Rockefeller Center, Where Do the Giant Christmas Trees Go?



"For Keith Smith, a single father of three living in Newburgh, N.Y., the connection to the Rockefeller tree is an added bonus to the joy of owning his first home. Mr. Smith's family will celebrate their first Christmas in their new house this year, where wooden beams made from the 2015 tree are built into the walls. 'It's amazing that one of the trees is in my house,' Mr. Smith, 38 years old, said. 'It means a lot.'"

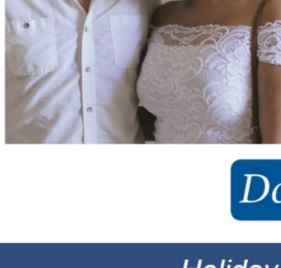
Dear Santa,

We have been very good this year (and done a lot of good work)! We hope we might find these gifts under our tree to help us do our work at Overlook and South Miller Street in 2018:

- Hand tools—Hammers, Tape Measures with fractions (25'), Crow Bars, Speed Squares, Utility knives, Chalk lines
- Step ladder—6' fiberglass, 250 lbs +
- Safety gear—harnesses, ear plugs, safety glasses (clear)
- Paint brushes—(1-100 of each) 2", 2 1/2", low to mid quality
- Roller sleeves—3/8" nap, 12" length
- Foam paint sleeves—4" or 6" for 'hot dog' rollers
- Dewalt 12V Max, 2 spot cross line laser level, model #DW0822LG
- Cordless impact driver & drill sets



Love,
Habitat Newburgh



"Some people inherit wealth. I inherited poverty. Working with Habitat, I helped build and purchase a home that changed my family's life. Now I've given my daughter a safe and healthy home. She will inherit this house."

Manny Zapata
Habitat Homeowner

Donate

Holiday Shopping?

Make every gift count with Amazon Smile!



Your shop. Amazon gives.

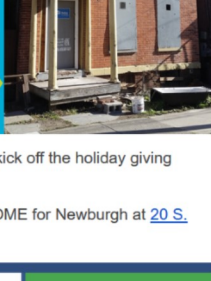
Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.

To sign up visit smile.amazon.com and choose Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newburgh as your charity of choice

#GIVINGTUESDAY™



Your Gift BUILDS 20 S. Miller



Thank you to all of the generous givers who helped us kick off the holiday giving season with #Giving Tuesday!

Missed it? Make a gift TODAY and help us BRING IT HOME for Newburgh at 20 S. Miller.



Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood Tour

Wednesday, December 6, 2017



Join us for a FREE coach bus tour and learn more about Habitat's work in Newburgh. Tour in-progress rehabs and new builds, and see a completed Habitat Newburgh house.

All are welcome to join!

125 Washington Street
Newburgh, NY

11:00 AM

Call (845) 568-6035 x105 to RSVP

LOOKING AHEAD

Upcoming events in 2017 and 2018

Saturday, December 9
House Blessings—26 S. Miller & 131 Carson

Monday, January 15
MLK Day of Service

Sunday, April 22
Habitat Newburgh Walk for Housing

Monday, June 4 - Friday, June 8
2018 Home Builders Blitz



CHARITY NAVIGATOR
Four Star Charity

Give with confidence! We are a Charity Navigator 4-star rated organization and a Habitat for Humanity International Affiliate of Distinction!