HELPING HANDS

E-EDITION, FEBRUARY 2017

"We are what we repeatedly do.
Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit."

Will Durant

Excellence

By Cathy Collins

I don't usually put a lot of stock into awards, but when news came that we were selected as an Affiliate of Distinction, I was overwhelmed with pride and joy. This award is special. It reflects and honors the value of our organization and the high quality way we carry out our mission. It is a distinction shared with everyone who has ever been a part of Habitat Newburgh. Those who founded the organization with such vigor and ambition. Those who have volunteered from day one and those who have just joined us. Those who support our work financially. Those who collaborate with us. Those who inspire us with their willingness to partner and make a better life for their families.

Will Durant was right when he said excellence is a habit. From Habitat Newburgh's inception, excellence has been at the forefront. The Board of Directors has always set high standards and pushed the organization to accomplish bold goals. Our community of volunteers go above and beyond to make sure that houses are built with quality, families are served with care, and donors are treated with gratitude. Throughout our history, we have been blessed with professional staff who bring passion, talent, and dedication to their work.

Together, we have all experienced great moments of accomplishment—the development of E. Parmenter Street Neighborhood, Builders Blitzes, innovative builds, new partnerships, successful events, and just the sheer joy of every dedication. These moments of accomplishment represent an awful lot of good work being done behind the scenes. We are committed to creating strong systems and procedures that allow us to maintain "habits of excellence." It is not always easy to stretch ourselves to strive to meet the level of need in our community, yet with too many families still facing unacceptable living conditions, it is all the more important that we operate with excellence.

I know you all do not keep showing up with excellence to win an award—you show up for the families we partner with and the community we help revitalize. Still, it is important to acknowledge and celebrate the quality of what we have built together. Congratulations to all of us!

Habitat Newburgh Named an **Affiliate of Distinction**

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newburgh was selected as an Affiliate of Distinction, an award granted by Habitat International to the "best of the best" to recognize excellence and showcase best practices so that other affiliates can benefit from award-winning work. We were one of 24 affiliates selected. There are approximately 1,400 affiliates across the United States.

Based on a comprehensive analysis of our organization, Habitat Newburgh was assessed against standards and metrics across the categories of Habitat for Humanity's strategic plan—building a sustainable organization, building community impact, building sector impact, and building societal impact. All aspects of our work were evaluated—constuction standards and safety, family services protocol, communications and press, staff policies, board engagement, fundraising, tithe, volunteer engagement, advocacy and government relations, community development and partnership building.

This award is a recognition of the collective commitment to excellence in carrying out our mission by everyone (volunteers, board, staff, supporters, and homeowners) who is a part of the Habitat Newburgh family, and of all those who got our organization to where we are today. We are so grateful to have the truly extraordinary community passionate about helping our neighbors build strength, stability, and self-reliance through shelter.

OVER 100 VOLUNTEERS JOIN HABITAT NEWBURGH FOR ANNUAL MLK DAY OF SERVICE

Over 100 volunteers joined Habitat Newburgh in honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with a day of service. Together, they worked on Habitat Newburgh projects ranging from demolition at the latest gut-rehab house, to painting doors and trim, and helping at the ReStore. There was also a youth activity building and painting bat houses that will be donated to Stony Kill Farm.

"I believe that the work that we do is very much in line with the values of Dr. King," said Habitat Newburgh Executive Director, Cathy Collins. "The barriers that so often divide us naturally fall away on the construction site when we are all working together towards a common goal; offering a hand up to our neighbors and giving local families the opportunity to build strength, stability, and self-reliance through homeownership."

Taking place each third Monday in January, this day of service empowers individuals, strengthens communities, bridges barriers, addresses social problems, and moves us closer to Dr. King's vision of a "Beloved Community."

10th ANNIVERSARY

TWELFTH NIGHT CELEBRATION

EpiscBuild's 12th Night Service contained beautiful music, wonderful food and fellowship, and joyous celebration of funds raised for 10 years!

Habitat Newburgh in the News!

IN THE NEW YORK TIMES!

New York Today: What's Next for the Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree?

"Anayeli Talamante remembers her first trip to see the spectacular conifer beside the ice skating rink. She was 17. Five years later, she is moving with her family into a house in Newburgh, N.Y., that was partly built with wood from last year's tree. Her parents, immigrants from Mexico who arrived in New York two decades ago, never thought they'd be able to have a home for their family of six, their daughter told us.

Her father works at a bottling plant, and her mother is caring for her three younger siblings. Her youngest brother, who is 2, has autism and has tested positive for lead poisoning from the family's current apartment.

They were in dire need of a safer place to live. 'It's something we never really had for ourselves,' Ms. Talamante said."

Newburgh Habitat for Humanity Gives Back with MLK Day of Service

"The reason that it is so important to do this on MLK Day is that it does spotlight what he was trying to create in a beloved community"

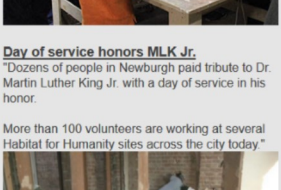
Annual Day of Service in Newburgh – painting a police station, building bat houses

"The mission is wonderful and the volunteers are terrific," Bloomer said. "Everybody works to help everyone else and it comes together."

Day of service honors MLK Jr.

"Dozens of people in Newburgh paid tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with a day of service in his honor.

More than 100 volunteers are working at several Habitat for Humanity sites across the city today."



Volunteers Join Habitat Newburgh to Honor MLK

"I believe that the work that we do is very much in line with the values of Dr. King,' said Habitat Newburgh Executive Director, Cathy Collins. 'The barriers that so often divide us naturally fall away on the construction site when we are all working together towards a common goal; offering a hand up to our neighbors and giving local families the opportunity to build strength, stability, and self-reliance through homeownership.'"

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

22 | 24 | 26 | 30 South Miller

It's been just over a year that we have been working on 22 South Miller and we are now in the finishing touches of this renovation. One aspect that makes a house a home is keeping a family warm in the cold months. We are thrilled to say 22 South Miller has the heat on now and is (un)officially a home now. All walls are receiving their final coat of paint, while the basement is being water-proofed and insulated.

24 and 26 South Miller are also in the process of having the basements water-proofed and insulated, a final measure in these homes to ensure a dry, warm core. There is much excitement for the families to move in.

30 South Miller is finally receiving the attention it deserves. The demolition of the interior is mostly complete, aside from the basement. Before we get to the lowest level of the house, our volunteers and construction team are putting in sub-floor on the first floor. There is a great deal of work to do in this historic home over the coming months. We hope to see you there!

150 | 152 | 154 | 156 Ann

The foundations are in and the decks have been built. Next, framing will begin and these four homes will all have their bones! We are raring to go on these homes. Keep an eye on Newburgh.VolunteerHub.com for upcoming volunteer opportunities at these sites.

SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER
http://newburgh.volunteerhub.com

Thank you to the volunteer groups that came out to build with us this month!

Capuchin Youth & Family Ministries
First Presbyterian Church Goshen
Storm King School
Allstate
Fox Hill Community
Newburgh Prep

If you would like to schedule a Team Build day, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Matt Arbolino at (845) 568-6035 x110 or marbolino@habitatnewburgh.org

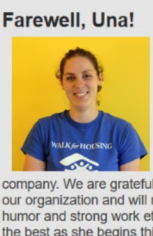
Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood Tour

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!

Tours begin at our office
125 Washington St., Newburgh, NY
10:45 AM Sign-in & refreshments
11:00 AM Tour begins
Call (845) 568-6035 x105 to RSVP

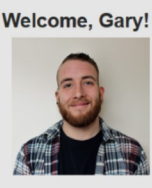
Tour Dates:
Wednesday, February 8
Saturday, March 4
Wednesday, April 5
Saturday, May 6

Farewell, Una!



Una Parciasepe has served as ReStore Donations Ambassador and truck driver for over 2 years. She is taking on a new job working for her father's flooring company. We are grateful for her service to our organization and will miss her sense of humor and strong work ethic. We wish her all the best as she begins this new chapter in her career.

Welcome, Gary!



We are happy to welcome our new ReStore Associate, Gary Chasteen. Gary is the older brother of Liam Chasteen, who has been with Habitat for several years first as a ReStore employee and now as an AmeriCorps Crew Leader. We are so happy to have Gary join our team and be a part of the ReStore staff.

Welcome New Board Members!

Habitat Newburgh is happy to welcome the newest members of our Board of Directors. Each of these volunteer Board members brings a set of skills and attributes that will be a boon to the organization's governance in service to the mission of decent housing for all. Welcome aboard!

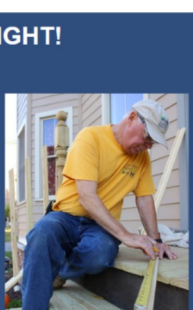
Jamie Ackerly joined the Board after completing Leadership Orange. She brings experience in the non-profit sector, with over 8 years at Cornerstone Family Healthcare. She feels that her board service with Habitat Newburgh fills a void in her heart and soul. She has been in healthcare almost 25 years and has come to realize that good health starts with safe, reliable housing.

Valerie Desharnais became hooked on Habitat Newburgh after attending a Beautiful Day in Neighborhood Tour. She jumped in as a volunteer—both on the construction site, and helping out at the office, where she put her finance background to work. Her interest in growing her nonprofit experience has led her to board service here, and serving as Project Manager for The Salvation Army, Eastern Territory Headquarters.

Scott Lask, President and Chief Investment Officer for the Scott Lask Wealth Management Group, LLC, brings his broad range of skills to Habitat Newburgh as our newest board member. He has a strong commitment to volunteerism, and is looking forward to spending time on site and getting involved with events in addition to his board service.

Jeffrey Werner has had over 40 years of full-range legal experience, including 17 years serving as the Town Justice for the Town of Newburgh. He is particularly interested in supporting our building strategy and helping with the research necessary for land acquisition. He brings his commitment to philanthropy and is excited to utilize his vast network of connections and resources to support the work of Habitat Newburgh.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT! Allen Galloway



The Newburgh Free Academy class of '64 is a popular one here at Habitat Newburgh. The graduating class of this year is well represented, as a consistent group of volunteers have been lending a hand to the community since the inception of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newburgh back in 1999. This month we sat down with Allen Galloway, a born and bred Newburgher and Habitat regular since 2009.

There is no minimum construction knowledge necessary to volunteer with our organization. In fact, some individuals who originally came to us with zero building experience have gained enough skills through their volunteering that they've gone on to renovate their own homes. Allen Galloway is **not** such a volunteer. Fellow long time volunteer and alum of NFA's 1964 class, Dave McTamany, asked Allen to become involved knowing he had *built his own house* back in the 1980's. Allen, who was looking to stay active after his previous career at IBM, gladly enlisted.

Allen now is one of Habitat Newburgh's most consistent site volunteers. Part of what Allen enjoys about giving back to his hometown community is seeing the ways in which people are put in a position to better their own situation. Allen reflected on a Habitat homeowner who started in a homeless shelter and worked with our organization and community to become an owner of their own home. The fact that volunteers are able to work side-by-side with Habitat homeowners is a special part of the process for Allen.

We asked Allen what he would like to see return to Newburgh and we received a response we are used to hearing: "I wish they'd bring back Lloyd's shopping center." Allen reminisced about taking his daughter to get her photo taken at Lloyd's, a tradition many Newburgher's remember. This hope for local business returning to Newburgh is a common desire for many residents. With volunteers like Allen Galloway putting in the effort and time that he does, he's helping to create an environment where individuals want to both live and work. The Newburgh community is indebted and grateful to Allen for all he does.

Habitat for Humanity® of Greater Newburgh | ReStore

DONATE • SHOP • VOLUNTEER

Donate furniture, building materials, appliances, and home decor in good condition to the Habitat Newburgh ReStore, and you can help local families build strength, stability, and self-reliance through homeownership.

Donations are gratefully accepted Wed-Sat 9:30-4:30.
For a complete list of accepted donations,
visit http://newburghrestore.org/donate.html

Follow the ReStore on Facebook and Twitter for the latest!

Speak to Change!

Community Listening Sessions

Habitat Newburgh participated in a community listening session organized by the Empire State Poverty Reduction Initiative (ESPRI). We helped to facilitate conversation with low-income residents about housing, education, workforce development, and health. The insights gained will help inform decisions made about how to allocate the $1 million state grant to help address the challenges of those living in poverty.

The Newburgh Housing Coalition, initiated by Habitat Newburgh, is now also serving as the housing work group for ESPRI. Habitat Newburgh's Executive Director chairs the housing work group and serves on the ESPRI steering committee.

As a Neighborhood Revitalization affiliate, an important part of our work is community development—assesing assets and collaborating with local organizations and agencies to work together towards creating positive change.

YOUTH ACTIVITY!

LOOKING AHEAD

Upcoming events in 2017

Wednesday, March 8 International Women's Day Build

Sunday, April 23 18th Annual Walk for Housing

Monday, May 8 18th Annual Golf Fore Housing

Monday, May 8 - Saturday, May 13 National Women Build Week

Saturday, May 13 The Chris O'Leary Band fundraiser concert

18th Annual

Habitat for Humanity® of Greater Newburgh | WALK *for* HOUSING

at Washington's Headquarter's Park

SAVE THE DATE
SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2017

Like us on Facebook
for all the latest news!

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE
walkforhousing@gmail.com for more info

18th Annual

GOLF *fore* HOUSING

SAVE THE DATE
MONDAY, MAY 8, 2017

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE
golfforehousing@gmail.com for more info

Please visit our website at www.habitatnewburgh.org
Donate to our cause
Like us on Facebook