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WWW.CHQHABITAT.ORG

## CAHfH Newsletter ~ 2024

### A MESSAGE FROM THE CAHfH BOARD PRESIDENT

Greetings, dear Friends, on behalf of the Chautauqua Area Habitat for Humanity Board and all of our dedicated and hardworking volunteers, as well as our treasured Homeowner and Future Homeowner Families! It is a pleasure once again to greet you with happy news of the continuing good work and successes of our Habitat for Humanity organization, in creating homes for those in need. You will see many important details about our work throughout this newsletter!

Helping buyers to obtain a home, however, is only the first consideration. Ensuring that the home will have affordable longevity requires great care in both controlling the cost of construction or rebuilding, and also in creating lower utility expenses for cost's sake and for safeguarding environmental efficiency and integrity. Making sure that the home is in a safe neighborhood that will meet the needs of the family is essential for the long-term enjoyment of their home as well.

We at CAHfH want to take this opportunity, once more, to thank you for your support of our work! In partnering with us to create affordable housing for our local families, you make it possible for Chautauqua Area Habitat for Humanity to make Habitat International's and our Mission a reality every day!

And, most importantly, your generosity to our Mission helps families to create their own potential "intergenerational wealth" in the form of home equity. In this way, your generosity is priceless!

As people and partners in the communities where we work continue to digest the election outcomes, some may want to know where Habitat stands. We stand for affordable housing. We stand wherever there is an opportunity to highlight the need for actions and policies that make homeownership more easily available. And we stand in the best place of all — next to a new homeowner as they take the keys to their home for the first time.

With heartfelt gratitude,

*Maureen Rovegno,*

on behalf of the CAHfH Board of Directors



**OUR VISION**  
A WORLD WHERE EVERYONE HAS  
A DECENT PLACE TO LIVE.

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# HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BUILDS IN DUNKIRK

It has been over 20 years since Habitat for Humanity worked on a new build in Dunkirk. The work started in early May 2024 with the building of exterior and interior walls at an off-site facility. In June, with the help of volunteers from several area companies, the walls were brought to Genet Street and completely erected over a two-day period. Over the next week the roof was completed, and then the windows and doors were put in. By the middle of October the house was sided, the yard was landscaped, the driveway was established, concrete was poured to form the front and side entries, and plumbing and electrical work was completed, thanks to local tradesmen donating their time. Next came the insulation of the exterior walls and ceilings.

Sheetrocking the ceiling and walls will be completed by the time this newsletter goes to print. Painting of the walls and ceilings, laying tile on the floors, and installing trim work and interior doors will take place over the Winter and Spring months, and hopefully the family will be in the house shortly after the one-year mark.

Almost all of the work to build this house has been accomplished by a dedicated group of volunteers, as well as by the new homeowner and her friends and family, working what amounts to about 4 to 5 hours a week. If you would like to get involved on the job site, please contact Habitat for Humanity at 716-844-6955.



# CHAUTAUQUA AREA HABITAT FOR HUMANITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS, 3 YEARS AFTER COVID

Since 2020 the CAHFH volunteers have been busy at work in 3 areas of the county. Two more families have started their monthly mortgage payments and these properties were added back to the tax rolls in Chautauqua County.

## In the City of Jamestown,

the dedicated volunteers completed another home at 1087 North Main Street after many delays. The dedication was held in August 2024. This renovation project included working with Mary Robinson from the Jamestown Renaissance Corporation that funds Jamestown paint and porch projects, and with Crystal Surdyk of the Development Department in the City of Jamestown. Many hands helped make this project successful for the family and the community.



## In the Village of Silver

Creek, a new home construction project was completed (Number 7 in Silver Creek) with the help of many volunteers.



That house was dedicated in January 2024. The family of six moved in after the dedication and have had wonderful and healthy experiences living in a house without mold, vermin or a broken oven. They love their new house, and the neighbors have welcomed and helped them get to know the area and have supported the family.

In the City of Dunkirk, it all started with a Chicken BBQ in May to kick off the groundbreaking on Genet Street. With help from the City of Dunkirk staff, the Building Inspector Glenn Christen, and Vince DeJoy, Director of Planning and Development, this building project has had few complications.



In addition, the construction is a few weeks ahead of schedule due to the volunteer support from community businesses, AG Team, Wells Corporation, Mike Muldowney warehouse space,

Gugino Plumbing and Heating-Cooling, John Castiglia of BECC Electric and Excelco of Silver Creek. Many thanks for all the help contributed to this project. We continue to ask for volunteers to help with the interior finishing of this house.

## In the Village of Mayville,

we are pursuing the new construction of a home on N. Erie St. Before we start construction, we are looking for a family to call this their home. We have worked with the Building Inspector and have approval from him and the Zoning Committee to move forward.



The delay on this project has been the result of the lack of a family to become future homeowners. As a result, the project will not start until 2025. Local residents who are interested in working with CAHFH should contact our Mayville office at 716-844-6955.

In the City of Jamestown, in 2025, we hope to start a new home or renovate a current property. We are also continuing our search for new families to be future family homeowners. Interested families should visit our website at [www.CHQHABITAT.ORG](http://www.CHQHABITAT.ORG). Refer to the section "Homeowners" for more information.

As donors to CAHFH you make this all possible by your yearly contributions to our nonprofit organization in Chautauqua County. We hope that you will continue to support us financially and to volunteer whenever possible, to assist us in improving a local family's living conditions and to give their children a new chance to be successful.



## CAN YOU HELP CAHFH FIND A QUALIFIED FUTURE HOMEOWNER?

Do you know anyone with children under 18 living in the home? Do they currently live in inadequate and/or unhealthy housing? Does this family have an income that would allow them to pay a mortgage and the taxes on their home? Do you think that they would be willing to work with CAHFH each week to help to build their own home?

### HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP THEM TO GET CONNECTED TO CAHFH:

- \* Give them the CAHFH web page address: CHQHABITAT.ORG.
- \* Tell them to go to the Future Homeowner page.
- \* Then go to Question and Answer.
- \* Then go to the application section, read it over, and see if they are qualified.

**THEN CALL DONNA**, the Family Coordinator, at the number on the website, to discuss the application and determine if help is needed to complete it.

**You may have found the next Future Homeowner for CAHFH!**



## BUILDING A PARTNERSHIP: CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY LAND BANK CORPORATION AND CHAUTAUQUA AREA HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

### A COLLABORATION TO SUPPORT FAMILIES IN NEED

The Chautauqua County Land Bank Corporation and Chautauqua Area Habitat for Humanity have joined forces in a noble endeavor to purchase and renovate homes for families in need. This partnership signifies a harmonious blend of efforts aimed at providing safe, affordable housing to those who need it. Both organizations have a history of community service and a shared vision of transforming lives through homeownership.

Through this collaboration, Habitat has had access to properties, both vacant lots and houses in need of restoration. Our organizations are united by a common cause. The partnership has also extended its efforts to work closely with the cities of Jamestown and Dunkirk, aiming to revive neighborhoods that would benefit significantly from improved housing.

In accordance with Habitat for Humanity International guidelines, this initiative is not merely a handout but a hand-up for families. The selected future homeowner must meet specific criteria: they must have children under 18 living in their household, their current housing conditions must be deemed deplorable, they should never have owned a home in the past, and they must be willing to invest sweat equity into the housing project. Additionally, these families need to have a stable income to pay for a 20-year low-interest mortgage along with all applicable taxes and insurance.

This partnership is a beacon of hope for many and a call to action for others. Organizations within Chautauqua County that are interested in contributing volunteers, building supplies, or wish to get involved in this transformative collaboration are encouraged to contact the area Habitat for Humanity office at 716-488-6955 or the Chautauqua County Land Bank Corporation at 716-969-7843. Together, we can make a significant impact on the lives of families and the communities we serve.

## HONORING PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER, A FOREVER VOLUNTEER

President Jimmy Carter has reached a major milestone, celebrating his 100th birthday on Tuesday, October 1. He is the first former U.S. president to reach this venerable and worthy age, and CAHfH takes this opportunity to acknowledge the remarkable gift that he has been both for our country and for Habitat for Humanity! Although he was not the founder of Habitat for Humanity (Millard Fuller was the founder), Jimmy Carter is its most well-known and ardent volunteer.



Photo courtesy of the Post-Journal

Habitat for Humanity was founded in Americus, Georgia, nearby Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter's hometown of Plains. His passion for Habitat and being a grass-roots volunteer for it officially began in September 1984 when the former U. S. president visited a local Habitat building site following a public speaking event at a New York church. More than 4,300 homes since then could be considered a "Carter House," because the Carters have helped build that many homes with more than 100,000 volunteers in 14 countries over nearly 40 years, according to the organization. As recent as five years ago, President Carter showed up at a [Habitat for Humanity site in Nashville](#) with a smile – and a black eye. One day earlier, then 95, he [had fallen](#) and needed 14 stitches, but he kept up his commitment to the organization.

With Habitat for Humanity our former president has been a forever volunteer, working alongside future homeowners to give new meaning to their lives. President Jimmy Carter entered hospice in February 2023 at his Plains, Georgia, home. We bless him and we thank him for his service through Habitat, and for all that he has done in his amazing life, and we pray him on his journey to his final home.



Habitat for Humanity - building strength, stability, self-reliance

# FUNDRAISING & DONATIONS FOR CAHFH 2024

CAHFH held its first Weidners Chicken BBQ this year at Wright Park in Dunkirk on May 18, 2024. The event was held in Dunkirk to bring awareness to our new family and house project on Genet Street in the city.

We sold over 350 dinners and enjoyed a beautiful spring day to celebrate Habitat's return to Dunkirk after a 20 year absence. Our board members and volunteer committee members, Linda Borrello and Martha Boutet, graciously gave their time and energy to make this a successful project.

We look forward to doing another BBQ in the future in the North County and possibly the South County areas. Such a great way to get the communities involved to learn about CAHFH's goals and mission. Watch our social media pages and website for information in the spring!!!!

## ...and there's more!

Our annual Raise the Roof fundraiser was held at Chautauqua Suites in Mayville on May 27, 2024. This event has been the backbone of our fundraising efforts for many years and is always well-attended. The evening event features a buffet style light dinner and excellent fun musical entertainment. Our guests enjoyed lively tunes and dancing to The Untouchables.

Many items for the raffle and silent auction were donated by local businesses county wide and taken home by the happy winners. We look forward to seeing you at next year's Raise the Roof event!

We are always looking for families who qualify and are in need of affordable housing. We love that our FUNdraising efforts in the communities that we serve also bring awareness to this need and help to spread the word to families that could benefit from our mission. It all works for good and for good times!

## YOUR DONATIONS ARE THE BACKBONE FOR CAHFH

First and foremost, CAHFH gives thanks to all those who donate yearly to CAHFH! The many donations received during our newsletter drive have made a difference in what the organization can do. Donations are used to fund all the building projects throughout the county.

So, how are your donations used, and what is the process once they are received?

When a donation of \$1.00 or more is received, a personal thank you note is sent and the donation is deposited into the building account. These funds will be used for one or all of the houses being built at that time.

CAHFH has three satellites in Chautauqua County because of the geographic size of the county. Each satellite is under the leadership of the CAHFH Board and receives the funds needed from the CAHFH yearly budget. Funds that make up this budget come from individuals, business sponsors, grants from local foundations, revenue from monthly mortgage payments, interest earned, individual property donations, mortgages that have been sold to banks, and limited federal funds in the cities of Jamestown and Dunkirk. Generally, donations, business sponsors and/or the reductions in their rates for services, and local foundations make the biggest impact on the yearly budget.

What can \$1,000 do when building a house? Here are some of the purchasing options:

- ◆ 3 new windows for a house
- ◆ 3 new steel entrance doors
- ◆ Drywall for 3 bedrooms
- ◆ Baseboards and door frame casings
- ◆ Floor tile for 3 rooms in the house



Yes, your donations are very important for us to help families in need of affordable housing in Chautauqua County. Please visit our website to learn more - [www.chghabitat.org](http://www.chghabitat.org)

## DONORS NOVEMBER 2023 TO OCTOBER 2024

Habitat houses are possible because of the generous donations of cash, building materials, and services that help us purchase additional materials and supplies for construction.

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Lighthouse Grocery, Mayville  
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Portage Pie, Westfield  
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Spruce at Chautauqua Institution  
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**2024-25 CAHfH [www.chqhabitat.org](http://www.chqhabitat.org)**

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