Homeownership Changes Lives

Deanna was born in Springer, NM, and raised in Cimarron, NM, where she grew up living with her mother, stepfather, and two siblings. “Living with my mother wasn’t pleasant. In fact, it was a nightmare. My mother was in a very abusive relationship with my stepfather. At the age of five I feared everything,” said Deanna.

When she was older, Deanna moved to Albuquerque to live with her father where she attended Highland High School. “I became rebellious and dropped out after 10th grade,” said Deanna. “My boyfriend at the time rescued me from the bad things I was getting into and soon we had our first child together. We got married and had a second child. We lived with his family and, although he treated me well, the relationship wasn’t working. I was so young and needed to find my own way so I decided to leave. As much as I wanted my kids to move with me, they stayed with their father so they didn’t have to leave school. I am very active in their lives – they are my world.”

Deanna got her own place to live, worked two jobs, and visited her children on the weekends. “I got into a new relationship and we quickly moved in together. Things began to change and I realized I didn’t really know him at all. Our relationship was unhealthy. I gave birth to my third child. It was just her and I most of the time. Luckily, I found Safe House,” said Deanna. The shelter gave her and her daughter a new start.

“It was very hard, but we did it. I was blessed with being in a program called BEST, which saved my life. I learned so much about maintaining a home, keeping a job, and this program taught me I didn’t need anyone else,” said Deanna. Her case worker talked with Deanna about Habitat for Humanity and helped her apply for a home. “I am honored to be participating in the Habitat program. I feel hopeful, like I have been given a second chance. I’ll have my own home and become even more successful and maybe I can help others do the same,” she said.

Deanna will move into The Brew House later this year. During the groundbreaking, she started to tear up as she realized it was really happening, she was going to have her very own home. She said, “I am proud knowing I’ll be stable, not worrying about where we are going to lay our heads at night. We are so blessed.”
Leading Mission & Vision

As we ride in on the excitement of the Women Build scheduled May 5 – 12, I am filled with pride for the women who have shaped our affiliate over the years. Female CEOs, board members, volunteers, homeowners – you name it; we have been richly blessed. It is no wonder that there are so many women ready to put on hardhats, t-shirts, and tool belts and get to work. Not only are they willing to do the physical labor, but they are out there fundraising for the opportunity for a family to have a place to call home. Women are a powerful source in and of themselves.

Throughout history, women have had fewer rights and opportunities than men, yet when they were allowed personal and intellectual freedoms, they made significant strides. They have made untold contributions to history and played vital roles in the course of human civilization. In the US, women have shaped our history as well as our country’s future.

It is said that “empowerment of women” means strengthening the social, economic, and educational powers of women. It helps develop society and leads to more economic benefits such as a decrease in domestic violence, reduced poverty, and increased levels of education. Greater Albuquerque Habitat for Humanity has plenty of evidence to support that.

Of the world’s population, 50% is comprised of women. For our affiliate, the same holds true, 50% of our homeowners are women – many single mothers trying to make a difference for themselves and their children. Their partnership with us enables them to freely live their life with a sense of self-worth, respect, and dignity. They are empowered by the safety and stability of owning a decent, affordable shelter and the hope of achieving equal status in their community. Time after time, we see how they continue to reach higher through education, job security, and financial independence. I salute them and all the women who have touched our lives here at GAHH. The power to overcome life’s challenges lies in their hands.

Blessings,
Joan Costello
Providing a Positive Path

Before I became involved with Greater Albuquerque Habitat for Humanity, I had the same misconceptions that many have today. I thought that homes were donated to families who needed a place to live. Upon volunteering and becoming a regular donor of time, talents, and resources, I learned that the families selected to receive a home spend months (or years) preparing themselves to be successful homeowners through education and counseling. They work hundreds of hours to help construct their home or the home of a neighbor. They are the beneficiaries of donated labor, materials, and funds to build a very nice home at a very affordable price. When they move in to the house they call home, they begin paying a very affordable monthly mortgage with zero percent interest. The combined monthly payments of all the partner families gradually return to GAHH and are then used to continue the mission.

That’s right. Zero percent interest! They have the chance of a lifetime to have one of the most affordable opportunities for home ownership and stability that exists in our society. It is not a handout. These families do what they can to achieve this goal but without the united efforts of people like you, their best efforts would likely not be enough. With all of us giving according to our ability, many modest donations and others significantly more, we can do much to alleviate suffering, cultivate stability, and provide a positive path for generations that follow.

I heard someone share an insight not long ago that people’s challenges do not define them, but our response will help define us. Thank you for your support. We have amazing staff, donors, and volunteers! If you have a desire to help further the mission, join us. Enjoy the feeling of participating in this great work.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey Payne

From One Home to Another

GAHH is one of over 300 Habitat for Humanity affiliates throughout the country that has a ReStore – a retail store that sells donated new and used building materials and household items to the public. ReStore provides an environmentally and socially responsible way to keep good, reusable materials out of the landfill and offers a source of discounted construction materials to all homeowners.

The number of homes Habitat is able to build each year is determined by fundraising, volunteer participation, and ReStore revenue. That’s right, every time you shop at the ReStore, that money helps build more affordable homes for low-income families here in Albuquerque.

Over the past five years, $1.4 million in ReStore revenue has furthered our mission and made home ownership possible for dozens of families. In honor of ReStore’s contribution, one of the homes in the Mesa del Rio development will be named “The House that ReStore Built.”

Please continue donating gently used items and keep shopping at the ReStore because together we can build strength, stability, and self-reliance through shelter.

Seniors and veterans receive 10% off and first responders receive 25% off every day at the ReStore.
Building a Future Together

GAHH recently broke ground on two new homes and celebrated the beginning of a dream for two families. Neither family thought home ownership would be possible for them and both are thrilled for the opportunity to have stability and security in their lives. They will be working very hard over the next several months in order to move into their very own home this year. Both homes are being built through a collaborative effort, but each in its own very unique way.

Unity 3, in Memory of Melissa Dugas Gutierrez

The Unity 3 home, in memory of Melissa Dugas Gutierrez, is a collaborative effort among the faith-based community in Albuquerque. Many churches, synagogues, and mosques have come together over the years to volunteer and financially support the construction of affordable homes. During the opening ceremony Marilyn Stoops, St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, said “helping our neighbor is a principle held and promoted by us all. Building homes with families who might not otherwise ever know home ownership brings joy and satisfaction to the families who will inhabit them, the workers who labor to raise the walls and put on a roof, and the Greater Albuquerque Habitat for Humanity who makes it all possible.”

Jean Dugas, Melissa’s mother, spoke about her daughter’s life – her faith and her caring heart. Jean said, “I know the partner family working diligently toward the goal of owning this house will have Melissa’s love within those walls. Melissa would tell you that a house is a place in which to live, but a home is in the people who dwell within that house.”

The Brew House

Many local breweries came together last fall to help raise money and awareness about a habitat home called “The Brew House.” During the groundbreaking ceremony Nick Seid with Bosque Brewing said, “I’d like to thank Habitat for Humanity for letting me speak on behalf of Bosque and all the amazing breweries that have contributed to this cause. Our staff looks forward to our first build day on this site and hopes to continue to work towards making sure everyone has a space they can call their own.”

Please visit these local businesses and thank them for supporting Habitat’s mission: Bosque Brewing Company, Boese Brothers, Boxing Bear Brewing, Canteen Brewhouse, Dialogue Brewing, Marble Brewery, Quarter Celtic Brew Pub, Rio Bravo Brewing Company, Sidetrack Brewing, Steel Bender Brewyard, and The 377.
Sharing in Hope

Lumber and Lipstick, Hammers and Heels, Nails and Polish – these are just a few of the teams that are recruiting members and raising money for Women Build Week, May 5–12.

GAHH is one of 300 affiliates selected by Habitat for Humanity International to participate in National Women Build Week, sponsored by Lowe’s. Teams, composed mostly of women, from all over the country will join hammers in May and build homes for qualifying low-income, first-time homeowner families. Imagine the impact!

Local planning began in mid-January as several key women leaders stepped forward to be “Pacesetters” to start the campaign early and build project momentum. The goal is to raise money for and begin building a home at GAHH’s current Mesa del Rio construction site in northwest Albuquerque. Key partners on this year’s Women Build are KOB-TV Channel 4 and Lowe’s.

Ellen Ashcraft, a Pacesetter and the team leader of Lumber and Lipstick, has built her team of independent beauty consultants. She said, “It’s a natural extension of our company Mary Kay’s mission to enrich women’s lives.”

Stephanie Granfors of Granfors Realty, LLC, another Pacesetter and team leader, said of her team, “We’re all excited and looking forward to having fun!”

There will be 14 teams in all, with seven members on each team, composed of at least 70% women. Men are welcome to join in the activities. Each team has set a goal of raising $4,200. Saturday, May 5, will be Media Day and the groundbreaking/first build day for the home. Everyone is invited to the festivities. Building will continue all week, from Monday, May 7 – Saturday, May 12. Fundraising will continue until the home is completed, which is projected to be in December 2018. Women Build will be highlighted at this year’s Raising the Roof annual breakfast, Saturday, April 14, at the Sheraton Albuquerque Uptown, 2600 Louisiana Blvd NE. Please join us and see how far Women Build has come!

To join a team, donate, or for more information go to www.habitatabq.org/women-build. If you cannot build, but would like to bring lunch for the volunteers during Women Build Week, email Regina at regina@habitatabq.org.

(Left to right): Leticia Trujillo, APS; Lori Valdez, APS; Stephanie Granfors, Granfors Realty LLC; Ellen Ashcraft, Mary Kay Beauty Consultant; Rachel Flance, president, Women’s Council of Realtors; Joyce Gormley, Prince of Peace ACTS; and Vanessa Caudill, Allstate Insurance Agent are Women Build Pacesetters.
Donor Honor Roll

Greater Albuquerque Habitat for Humanity thanks the many individuals, foundations, companies, churches and organizations that have donated between August 17, 2017 – January 31, 2018. Your generosity supports the construction of decent, affordable homes in Albuquerque. Thank you for building hope and changing lives through homeownership.

Individuals
$5,000 and Over
John Crawford and Carolyn Quinn
Diarmuid Dunne
Robert and Sue Easterling
Conrad and Mary Strohacker

Individuals
$500 - $4,999.99
Joe Pelletier
Jeff and Jennifer Payne
Kelly and Laurie Parkhill
Douglas and Pat Nie

Individuals
Up to $499.99
Mary Adams
Alde and Johnny Alfaro
Jeffrey Allen
Theresa Anaya
Joyce Anderson and Mark Savage
Susan and Mark Anderson
Anonymous
Danny and Patricia Appel
Fabian Aragon
Maria Arner
John Wronosky and Lynn Asbury
Nicholas Ashby
Cheryl Atkins
Vivian and Michael Austin
Anonymous
Francisco Javier Baca
Stephen and Maureen Baca
Alice Baca
Sally Bachofner
Carl and Ellen Bailey
Cleveland Sharp and Jan Bandrofchak
Paul Barber
Marie Barger
Hugh and Lavender Barlow
Darrell Beasley
Sarah Bednarz
Toni Bellerant
Mona Berland
Ellen Bernstein
James and Janice Berry
Kathleen Bickel
Rosemary Blanchard
Andrea Bliss
Ronald Bohannan
Linda Borgman
Julienne and John Brown
Karen Brown
Beth Brownell
Elizabeth Bruckner
Donald Brumbaugh
Tien Bui
Dwight Burney and Gwenn Robinson
Genevieve Buskirk
Karin Butler
Lois and Terry Caipen
Terrence Callahan
Susan and James Carson
Judy Cato
Vanessa Cauldill
Ann Chaffee
Sarah Tenorio Chavez
Hongik Cheong
Caithlin Chestnut
Joe and Susan Chiado
Lance and Kathy Chilton
Mary Ann Cinowalt and John Ramos
Jean Civikly-Powell
Sallie Clay
Sandy Cody
Monica and James Cody
James and Joan Cole
Steve and Dianna Coleman
Larry Compton
Anne Cosbey and Ken Osburn
Dylan Alexander Cosbey
Memorial Fund
Joan and James Costello
Siobhan Craig and Adrian Alva
Susan Cranston
Anna Creamer
Craig and Cindy Cropsy
John and Barbara Currier
Bruce Dahliquist
Natalie Dahringer
Carlton and Nancy Davenport
Luci Dawson
James Day
Joseph Deloach
Stephen Dent
Charles and Kathleen DiLorenzo
Susan Dollenger
Darryl and Diana Domonkos
Kirk Drak and Mary Shelley Drake
Justin Durfee and Andrea Ambrosini
Joe and Kermit Durham
Willard Eastman and Barbara Gastian
Gary Eleye
Tim and Nicki Evans
Dillon Farfan
Carla Feltner
Sylvia Fettes and Wayne Kennedy
Bryan and Mary Ann Finnan
Seana Finnan
Heidi Fleischmann
Barbara Ann Free and Jay Johnson
David Frister
Suzanne Gaines
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Pegi Gavel
Janis Gaston
Cecile Gerken
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Lois Gilliland
Katherine Gnauck
Beth Goldman
Christina Gonzales
William Gonzalos
Roger Gordon
Phillip Green
Sean Green
Louis Griego
Stan and Sara Griffith
Alicia Gutierrez and Dennis Rivera
Suzanne Gutterson
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Richard and Cheryl Haaker
Charlotte and Alexander Halber
Amanda Hammer
William Handy and Allison Thompson
Dane and Thomasina VanHannum
Joan and John Harris
Heather Harrison
Anne Harrison
Richard and Anna Harrison
Margaret Harvey
Stephen Hay and Pirmal Perea-Hay
Bruce Haynes and Lupe Lopez-Haynes
Haywood Family Haywood
Dee and Tim Heisler
Lisa Heldt
Mellissa Heller
Linda and Mark Henderson
Sarah Henderson
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Gwyn Metz
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Sarah and Frank Mills
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Dennis and Geri Miyoshi
Cynthia Monroe
Robert Moore
Robert Moraga
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John W and Clara C Higgins Foundation
Monte Vista Christian Church
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St Andrew Presbyterian Church
St Thomas of Canterbury
Episcopal Church
Steel Bender Brewyard
The Allstate Foundation
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
Walmart #3512
Walmart #3596
Walmart #4676
Walmart #5675
Walmart #6084
Walmart Neighborhood Market #3317
Walmart Super Center Store #1397

Up to $499.99
AmazonSmile Foundation
Boese Brothers Brewing
Christ United Methodist Church
Congregation of St Joseph Las Placitas Presbyterian Church
Legacy Church
Marble Brewery
Nusenda Credit Union
Ocotillo Solar Electric
PNM Resources Foundation
Sidetrack Brewing Company
St Luke Lutheran Church
St Timothy’s Evangelical Lutheran Church
Tri-State G&T Association Inc.

In Kind
Albertsons Store #00911
Cheesecake Factory #0193
Draker Cody
Greg and Alberta Hunt Il Vicino Nob Hill
Kay Pils
Lesley Sneider
Mark and Karla Rickert
Mister Car Wash
Premier Distributing Company
St John’s United Methodist Church
Taos Country Club
The Canyon Club at Four Hills

Grants/Businesses/ Congregations/Organizations

$5,000 & Over
Albuquerque Community Foundation, The Ties Fund Alliance Data Systems
Bank of America Charitable Foundation
Bank of the West
General Mills Foundation
Hometown Grantmaking Program
Shepherd of the Valley Presbyterian Church
Wells Fargo Foundation

If we inadvertently missed you on our list or if a correction is needed, we apologize. Please contact Beth Goldman (beth@habitatabq.org).

Thank you.
Help Build Mesa del Rio Phase II
Six Homes Are Under Construction

855 Mesa del Rio: “Sandia Retirees & Friends”
851 Mesa del Rio: “Burque Build” dedicated to Bernalillo Country first responders
847 Mesa del Rio: “Brew House”
843 Mesa del Rio: “Unity 3”
839 Mesa del Rio: “Women Build”
835 Mesa del Rio: “The House that ReStore Built”

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