Building a Future Together

Ten families, 30 people, the youngest just three years old, now call Habitat’s Mesa del Rio community “home.” From the moment their parents became homeowners, Claude, Suzana, Louis, Jeph, Anthony, Isabelle, Flor Kainoa, Damani, Jada, and Tyree (and a few more that prefer not to be named) increased their likelihood to attend college by 116 percent.

A year has passed since we began building on the west side of Mesa del Rio and the first two families have settled into their homes in time for the beginning of the 2018 school year.

“Now, we are so happy and grateful to have found a community who would choose not only to welcome us, but to help us find our path and continue our journey one step at a time. We would like to thank everyone who helped during this process for each and every step we have taken together to reach this moment. Thank you, Murskoze (thank you),” Louis told the crowd at the Burque Build dedication.

Construction on the west side of Mesa del Rio continues with The Brewhouse, Unity House #3, Women Build, and The House that ReStore Built. At the time this goes to print, these four homes will be 50% or more complete, and the homeowners – Deanna, Zindagi, Nicole, Ahmad, and Brishna – will be learning what it takes to build a house and fulfilling their sweat equity hours.

Most Habitat homeowners have overcome hardships in order to get to the place of submitting an application to Habitat. At the Opening Ceremony of Unity House #3 Brishna expressed her sentiments in this way, “Even if they were giving me a home on top of a mountain I would go there, because I’ve never had my own home.”

“We would like to thank everyone who helped during this process for each and every step we have taken together.” –Louis

We can’t build homes without community support and we are extremely thankful for the partnerships that are in place for seven of the final eight Mesa del Rio homes: Wells Fargo House in memory of Jennifer Riordan; Beloved Community House; Legacy Church House; Unity House #4; Women Build 2019; Sandia National Laboratories/Honeywell House; and the House that ReStore Built 2019. We also thank Bank of America and the Bank of America Charitable Foundation. If you have sponsorship ideas for the eighth home contact Beth Goldman (beth@habitatabq.org).

Habitat welcomes our supporters and the public to attend the Opening Ceremonies and Home Dedications on Mesa del Rio. In under an hour you will gain a rich understanding of what it means to build a future together. You can receive an invitation to these ceremonies by subscribing to our e-news at habitatabq.org.
Leading with Vision & Mission

Welcome to the busiest time of the year when our children have gone back school, families have returned to more structured schedules, and we start to think about the season ahead. But for many, there is uncertainty and worry rather than joyful anticipation. How will I afford school supplies? How will I feed and clothe my children? How can I provide a safe and stable environment for my family?

These questions and fears are far too prevalent in our community. We know housing costs have grown to unsustainable levels, making it nearly impossible for lower-income households to afford a mortgage. For the past 31 years, GAHH has sought to provide a long-term solution in the form of decent, affordable housing which allows families to live within their means, pay all their bills on time, and even save money.

When we dedicate a home, it marks the beginning of a new journey for a family. The time and effort Habitat families put into finding a solution for the obstacles they have faced comes full circle – they endured, they were persistent and they are focused on a better life. All of us who are part of the extended Habitat family are continually supporting them, rooting for them, and cheering them on. Together volunteers, businesses, churches, community organizations, and donors form a team, united to make the impossible possible. You are an integral part of what it takes to tackle the dire need for affordable housing in our community and we are so thankful you are on our team!

As an active part of this organization for 12 years now, I have personally experienced the power of what Habitat does. Our mission, our courage, our belief that everyone deserves a decent place to live, is what unifies and strengthens us and blesses us with the power of hope.

With Gratitude,
Joan Costello, Executive Director

Affiliate Information
Greater Albuquerque Habitat for Humanity & ReStore
4900 Menaul NE
Albuquerque, NM 87110
Phone: 505-265-0057
Fax: 505-255-0937
www.habitatabq.org
info@habitatabq.org

ReStore Store Hours
Monday thru Saturday
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Closed on Sunday

ReStore Donation Center Hours
Monday thru Saturday
9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Board of Directors
Mark Rickert, President
Gary Van Luchene, President Elect
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SAVE THE DATE
RAISING THE ROOF ANNUAL BREAKFAST
Saturday, April 13, 2019

31 Years Of Opening Doors To Brighter Futures

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31 Years Of Opening Doors To Brighter Futures
From the Board President

My work with Greater Albuquerque Habitat for Humanity began in 2011 when I moved from California to begin the next chapter of my life in beautiful New Mexico. I have been very open about my background as a child coming from a broken home and the challenges I had to overcome to reach for the stars. I was raised by a single mother with three children. The first eight years of my life were spent in Detroit where there was a lot of social unrest and scary situations for a young child. We lived in less than desirable places and never had a home to call our own. Our mother moved us from place to place where, again and again, we had to make new friends and attend schools full of strangers. This happened so many times the “abnormal” became the “normal” in my life. What I realize now is that having a stable place to call home is one of the bedrocks people of all ages need to feel safe and thrive in life.

When I was introduced to Habitat, I saw a little bit of my story in the families we serve and instantly realized the importance of this opportunity - allowing people to obtain a quality home, in a safe area, that is affordable for them. I was hooked on the mission. I joined the Development Committee and got to know the incredible donors, volunteers, employees, and partner families and have continued my work ever since. Everyone involved gives hope, safety, pride, and, most importantly, we help one another. It is truly a blessing to serve as the Board President this coming year. Please feel free to contact me at 505-570-4602 or mark@RickertPG.com.

Thank you,
Mark Rickert, Board President

Supporting Hope

You’ve probably heard about it and even wondered why it’s all the buzz among the nonprofits you support. GAHH has been fortunate to include monthly donors as supporters for years; if you are one of them, thank you! Recently, we began recognizing our monthly donors by providing them with a membership in our new monthly giving circle called Heroes for Humanity.

“I can think of no greater privilege than to help house families in my own community.” – Ellen Berstein

“I can think of no greater privilege than to help house families in my own community.” – Ellen Berstein

Mark Rickert, Board President and Joan Costello, Executive Director

John Ramos and Mary Ann Cinowalt have been loyal Albuquerque Habitat supporters for 10 years and are members of the Heroes for Humanity giving circle. “We donate to your worthy cause because it is certain to enhance the lives of others. We are grateful for the work you do.”

Join Ellen, John, and Mary Ann by contributing on a monthly basis to change lives and end the cycle of poverty through homeownership. Find out more and sign up by visiting habitatabq.org.

Greater Albuquerque Habitat for Humanity
Heroes for Humanity
Monthly Giving Circle

Richard Ramos and Mary Ann Cinowalt have been loyal Albuquerque Habitat supporters for 10 years and are members of the Heroes for Humanity giving circle. “We donate to your worthy cause because it is certain to enhance the lives of others. We are grateful for the work you do.”

Join Ellen, John, and Mary Ann by contributing on a monthly basis to change lives and end the cycle of poverty through homeownership. Find out more and sign up by visiting habitatabq.org.
From One Home to Another

The number of homes Habitat is able to build each year is determined by fundraising, volunteer participation, and ReStore revenue. The money earned from each sale at the ReStore helps build affordable homes for low-income families. In honor of ReStore’s contribution over the years, one of the homes in the Mesa del Rio community has been named “The House that ReStore Built.” Ahmad, Brishna, and their three young children have been selected to move into this home when it’s completed next spring.

Ahmad was born in Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan. When he was 11 years old, a bomb was dropped on his home and he lost three fingers. His father and sister did not survive and his mother struggled for years to raise him on her own. Brishna was born in the Nangarhar Province of Afghanistan. As a woman, she faced opposition at the hands of the Taliban, who denied any form of education to women. Her family fled to Kabul where Ahmad and Brishna met and were married.

After having their first son, Ahmad began working as a driver with the United States Military. In 2012, he was at work when a suicide bomber crashed through the headquarters with a tank and exploded. For the second time in his life he survived a bombing. Two years later, Brishna and Ahmad, along with their two sons, escaped to India where they stayed for 50 days before receiving a visa to Ecuador as asylum seekers. Finally, in 2016, the family moved to Albuquerque after receiving refugee status by the United Nations. Brishna and Ahmad found jobs and welcomed their third child, a daughter, into their family.

“We are grateful for the new opportunities that we have had and to be able to put our pasts behind us and focus on having a successful future here in Albuquerque,” said Ahmad.

During the opening ceremony Brishna expressed her gratitude saying, “Habitat for Humanity is like my family right now because they are helping us and we are working together. This will impact my children’s future because they can have a place to study and grow. We are so thankful to everyone.”

Seniors and veterans receive 10% off every day at the ReStore.
First responders receive 25% off every day at the ReStore.

Homeownership Changing Lives

National Women build Week 2018 was a great success thanks to 16 women-led teams, 100+ volunteers, and hundreds of donors who are helping build a decent, affordable home for Nicole and her daughter, Snow. Many thanks to everyone who financially supported the volunteers – the Women Build teams exceeded their fundraising goal and raised more than $60,000. The money will go toward the construction of the Women Build home which will be complete next spring

Meet Nicole, the Women Build Homeowner

Nicole was born in New York where she was raised by her mother and grandmother in a strict Puerto Rican household. “My parent’s divorce made a huge impact on all of our lives. My family turned into a one parent household and my mom had to keep the lights on and food in our stomachs,” said Nicole.

When Nicole graduated from high school she worked as a teacher’s assistant. “I worked with Pre-K and Kindergarten children until I relocated to Albuquerque,” said Nicole. “It was a hard and scary decision to move to Albuquerque alone, but it was the best decision I ever made.”

Shortly after Nicole moved she started working as a daycare teacher and met the father of her daughter, Snow. “I knew Snow’s father to be a hard-working, single father so I thought I finally had everything I ever wanted. But when I told him I was pregnant, he said it wasn’t good timing,” said Nicole. She made the decision to keep the baby regardless of what confusion followed.

During a routine prenatal check-up, Nicole learned her baby had gastroschisis. “I was completely broken and scared, but something in my heart told me we were going to be okay. Continued on page 5.
Sharing in Hope

Youth and young adult volunteers wanted! It’s important for young people to get involved in their community and feel empowered to step up and make a difference. Habitat for Humanity has great opportunities for 16 year olds and older interested in volunteering after school and on Saturdays.

Why Volunteer
- Looks great on college applications and job resumes
- Meet new people
- Learn new skills
- Make a difference in your community

Volunteer Opportunities for Teens
- Answer Phones
- Make Thank-you Calls
- Help in the ReStore
- Provide lunch for volunteers at the job site
- Build at the job site

There are some restrictions when choosing to build at the job site depending on the age of the volunteer. Teens and young adults who wish to sign up to volunteer or if you have any questions please contact our Volunteer Manager Regina at regina@habitatabq.org or 505-359-2432.

Clarence Mumme, a long-time ReStore volunteer, passed away in August. We are grateful for Clarence’s time with us – his kindness, can-do spirit, and expertise were invaluable. It was an honor to work alongside Clarence; he will be deeply missed. We extend our thoughts and prayers to his family.

Making a Difference

Andrew is taking a gap year between graduating from high school and going to college. He wanted to experience something new – outside of his hometown and away from what he’d known his whole life. After being accepted to the Mennonite Mission Network Service Adventure program, Andrew moved to Albuquerque and began working at ReStore in August.

“I was pretty sheltered and after I graduated I knew I wanted to experience something else. The climate and the culture are so different. I’m learning a lot. I like the ReStore and I really like what Habitat does. The staff has been very supportive, teaching and helping me learn. It feels good working for this organization.”

Andrew wants to go to college after his Service Adventure is completed next summer. He doesn’t know exactly what he wants to study, but he wants to continue working with his hands and is looking at programs focused on sustainable agriculture. We are truly grateful for his service and for supporting our mission.

Can’t make it to the job site at the Habitat ReStore? Join us for Women Build 2019 on Saturday, October 5th! Learn more and sign up at habitatabq.org.

I loved her and so I made the decision to give her the best life possible as a single parent.” Nicole gave birth to Snow in August. “I stayed in the NICU with Snow from the minute I woke up until shift change at night. I ran into her father a couple of times, but he didn’t ask about her. It was heartbreaking at first, but she has a mom who would go to the ends of the earth for her and we have family and friends that give us the support we need,” said Nicole.

She added, “I have a positive outlook on life. I know I’m not the only single mom struggling, but I have worked hard for everything in my life. This home means more than just getting a house. It reminds me that hard work and doing the right thing is rewarding, that women can do anything, and we can achieve our goals and make dreams come true. Thank you, I am forever grateful.”

Lowe’s volunteers alongside Nicole and daughter Snow during the Lowe’s National Women Build Week.
Donor Honor Roll

Greater Albuquerque Habitat for Humanity thanks the many individuals, foundations, companies, churches, and organizations that have supported us between February 1 – July 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

Carolyn Ghee
Anonymous
John Crawford and Carolyn Quinn
Ron and Fay Detry
Irvan and Lois Hall
Dave and Carol Hartenger
John and Kristine Stichman

Individuals

$500 - $4,999.99

James and Karen
Brian and Brenda
Gerald Simnacher
Robert and Barbara
Michael and Nancy
David and Connie
Paula Matteucci
Evelyn Maguire
Helen Kerschner
Lee Kefauver
Carol Jones
Greg and Alberta
Duane Hughes
MaryKay Gutierrez
Andrew Goodman
Leslie Elgood
Robert and Sue
Suzette Brooks
JoAnn Albrecht
Duane Hughes
Carolyn Acree
Vladimir and Mary
Diane and Joel Berger
Gail Benzer
Melissa Benevegna
Gail Benker
Carolyn Bennett
Diane and Joel Berger
Vladimir and Mary
Margaret Berniklau
Eileen Bernstein
Eric and Irene
Garcia
Kathleen Bickel
Michael Biedermann

Individuals

Up to $499.99

Michael Abella
Lydia Abeyta
Karen Alexander
Kat Abraham
Connie Adler
Betsy Allen
Kelli Allen
Theresa Ambrogii
Bruce Anderson
Maureen and David
Anderson
Rh LAP Anderson and
Cheri Tillman-
Anderson
Marcia and Alan
Andre
Julie Andrews
James and Rudi
Andrus
Anonymous
Marylin Antone
Jackie Aragon
Melinda Aragon
Allen and Ruth
Archambault
Carlos Arguelles
Jose Guadalupe and
Lisa Marie Arguello
Tony Alcon
Cheryl Atkins
dale Atkinson
Vivian and Michael
Austen
Matthew Ayoub
Jack and Judy Babel
James and Linda
Babin
Alice Baca
Barney and Jeanette
Baca
Joshlyn Baca
Katie Baca
Mary Elizabeth Baca
Samantha Baca
Roger Babin
J.B. Bailey
Christie Baker
Gail Baker
Jeff Barret
Brett Barger
Joyce Barger
Mike and Anne Bates
Frances Bazoan
Tami Bean
Terry Bean
Juan Becerra
Melissa Benevegna
Gail Benker
Carolyn Bennett
Diane and Joel Berger
Vladimir and Mary
Margaret Berniklau
Eileen Bernstein
Eric and Irene
Garcia
Kathleen Bickel
Michael Biedermann
Brent Blankenship
Karen Blemel
Kye Blemel and
Evans and Pheobe
Wood
Catherine Woodward
Alex and Patricia
Zimmerman
Xavier and Mary
Zubiata

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Larry Mitchell and special guests
ChillHouse Band with Hillary Smith

November 27, 7:00 pm
Tickets: www.habitatabq.org

Larry Mitchell, Grammy Award-winning producer, engineer and performer, has toured the world playing guitar with well-known artists including Tracy Chapman, Billy Squier, Ric Ocasek, and Miguel Bosé. larrymitchell.com

ChillHouse with vocalist Hillary Smith, Jim Casey on guitar, Mo Roberts on drums, Bryan Abel on bass, and Glenn Kostur on sax and keys. Hillary was voted best vocalist in Albuquerque. Funky, jazzy, bluesy, soul power! billjam.com