Gabby and Eric first learned about Habitat by attending a homeowner orientation. They always wanted a home of their own, but they didn’t think they would qualify. During the orientation they learned what they needed to do and soon enough they met all the qualifications necessary to become a first time home buyer with Habitat for Humanity.

Gabby and Eric completed their sweat equity hours quickly and moved into their home sooner than expected. They have been living and thriving in their home since 2012. “We feel blessed to have this home,” said Gabby.

When the family moved-in, their two-year-old son was diagnosed with autism and their daughter was only one month old. Having a child with special needs is a full time job, but Gabby is upbeat and sincere when she talks about her family and their life. “Habitat didn’t just build us a house, they gave us a foundation for building a better life. I feel more positive and confident about our future,” said Gabby. “With this stability I have the strength and confidence to be better for my kids.”

Currently, Gabby is working toward her degree in psychology and dreams of one day getting her doctorate. Eric has been working with Wells Fargo for 15 years and also takes classes at UNM. Just this last year he was promoted four times.

When asked what advice Gabby would give to someone who was thinking about applying for a Habitat home she says, “Do it! There is nothing more important to buy than a home.” She went on to add, “People don’t know what Habitat is. It’s a zero percent mortgage. An opportunity unlike anything else. I knew nothing about owning a home when we started the process years ago, but Habitat sent us to classes and we learned about managing our money and the importance of saving.”

When asked what Habitat means to the community Gabby said, “When you support Habitat you are giving a family the opportunity to move out of poverty so we can achieve more for ourselves and for our children. We would not be where we are today without your help. We owe everything to Habitat.”

“Habitat didn’t just build us a house, they gave us a foundation for building a better life.” – Gabby
leading with vision & mission

Every one of us has a dream; whether it’s to do more, get more, or be more. Just ask the two single mothers who received the keys to their first home in January. Although their stories are very different, they shared the same dream of homeownership. Both of their journeys were long and difficult, but by partnering with Habitat their desire to have more and be more became a reality.

It takes courage and perseverance to reach for our dreams. And many times it takes a support system. Family, friends, co-workers, even strangers all play a key role in helping us reach for what we want. I believe Greater Albuquerque Habitat for Humanity is a support system, a team made up of staff, donors, volunteers, and families working together to make dreams come true.

Our staff is focused and mission driven not only building homes, but also building relationships and community. Our donors are committed to helping families move out of poverty so they can achieve their dreams. Our volunteers are dedicated and hands-on; each task they do is meaningful because someone will live in the home they are building. Our families are driven by what is possible and never give up on their dream of homeownership. By working together, the outcomes we have witnessed first-hand are very real – safety, stability, increased graduation rates, improved health, and neighbors caring for one another.

It is overwhelming to know that so many people, like you, are willing to join our dream team to strengthen the community in which we live and help others thrive. In a world that can often seem divided, Habitat continues to build with love and we stand united in our vision that “everyone deserves a decent place to live.”

With Gratitude,

Joan Costello, Executive Director

Joan Costello, Executive Director, with the Habitat homeowner of Unity House 3.

Joan Costello, Executive Director, with the Habitat homeowner of Unity House 3.
“We can choose to alleviate suffering. We can choose to work together for peace. We can make these changes - and we must.”
–Jimmy Carter

Raising the Roof is Greater Albuquerque Habitat for Humanity’s signature event. The setting is always casual and this year at Raising the Roof With Love there will be time to mix and mingle while listening to live piano, a silent auction with choices that will blow your mind, plenty of coffee, and a great breakfast.

Guests will have the opportunity to honor the recipients of the Habitat Homeowner of the Year award and most importantly, meet homeowners Irene and Robert when they speak about their experiences as the most recently accepted Habitat homeowners.

Make your reservations for Raising the Roof by April 21 by visiting habitabq.org

Saturday, April 27
Music, Mingle, Silent Auction
8:00 a.m.
Breakfast
8:30 a.m.
Sheraton Albuquerque Uptown
Reservation Required
habitabq.org

thank you sponsors!

Roof Raiser
Hinkle + Landers

Wall Stud
New Mexico Gas

Sheetrockers
Chalmers Ford
Keleher & McLeod

Nuts & Bolts
The Printed Image

Outstanding Homeowner Award
Bank of Albuquerque Mortgage
January 19 was a very good day! Five hundred volunteer hours toward her sweat equity requirement, many hours of financial counseling, and countless pep-talks all led to Deanna receiving the keys to her first home.

A Home to Call Ours

During the home dedication Paul Mondragon with Bank of America, one of the sponsors who helped build Deanna’s house, said, “Having a place to live is not just about a house, it’s about building community and is the foundation of what we want to do….we want to be investing our time and our funds making this a better place for everyone. It’s about all of us coming together, concentrating our dollars, time, and efforts to make great things happen.”

Before speaking in front of everyone Deanna said, “I am nervous and very emotional” when her daughter casually cheered her mom on by saying “You got this mom!” After a big hug from her daughter, Deanna went on to thank everyone saying, “The SWAT members are amazing. I appreciate you so much and will never forget you all. This has been quite an experience. I had my ups and downs and a lot of tears but I made it. My daughter and I will be okay now because we have a home of our own. It’s time to start creating memories and make this a happy, loving home.”

Deanna’s daughter shared a few heartfelt words too, “My mom is an amazing person. I’m so thankful we have a beautiful home to call ours and only ours.”

Pictured (l to r): Gary – Greater Albuquerque Habitat for Humanity Board President; Nikki and Paul – Bank of America; Shelby – Steelbender Brewyard; Joan, Greater Albuquerque Habitat for Humanity Executive Director; and Deanna and her daughter – Habitat homeowner.

Deanna and her daughter celebrate getting the keys to their home.
Unity House 3

On January 26 we dedicated Unity House 3 in memory of Melissa Dugas Gutierrez – a home built by the faith-based community in Albuquerque. The ceremony began with a blessing from Harris Zeyae, President of the Islamic Center of New Mexico, who said, “I ask God to give her and her daughter peace in this house. This is an opportunity to build wonderful memories here and to be a pillar to grow and help the community around her. In Islam, part of what we do is not just do for ourselves, but we help our community and our friends.”

Reverend Tom Hart, Shepherd of the Valley Presbyterian Church, also blessed the home saying, “We are connected in so many ways. Connected by this house and this project, by our compassion for other people, and for Habitat.”

Wells Fargo has been a longtime partner, granting $1.5 million to the Mesa del Río project here in Albuquerque. Debi Randall, representing Wells Fargo during the home dedication said, “To the family moving into this house, I am so happy for you. It’s great that the community can come together – faith-based groups, Wells Fargo, and Habitat. Welcome to your new home; we wish blessings upon you.”

The new homeowner thanked everyone saying, “As a single mother I never thought I’d have my own home here in the United States. There are not enough ways to say thank you, I am very grateful to you all.”

Pictured (l to r): Reverend Tom Hart, Shepherd of the Valley Presbyterian; Imam Fazail Ahmad Sheikh, Islamic Center of New Mexico; Joan Costello, Greater Albuquerque Habitat for Humanity Executive Director; Harris Zeyae, Islamic Center of New Mexico President; Unity House 3 homeowners; and Beth Goldman, Greater Albuquerque Habitat for Humanity Director of Resource Development.
As a member of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Marilyn first got involved with Habitat in 2002 when she was invited to volunteer to build a home with the Presbyterian Coalition. “It was a great first experience. I have fun with Habitat,” says Marilyn. “My motivation to volunteer for Habitat is that I believe everyone should have an affordable home.”

Today Marilyn is the Presbyterian representative for the Unity House builds. She is also a member of Habitat’s Faith Relations Committee where she helps get churches and youth involved. “I focus on three ways in which churches can participate – providing lunches at the job site, volunteering, and giving money,” says Marilyn. “I am generally quiet and shy, but when it comes to Habitat I speak up and find my voice because Habitat makes such a good impact in the world.”

When asked what she learned about Habitat that she didn’t know before volunteering, Marilyn says, “I was surprised to learn that the homes we build are interest free, which makes these homes truly affordable. I was also surprised that I was building alongside future homeowners because they have to earn their sweat equity hours by building their homes and their neighbor’s homes.”

Thank you Marilyn for being such a great volunteer, friend, and advocate of Habitat’s mission.

“I am generally quiet and shy, but when it comes to Habitat I speak up and find my voice because Habitat makes such a good impact in the world.” –Marilyn Stoops

Thank you volunteers
Last year 727 individuals volunteered 19,290 hours building homes, at ReStore, and in the Habitat office.

Thank you to these organizations for volunteering August 1, 2018 – January 31, 2019.

ACTS Women
AT&T
Bank of America
Booz, Allen, Hamilton
Cintas
Ethicon – Johnson & Johnson
Eye Associates of NM
Farmers Insurance
GOD’s Work, Our Hands
NAIOP
Omega Psi Phi
Sandia Laboratory Federal Credit Union
St. Andrew Presbyterian Church
Tri-Core
US Bank
USAF AETC 58 OSS/OSL
Verizon Wireless
YDI

Shop. Donate. Volunteer
You don’t have to lift a hammer to help

Between July 1, 2017 and June 20, 2018:

- Individuals volunteered 1,539 hours in the ReStore.
- 155,000 tons of metal were recycled and diverted from the landfill.
- $1,036,000 in gross sales at our ReStore
- 3,540 donations of gently used household items and building materials

Volunteer Marilyn Stoops holds an appreciation gift from a homeowner given to the Presbyterian Habitat Coalition in 2008.
Greater Albuquerque Habitat for Humanity thanks the generous foundations, churches, and organizations that have donated August 1, 2018 – January 31, 2019. Thank you for building hope and changing lives through homeownership.

$5,000 and over
Anonymous
Bank of America Charitable Foundation
First Presbyterian Church
John W and Clara C Higgins Foundation
Sandia Foundation’s Hugh and Helen Woodward Fund of the Albuquerque Community Foundation
Sandia Laboratory Federal Credit Union
Sandia National Laboratories
Shepherd of the Valley Presbyterian Church
US Bank Foundation
Wells Fargo Foundation

$500 - $4,999.99
Anonymous
Distinctive Art Source
Kabana Inc
Prime Therapeutics
RBC Capital Markets
Roadrunner Region Inc of Porsche Club of America
St Andrew Presbyterian Church
St Clair Winery & Bistro
Sturgis-Draper Family Charitable Fund
US Bank Foundation
Van Allen Family Foundation
Walmart Neighborhood Market #3385

Up to $499.99
Albuquerque Community Foundation
B&D Industries
Christ United Methodist Church
Foundation for Sustainable Living
Intel Corporation
Knights of Columbus Prince of Peace Council 13479
Second Presbyterian Church
St Luke Lutheran Church
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
Walmart Neighborhood Market #3317

Lunch Box Builders
Anonymous
Calvary Chapel Southwest Chick-fil-A Conchita’s Cafe Dion’s Flying Star Fork on the Road GAHH Board of Directors Golden Corral Hence Williams Jr and Carol Cooper-Skopil Jay and Jean Dugas Kolache Factory ABQ Little Caesars

If we inadvertently missed you on our list or if a correction is needed, we apologize. Please contact Kristin Schuetz (kristin@habitatabq.org). Thank you.

Greater Albuquerque Habitat for Humanity is grateful to every person who contributes to helping build a stronger community in Albuquerque - one home, one family at a time. With so many generous supporters, we are no longer able to print donor names in our newsletter. Despite this, please know that we are deeply grateful for your ongoing support and financial commitment. We cannot do this meaningful work without you. Thank You!

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building community one home at a time

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Breakfast
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Sheraton Albuquerque Uptown
Reservation Required
habitabq.org

RAISING THE ROOF
With Love

Seniors, veterans and first responders receive 10% off every day at the ReStore.

• SHOP Monday - Saturday
  9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
• DONATE Monday - Saturday
  9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.