



**Habitat  
for Humanity®**

of the Mid-Willamette Valley

August Newsletter  
2020

## Our Mission

Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities, and hope.



## Letter from the Executive Director



In the midst of this challenging year I want to share some incredible things happening around here.

Though the ReStore closed in mid-March, we worked hard while putting on masks and maintaining safe distances. We launched our first ever online store with curbside pickups. We cleaned and staged the store to be ready for customers when the store re-opened 8 weeks later.

Just days before Ellisha's home was finished, we closed the construction site to volunteer groups. Our construction manager, Dave, his wife, and a few Wednesday Warriors (volunteers) followed safety protocols to make the final push. Ellisha moved her family into a safe and affordable home during a pandemic-incredible! We are excited to partner with two more families in their dream of homeownership. We will host volunteers again when we are able to do so safely. In the meantime, sub- contractors are partnering with us to get construction started.

Recent events have forced each of us to look at ways individually and collectively we contribute towards inequality. Habitat for Humanity was founded in rural Georgia during the era of Jim Crow laws to create inclusivity and equality for all. The work to be anti-racist is not over and must continue. And so we resolve to continue the work, to fight for justice, to learn from and support the calls for action of our neighbors uniting for change.

The mission of building homes, communities, and hope is just as important now as it was at our founding. Thank you for joining in this life-changing work!

Stay safe,

Jerry Ambris  
Executive Director

Help us keep building,  
**Donate today at**  
**SalemHabitat.org**

The ReStore is now open! Bring your mask when you shop from 9 am - 4 pm Tuesday - Saturday. Our donation center is open every other Tuesday, 11 am - 4 pm. Check our Facebook page for most current hours or call (503) 485 4845.

Robb is pictured here greeting customers, sanitizing carts, and handing out water to our enthusiastic shoppers!

Don't forget to check out our online ReStore at:  
<https://salemrestore.shopsettings.com/>



### Board of Directors 2020

Kim Parker-Llerenas (Chair)  
Ben Wilson (Treasurer)  
Brandy Fuller (Secretary)  
Sabrina Jones

Ami Maceira  
Ron Mohr  
Gary Mueller  
Scott Turner

### Interested in Volunteering?

*We're following state guidelines and creating new policies to keep you, our staff, and homebuyers safe.*

*Contact Kattrina Osborn at [kattrina@salemhabitat.org](mailto:kattrina@salemhabitat.org) for questions or more information!*

# Family Stories



Please welcome one of the 2020 Partner families! Homebuyers Victor and Maria have three children: Daniel, age 14, David, age 13, and Diana, age 8. Victor works as a painter for Fitzpatrick Painting and Maria works at the Amazon warehouse in Salem.

Both Maria and Victor immigrated to the United States from Mexico in 2005 and found themselves making a home in Salem. The couple is grateful for community members that respect and help take care of one another, despite any differences there may be. They enjoy all that the city has to offer with the green spaces, restaurants and activities. However, there are also dangerous difficulties with their current living situation.

During the past 15 months at their current apartment, Victor's car has been broken into twice. Violating and invasive incidents are common in the complex, and the apartment itself has ongoing issues with water leaks and mold.

Victor, Maria and their children are grateful for this opportunity and for the help providing safety for their family. They are eager to begin work on their home, building new skills and gaining the pride of creating something lasting for their family.

Meet another 2020 Partner family! Homebuyers Raymond and Alicia have three children: Sofia, age 10, Solana, age 9, and Sawyer, age 6. Raymond works for the State of Oregon as a Family Coach, assisting families recovering from unemployment, domestic violence, and housing and food insecurity. Alicia currently multi-tasks as not only a stay-at home mom but also as a homeschool teacher to all three of their children.

Currently the family lives in Dallas with housing assistance but are eager to join the community on 20th Street in Salem. Their homeownership goals include being able to have financial stability and ensuring a legacy of property and homeownership for their children. Raymond and Alicia are eager to demonstrate to their children the importance of giving back, volunteerism, and creating a welcoming and safe space for their community.



*Photo Credit for families: Russell Photography*

The family is looking forward to being active members of their community by hosting barbeques for members of their neighborhood, attending meetings of their local Southeast Salem Neighborhood Association and helping make sure their community thrives.



## **We're still building!**

This year we're building two homes on 20th St, behind Capital Park Wesleyan Church.

While there have been delays due to COVID-19, we're working hard. We're grateful for generous community partners who donate their time, skills, and resources to help us finish these homes.



1220 12th St. SE  
Salem, OR 97302

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## *Together, we've made a big difference!*

<b>93</b>	homes built to date	<b>837</b>	volunteers	<b>155</b>	international homes built through Global Village
<b>456</b>	people served in the Mid-Willamette Valley	<b>9,527</b>	volunteer hours	<b>750</b>	tons of waste diverted by the ReStore



### **Did you know?**

Children growing up in a Habitat home have a high school graduation rate of 92% (12% higher than the Oregon graduation rate).

After moving into a Habitat home, 68% of children experience noticeably improved health.

**We're still building - check inside for more info!**

Visit our website and follow us!  
[www.SalemHabitat.org](http://www.SalemHabitat.org)

