Past, Present and Future

Everyone needs a decent place to call home.
MISSION

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

HISTORY

South County Habitat for Humanity (SCHH) was founded in 1990 as an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International. We dedicated our first home in 1992 and in 1994 completed a Blitz Build of two homes in Charlestown in the span of a week. Also in 1994, the SCHH-URI partnership was formalized when the University of Rhode Island Campus Chapter was established. The first women-built house in 1997 recruited many women volunteers, some of whom still serve on the Women’s Crew today. The completion of the Operations Center and the establishment of a Habitat ReStore in 2007 put SCHH on firm financial footing for the future. SCHH has continued to expand. Now after 28 years in operation, we have completed 54 homes and helped 66 South County families improve their lives through access to safe and decent housing.

SERVICES

South County Habitat provides numerous services to area residents and organizations. In addition to helping provide decent and affordable housing to hard working families, we also host homebuyer education classes for future homeowners, so they better understand the requirements of homeownership. We have established various partnerships with other area agencies to extend our offerings to a broader population, including neighborhood revitalization, job training opportunities, and an aging in place program for our 65+ year old area residents.

We believe that strong and stable homes help build strong and stable communities.
As we reflect on this past year of accomplishments and celebrate our successes, we should all take pride in knowing that each and every home we build and every house we repair is having an impact, not only on the families we are directly serving but on our community as a whole.

South County Habitat is known for its strong and sustained commitment to home building. However, when it comes right down to it we are building so much more. We are building a community of volunteers, supporters, neighbors and families. We are building a springboard for deserving families to get a hand up in life, and the opportunity for them to thrive and become contributing members of our community. Often, we focus on the immediate and tangible outcomes. There are many and they are very important. However, it is also important to take a step back and look at how the efforts from three years, ten years, twenty-five years ago are still having a positive impact today. While we rejoice with the two families in South County who have a new place to call home this year, we also celebrated when one of our homeowners was able to pay off their Habitat mortgage in full. Other homeowners shared the news of high school graduations, holiday feasts, new jobs and new friends. The impact of Habitat’s work and mission last long after we hand over the keys.

As the new director I have enjoyed being able to hear these stories of how the work of our volunteers and supporters has changed lives and continues to do so every day. I want to thank everyone for their support of Habitat over this past year and for welcoming me to South County. Change is not always easy or smooth, but thanks to our dedicated volunteers, staff, and supporters, we have been able to have a very real impact. I look forward to another great year with Habitat and the opportunity to help support our community.

Sincerely,

Colin Penney
Executive Director
Homes under construction: 1 New and 5 Rehabs

Homes under construction (New/Rehab) ...................... 6
Homes built internationally ......................................... 4.5
Families served (cumulative) ....................................... 66
Adults served (cumulative) .......................................... 85
Children served (cumulative) ..................................... 144
Families accepted into program................................. 6
Homeowners paying off their mortgage (cumulative) .... 2
Volunteers .................................................................. 490
Volunteer hours .................................................... 20,294
Tons of material diverted from landfill by the ReStore (cumulative) ...................................................... 2,404
Donations to the ReStore ......................................... 2,474

Every single one of us deserves the opportunity for a better future.
Everyone can make a difference.

From the President

This past year at South County Habitat for Humanity is often referred to as the year of transition. That term refers primarily to the change in leadership but it also captures the completion of several mandated revisions to our operating model. It has been an exciting and challenging year.

Our Executive Director, Colin Penney, joined the organization in late October 2017, and in less than a year has proven to be a knowledgeable leader focused on our vision of “a world where everyone has a decent place to live.” Colin has won the respect and confidence of the staff, volunteers and board and has already established himself as an advocate for Habitat throughout South County and the State of Rhode Island.

Now that the leadership transition is complete, we are again fully focused on fulfilling our mission of bringing people together to build homes, community and hope. The stories and statistics shared in this Annual Report illustrate our past successes, all of which were achieved with the assistance of generous volunteers and donors. Going forward, we plan to continue the tradition of building new and rehabbing existing homes for qualifying families. With several projects currently underway, including the construction of a duplex home in Exeter, the future looks bright.

Habitat's ability to serve more families depends on individuals like you who give time and resources to help us build and rehabilitate homes for qualifying families. If you choose to be involved, I can promise it will be one of the most rewarding experiences of your life.

Valerie Henry
President
STAFF

Colin Penney
Executive Director

Jason Brown
Lead ReStore Associate

Kevin Donohue
Community Support Leader

Robin Esposito
Bookkeeper

Courtney Gray
Director of Administration and Finance

Alicia Johnson
Volunteer and Family Services Coordinator

Ethan Klensch
ReStore Manager

Jay Shartenberg
Director of Operations

Cliff Tyler
Director of Development & Marketing

2017-2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Valerie Henry
President

Sarah Miller
Vice President

Don Wisehart
Treasurer

Whitney Bancroft
Secretary

Helen Drew
Glenn Ferguson
Jill Kass
Chet Kosak
Dan Marantz
Pamela Rohland
Jerry Sidio
William Stearns
Lisa Van Hemelrijck
Volunteers are the heart and soul of our organization. It would be impossible to do what we do without them. In the 2017-2018 fiscal year, 510 volunteers contributed 20,833 hours equivalent to a $502,908 donation.

We sincerely thank you for your hard work. Those volunteers who were award recipients include:

**Mark Smith Volunteer of the Year Award:** Margaret (Gigi) Fobert, Clif Johnson  
**Nancy and J. Whitney Bancroft Long Term Service Award:** Evelyn Dvorak  
**URI Exceptional Volunteer Service Award:** Robyn Johnson

Construction volunteers contributed 3,636 total hours  
ReStore volunteers contributed 14,845 hours  
Administrative & support volunteers contributed 1,852 hours  
The URI student chapter contributed over 500 hours

**THE FOLLOWING VOLUNTEERS CONTRIBUTED MORE THAN 100 HOURS DURING THE FISCAL YEAR.**

Ramon Alferos  
Alice Babcock  
Whitney Bancroft  
Stan Barszcz  
Luke Brissette  
Donald Brown  
Paul Casey  
John Colonghi  
Paula Commendatore  
Bob Congdon  
Ronald Dean  
Jean Dwyer  
Jeanne Elby  
Randy Esasky  
Mike Faggella  
Milton Finch  
Gigi Fobert  
Chris Gagne  
Cliff Griffith  
Wendy Halstead  
Valerie Henry  
Tom Holland  
Scott Hopkins  
Robert Johnson  
Clif Johnson  
Sally Judd  
Carol Kadamus  
Gabby Klensch  
Chet Kosak  
Larry Kulowiec  
Ron Laliberte  
Karen Lawrence  
Ken Leech  
Michael Leech  
Bob Lohmann  
Evelyn Luther  
Beca MacGregor  
Larry Menard  
David Miner  
Kathleen Murphy  
John Nickerson  
Larry Orefice  
MaryAnn Rauseo  
Harold Rocketto  
Mike Shaugnessey  
Dana Spiconardi  
Ron Tremper  
Toni Tubridy  
Amy Tully  
Laura Tweedy  
Patricia Tyler  
Bruce Wilcox  
Diana Williams

everyone needs a decent place to call home
Over the last 28 years, the focus of South County Habitat for Humanity has been to provide each new qualifying family with a fresh start and a pathway to a better future.

Since 1990, over 144 children and 85 adults have ventured down the South County Habitat path. Past and present, their journeys continue. Young children have grown. Some are the first in their families to graduate from college. Many have started successful careers. Habitat has made an impact on their success and their lives.

And for the parents, in addition to providing a secure and welcoming environment for their families, they too have had a chance to flourish. Some have been able to buy a more reliable car to get them to work, from the saving of having an affordable mortgage payment. Others have saved for that vacation they never dreamed of having. And then there are those who have used the opportunity to go back to school and further their education and career prospects.

Some families like Becky and Rick have paid off their mortgage, providing them additional financial freedom. And our most recent families like Lisa, the future of the Habitat benefit fully awaits them. Life is a journey and the path provided by Habitat continues to rewards those families from the past, the present and the future.

PRESENT Homeowner

“My son is a happier child, more social and especially more independent. He didn’t have his own room before. Now we have more structure and personal space. We are able to have company over and he has friends sleepover!”

Tiea - Habitat homeowner since 2017
Everyone needs a decent place to call home

**FUTURE**

**Homeowner**

“For me, the security of having a home that I never have to leave again has done something to my soul. I don’t feel insecure, I feel rooted and complete – the security is the overall feeling. Coming home to our own house – it’s like when you have a flower you want to grow in good earth, and I feel that we have been planted in good earth.”

Lisa - Habitat homeowner since 2018

**PAST**

**Homeowner**

“It’s nice to be able have the things everyone wants in life, and because of Habitat we get to be normal… but the difference between me and everyone else is that our house was built with love… we are so grateful we had this opportunity.”

Rick & Becky - Habitat homeowner since 1998
The University of Rhode Island Habitat for Humanity chapter is the collegiate affiliate associated with South County Habitat for Humanity. It is open to all students and staff who are interested in volunteering. Along with working on construction sites and volunteering in the ReStore or in the office, their chapter is involved with many on-campus events. This includes First Night and Homecoming/Family Weekend, where they reach out to the University community and share what Habitat for Humanity is all about. Last year, the URI student chapter contributed over 500 hours, which is equivalent to a donation of $12,493.

They also help organize several on-campus fundraising activities on behalf of South County Habitat throughout the academic year. This includes partnering with the URI Greek Life community on a very successful fundraising event each year that raises in excess of $100,000 annually.

This past year, 108 URI participants were involved in an “Alternative Spring Break” program, and spent their entire spring break in either Baltimore, MD, Flagstaff, AZ, Houston, TX, Guatemala or in various RI locations working with local Habitat for Humanity affiliates in those areas. Additionally, 13 students also volunteered during the URI January Term at our construction warehouse in Peace Dale.
everyone needs a decent place to call home
Every donation helps a family build a safe and affordable home.

Thank You for Your Support
When donating to South County Habitat for Humanity, it’s more than an investment in homes—you are helping build strong families and healthy neighborhoods.

$50,000+
Inter Fraternity Council- University of Rhode Island
Westerly Hospital

$10,000 - 49,999
Alex and Ani, Charity by Design
St. Paul Housing Corp.
St. Paul’s Episcopal Church
Wakefield Rotary Club

$5,000 - 9,999
Anonymous
Kent Washington Assoc. of Realtors
Metlife Foundation

$1,000 - 4,999
Anonymous
Lynn Baker-Dooley & David M. Dooley
Karen & Richard Black
George Bodenheimer
Jody Brown & Richard Staton
Evelyn & Wilfred Dvorak
Enterprise Holdings
First Baptist Church in Wickford
GFWC Women’s Club of South County
Grey Sail Brewing Company
Valerie Henry
Kelsey & Tim Johnson
Dorothy & Robert Lohmann
Beatrice & Bruce MacGregor
Mary Mason & Pat Davis
Sara & Christopher Quintal
Anne & Robert Ravenscroft
Sandi & William Rosen
David & Robin Ryan Family Foundation
Evelyn Smith
St. Paul’s Episcopal Church
Wakefield Rotary Club

$500 - 999
Anonymous
Suzan & Alexander Amoruso
Kathy B. Applegate
Bonnie L. Baker
Nancy & Whitney Bancroft
Central Baptist Church Missions
Christ the King Church
Eve D. Cohen
Marion & Andrew Detora
Randall Gardner
Daurnye Gray
Coleen & Clifford Griffith
Ellen & John Heffler
Prudence & Kenneth Holton
Carolyn & David Hurdis
Edward Jankowski
Carole & James Kadamus
Eve & Thomas Keenan
Donna & Wallace Kelly
Kingston Congregational Church
Gabriele Klensch
Lorry & Ron Laliberte
Paul Larrat
Irma & John Larsen
Cynthia & Allan Ledger
Kathryn Marolda
Elizabeth & David McNab
Lucy M. Mueller
Narragansett Lions Club
Elizabeth Nestor
David Palazzetti
Kristin Patterson
Regan Pennypacker
Lou A. Raymond
Select Equity Group Foundation
The Glenmede Trust Company, N.A.
Jet Vertz
Wakefield Baptist Church
Walmart Foundation
Tom Wiles

$250 - 499
Anonymous
David & Cherie Binns
Barbara Bush
Chuck Carvette
Kristine & Gary Chapman
Citizens Charitable Foundation
Bryant DaCruz
Lyman Davenport
Avinash R. Dhuri
Ann & Andrew Dickson
Theresa & Isidore D’orsi
Mary Ann & Dwight Ellis
Ferguson Perforating Company
First Baptist Church of North Kingstown
Greg Hall
Linda Harris
Pat & Robert Horrocks
Barbara Hoyle
Joseph Iannucci
John C. Kennedy
The Lou Raymond Building Endowment Fund

In 2017, with the retirement of Executive Director Lou Raymond, we established the Lou Raymond Building Endowment Fund, a sub-fund of our South County Habitat for Humanity Endowment. The initial deposit to the fund was approximately $11,000 and was made possible by numerous contributions from attendees to Lou’s retirement party. Funds from this new endowment are to be used for projects to support the mission of South County Habitat for Humanity.

Gifts In-Kind

Golden, Gormly & Co, LTD
Habitat for Humanity International
GIK Program
Lowe's National Women's Build Week
Whirlpool Corporation
Bank of America

everyone needs a decent place to call home
Community Support

South County Habitat for Humanity, with the continued help and support of the community and corporate sponsors, currently has one new duplex house under construction along with 3 rehabilitation projects underway.

These projects, like all the houses Habitat has built over the last 28 years, are possible because of a broad coalition of community supporters. They have helped provide funding for these houses and are providing the labor to build and rehab these homes in partnership with a local family.

We would like to acknowledge and thank the generous community organizations and companies listed below, and on our donor pages, for their support of our mission to build homes, community and hope.

PAST

Alex and Ani is well known for their humanitarian efforts across the globe. They are eager to volunteer to make a difference through employee engagement, along with providing financial support to numerous organizations both locally and around the world.

They have partnered locally with Habitat for Humanity for many years. Be it on one of our construction sites, or engaged with one of our committees, Alex and Ani is there to help. In 2017, they designed the Queen Bee Charm as part of their Charity by Design program. They are donating 20% of all sales of the charm to Habitat for Humanity.

PRESENT

For more than 90 years, Westerly Hospital has been providing residents of southern Rhode Island and southeastern Connecticut with a full range of inpatient and outpatient services in a community hospital setting. They sponsor, develop and participate in a wide variety of community-based programs and services to promote health and wellness throughout the area.

In 2018, they provided a substantial grant to South County Habitat in order to renovate local properties and improve access to affordable housing in the community. In addition to financial support, more than 100 hospital employees and family members have volunteered their time and labor to work on one of our area rehab projects.

FUTURE

Bank of America is committed to supporting equitable solutions that will help vulnerable communities grow and prosper. Access to affordable housing remains a challenge for many communities. That’s why they support the work of organizations such as Habitat, as they work to preserve, and increase access to a mix of affordable housing options and connect individuals and families with the tools and resources to achieve their financial goals.

In 2017, Bank of America established a local partnership with South County Habitat. Throughout the last year, numerous teams of bank employees have volunteered their time and talents at various South County Habitat sites. Volunteerism is part of their company’s DNA and we look forward to further developing and expanding our relationship with them in the future.
YOU CAN HELP BUILD THE FUTURE OF SOUTH COUNTY

DONATE: Donating is easy.
  • Either online, by mail, or by phone.
  • In Kind Donations at our ReStore, which accepts new and used home goods, appliances, furniture and building supplies for resale.

VOLUNTEER: Volunteer your time at one of our construction sites, in the ReStore, on one of our committees or in our office. All skill levels are welcome.

APPLY: Help us find qualified home applicants.

SPONSOR: Sponsor a Corporate/Church day at a Habitat home build with your employees or congregation.

MAKE A MATCHING CORPORATE GIFT: If your company offers matching employee charitable contributions, you can double your impact!

JOIN OUR 1990 LEGACY SOCIETY: Remember Habitat in your estate plans and help create a lasting legacy supporting South County families.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE WWW.SOUTHCOUNTYHABITAT.ORG OR CALL US 401-213-6711
builds strength, stability and self-reliance through affordable housing.

South County Habitat for Humanity
401-213-6711
www.southcountyhabitat.org
Facebook: SouthCountyHabitat

South County Habitat ReStore
401-213-6716
www.ReStoreRI.org
Facebook & Instagram: SCHHReStore

South County Habitat for Humanity builds strength, stability and self-reliance through affordable housing.

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