

# HABITAT INSIDER

## Happy New Year

In the past decade, we've accomplished a lot - from first opening our ReStore to dedicating our 84th home. The achievements of Habitat Choptank are best seen through the lasting impact of our work with individuals, families, and communities. We're excited to help more deserving individuals and families find new beginnings in the new year. This work wouldn't be possible without your support. Thank you!



*The Thursday Crew by Dick Nolker*



Habitat for Humanity International Headquarters  
Atlanta, Georgia



**AARP Foundation**<sup>®</sup>  
For a future without senior poverty.

The AARP Foundation's "Here to Stay: Home Upkeep for All" workshop is a part of Habitat for Humanity's national Aging in Place program. Habitat Choptank is one of only three Habitat affiliates nationwide chosen to implement and test the AARP Foundation's pilot "Here to Stay" program.

This month, our Neighborhood Revitalization Family Services Coordinator, Tara Felts, and our Neighborhood Revitalization Manager, Rhodana Fields, were joined by representatives from two other Habitat affiliates piloting the program to discuss their experiences at Habitat for Humanity International Headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia. The other "innovator affiliates" for the program came from Riverside, California and West Palm Beach, Florida.

Representatives met for four days to share information and develop a best practices list based off of experiences over the past year. They developed a start-off tool kit and a training for Habitat affiliates hoping to replicate the program in their respective service areas. The group also discussed ways to continue to meet and expand upon their goals to ensure continued success for the program in the upcoming year.

Felts said that the experience was "a good coming together and good use of time as we worked through ways to serve more people effectively" as "it is always good to get perspective from other affiliates operating similar programs...the shared knowledge is invaluable."

Habitat Choptank continued partnership with the AARP Foundation will lead to

the hosting of more home maintenance workshops for older adults this year. These workshops include hands on tips for preventative home maintenance, when to call in a professional, how to find resources to help with home repair costs, and how to find good, reliable help when you need it.



### Upcoming Workshops:

Tuesday, March 10th

Tuesday, May 12th

Tuesday, July 14th

Friday, August 21st, 11:00 - 3:00 PM,  
Senior Resource Fair (workshops to  
be held during the event)

Tuesday, November 10th

Email Our Neighborhood  
Revitalization Manager for More  
Information

These events are free and open to the public. Individuals of all ages are welcome to attend. Workshops will be held at 5:30 PM (with the exception of those held during the Senior Resource Fair). Refreshments and door prizes provided. More information to be announced.

# OUR HOMES, OUR VOTES

# 2020

## BECAUSE HOUSING IS BUILT WITH BALLOTS



Habitat for Humanity International is one of 1000+ organizations to partner with the National Low Income Housing Coalition on their *Our Homes, Our Votes: 2020* project. As part of this project, presidential debate moderators were encouraged to ask candidates for their plans to address the country's affordable housing and homelessness crisis during the December debates. A full-page ad ran in the L.A. Times on December 16th and 17th urging the discussion of this crisis. As the ad explained, "when people have stable, accessible, affordable homes, lives dramatically improve, economic

productivity is stronger, and our nation is more just and equitable." We are excited to continue advocating for and working to make affordable housing more accessible.

[Learn More](#)

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## Welcome Tamira!



Welcome to Habitat Choptank's newest AmeriCorps Construction Crew Leader, Tamira Dotson! AmeriCorps volunteers help us increase our capacity to fulfill our mission, while we help them develop leadership skills. We're excited to have Tamira join our team and are grateful to have her assistance with construction on Habitat Choptank job sites. We hope you'll join her on one of our job sites soon!

[Volunteer with Us](#)

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## ReStore Finds



[Register Now](#)

There are so many incredible ways to repurpose items from our ReStore. At An Optical Galleria in Easton, you can see an example of exactly that when you check out their awesome glasses displays! You can enter our ReStore ReDesign and get creative too! Choose a ReStore item and ReDesign it into something amazing! All items will become part of the Silent Auction at our "Forever Home" fundraising event on June 6, 2020.

[Learn More About Our ReStore ReDesign](#)

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# FOREVER HOME

Building stability. Creating opportunity. Inspiring life moments.  
*Forever Home.*

**Saturday, June 6, 2020**

**Habitat Choptank ReStore**

**8610 Commerce Drive**

**Easton, MD 21601**

**6 - 9 pm**

**Tickets (\$75) and tables (\$1000) will be  
available for purchase soon.  
In the meantime, save the date!**



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**Neighborhood Revitalization Home Repair Program**



Habitat Choptank is continuing to complete repairs in areas in which our Neighborhood Revitalization program is operating, with a focus on the towns of Cambridge and Easton.

The first Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funded Habitat Choptank repair is now being finished. This project included a necessary roof replacement, the installation of new water and gas lines as well as a new water heater, and critical structural repairs to make the home safer and to meet minimum livability standards. This grant is funded in partnership with the City of Cambridge and the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and exists to help with major home repairs to meet these minimum livability standards.

Repairs made through the Helping Hands Revolving Loan Fund are also ongoing. This fund receives a portion of its support from the George B. Todd Fund of the MidShore Community Foundation and exists to help alleviate health and safety issues as well as accessibility barriers. Through this fund, partner families are able to complete necessary repairs and establish a repayment plan according to a sliding scale based on income. Repaid funds go back into the fund to help more individuals and families in the community. Partner families either assist in the completion of the work on their own homes or volunteer in the community, the aim of which is to help strengthen the community overall.

This month, three more repairs are being made through the Helping Hands Revolving Loan Fund. These repairs include two roof replacements, a roof repair, and a complete kitchen cabinet replacement to combat extreme water damage.

[Contact Our Neighborhood Revitalization Manager For More Info](#)



**Celebrate the Year of the Woman  
Women's Build Events  
March 4th & 7th**

[Stay Updated](#)

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# Why Volunteer?

A Few Benefits of Volunteering from Habitat for Humanity International

## 1 Get a new job.

Volunteering can help you make the transition to a new field.

## 2 Get a better job.

Seeking a promotion? Corporate volunteering programs give employees an opportunity to shine.

## 3 Live longer.

Research indicates that "people who volunteered spent 38 percent fewer nights in the hospital" than non-volunteers, and this Atlantic article cites additional findings that volunteers of all ages enjoy better health, more stamina and lower stress levels.

## 4 Learn something new.

Every volunteer opportunity offers a chance to stretch your skill set. With Habitat, you'll always have the chance to learn something different, sometimes in as little as a single day. Help a family make repairs and improvements to their existing home or get instruction on how to use a new-to-you tool on a build site. Learn how to raise awareness of housing issues. Serve on a committee that helps coordinate future homeowner selection, financial education or build-site snacks!



[Read More](#)

## ReStore Update



We're hiring! Our ReStore is looking for someone to join our team! This is a part-time position (Monday-Wednesday & Saturday) for a



### February 20

Open House, 5:30 PM, 519 High Street, Cambridge, MD

### March 4 & 7

Women Build, Easton

### March 10

AARP Workshop, 5:30 PM, Location TBA

### March 15

ReStore ReDesign Entry Deadline

### April 18



Driver/Furniture Mover and Donation services.

If interested, please contact our ReStore Manager, Chris Smith, at [manager@habitatchoptank.org](mailto:manager@habitatchoptank.org).

[Contact Our ReStore Manager](#)

*Rock the Block, Cambridge*

**June 6**

*Forever Home, 6 - 9 PM, Expanded and Renovated ReStore, 8610 Commerce Drive, Easton, MD*

[Visit our website](#)

Habitat for Humanity Choptank | 410-476-3204 | [habitatchoptank.org](http://habitatchoptank.org)

