

HABITAT INSIDER

IMPORTANT NEWS BULLETIN

Message from Our Executive Director



Sylvia, one of our homeowners, is pictured above with her Coach Julie, both working in partnership to build her forever home in St. Michaels, which we are delighted to report is nearly finished.

Our process for home construction has involved looking at dates of program entry as well as sweat equity and savings accrued by homebuyers. We use this to gauge our construction progress and allocation of resources to where they are needed most. That strategy doesn't always work because -

simply put - life happens - health issues, job loss, you name it.

These past few months have been challenging for Habitat Choptank to continue our operations. Basically, we need two things to build and complete houses - volunteers and funds. Volunteers help to ensure the affordability of the homes that we build and the spirit of partnership with which we build. Due to COVID-19, we haven't been able to utilize volunteers since mid March so that has delayed our work and the ability of our partner families to accrue hours. However, we are issuing sweat equity hours in recognition for other types of community service done by our homebuyers and although we have slowed down, we still will have managed to place 5 families in homes between March and May.

In terms of funding, our ReStore is one of the ways that we fund the building of our houses and we had to close that due to COVID-19 as well as lay off all employees there. We are hopeful that we will be able to get that operation back up and running sometime in June so please stay tuned for further updates.

Other fundraising efforts to support continuing to build have been challenged at best. Many of our supporters have been affected by COVID-19 in terms of job loss and financial setbacks, and if they haven't yet been affected, they are afraid of what is yet to come.

Although the future is uncertain, we continue pressing onward fighting the good fight to eliminate poverty housing from the face of the earth while striving to encourage all to remain "joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer" (*Romans 12:12*).

Sincerely,

JoAnn Hansen

Executive Director

[Donate](#)



Together we give.

#givingtuesdaynow | May 5, 2020

COVID-19 NEXT STEPS

For the last eight weeks, we have closed our build sites to volunteers, closed our ReStore to volunteers and the general public as well as closed our offices. Work has continued through the use of contractors and through our staff team working in home based office settings utilizing technologies to aid us in our work. Our guidance has been consistent with federal recommendations to help flatten the curve of the pandemic.

The federal government has now delegated decision making regarding reopenings to state and local authorities. We will be working closely with our Board of Directors to develop plans to slowly resume operations based on a set of criteria that continues to prioritize the health and safety of all involved. We will continue to remain fully compliant with all state and local requirements.

Please stay tuned for information in the coming weeks on our plans to slowly resume operations and activities.

RESTORE RENOVATION OUT TAKES



We hope to reopen our beloved ReStore sometime in June.

Please like us on Facebook so that you continue to receive important and timely messages.



All events postponed until further notice.

Visit our website

Habitat for Humanity Choptank | 410-476-3204 |
habitatchoptank.org

