



Habitat
for Humanity®
Choptank

Message from the Executive Director



Dear Friends & Supporters,

I am pleased to report that our ReStore reopened its doors this past week on Tuesday, June 30th. Even with limited shopping hours of 12 - 4pm, Tuesday through Saturday, the store reopening was a huge success. We are grateful to those in the community who continue to donate and shop in our ReStore to support the need for quality affordable housing in Dorchester & Talbot Counties. During the remainder of July, our Restore will continue to operate with reduced hours of 12-4pm Tuesday through Saturday. If you are interested in making a **ReStore donation or would like to schedule an outdoor pick-up, please remember these must be scheduled in advance by calling the ReStore at 410-820-6186**. This helps to keep everyone safe.

More good news....our job sites reopened with construction volunteers yesterday. Our first wave of volunteers invited to serve is based on those who gave 100+ hours since last year. Even with a limited number of no more than 6 volunteers per job site, in addition to staff, the spirit of hope and perseverance was in full force. Please don't get discouraged if you weren't included in the first wave of those called to serve. **Rather, be encouraged by the fact that nearly two months after gradually beginning to lift restrictions, Maryland's COVID 19 numbers continue to trend**

We look forward to welcoming more volunteers in the future so if you are interested, please e-mail info@habitatchoptank.org and we will gladly send you a volunteer application and conduct an orientation so you are ready to go when it is safe to further expand volunteers at our ReStore and on our jobsites.

We continue to ask for everyone's cooperation and patience as we slowly ramp back up. The following safety guidelines were shared last month but I wanted to share these again as they have been adopted by Habitat Choptank to keep our volunteers, clients and staff members safe and to minimize risk to Habitat Choptank as best as possible.

Volunteers will be required to:

- Sign a new waiver with COVID-19 provisions;
- Sign up for a shift on-line utilizing a new software system and process;
- Undergo a temperature check and sign a self-screen for symptoms daily;
- Wear a mask at all times;
- Wipe down tools before and after each use; and
- **Stay home if they or a loved one are immunocompromised or have come in contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19.**

Personal Protective Equipment that will be available includes:

- N-95 Masks for work requiring this type of gear (these have been hard to obtain so we wanted you to know that we do have a supply);
- Surgical Face Masks for jobsites and ReStore;
- Thermometers for infrared temperature checks;
- Hand Sanitizer for each jobsite/ReStore;
- Porto Potties with handwashing stations at each jobsite; and
- Anti-bacterial cleaning products to spray and wipe down tools/equipment before and after each use.

Staff will:

- Conduct daily safety talks addressing COVID-19 precautions;
- Ensure that volunteers wear masks;
- Locate industrial fans on the interior of homes where work is being done to circulate air;
- Ensure that lunch breaks are taken seated at least 6-8 feet apart;
- Ensure that signage is placed reminding people of handwashing, social distancing and other safety precautions;
- Ensure that tools are wiped down before and after each use; and
- Senior staff will make weekly visits to each of the jobsites/ReStore to ensure protocols are being enforced and to support staff who are monitoring volunteer adherence.

We are already more than halfway through 2020 and for many of us, it seems like this year couldn't end soon enough. There's something about new beginnings and starting over that brings forth hope and the promise of something new, fresh, untarnished. In spite of how difficult 2020 has been, I

pray that we are all a little stronger, wiser, kinder, grateful, patient and courageous. I pray that we can take what we've learned individually and collectively and pour that back into something good, a new hope for the future.....making this world a safer and kinder place to live and grow.

If someone that you know needs affordable housing, has a question about our ministry or would like to volunteer, please encourage them to call or e-mail us at 410-476-3204 or info@habitatchoptank.org. And if you or someone that you know would like to get more involved in supporting our mission of building homes, community and hope with a financial contribution, I welcome a conversation to discuss how to make that gift meaningful to you and your loved ones.

Please continue to keep yourself and your loved ones safe and healthy.

God bless you and yours,
JoAnn Hansen



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