



Chemung County  
**Habitat**  
for Humanity®

JULY 2019

# THE BLUEPRINT NEWSLETTER

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## Annual “Building on Faith” Set Volunteers needed for building and clean-up projects



**Habitat**  
for Humanity®



**THRIVENT®**

Partners in building better futures

Habitat for Humanity and Thrivent are coming together in September for Building on Faith 2019. Thrivent members and other volunteers across the country will work on a community improvement project to make a difference for affordable housing.

The local event will include a building project at one of our Chemung County Habitat home sites, as well as a local park clean up. This event will take place in Elmira on September 13 and 14 from 8:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. All skill levels are welcome!

“Building on Faith is an opportunity for Chemung County residents, churches and faith communities to use their hearts and hands to serve their neighbors,” said Sylvie Farr, Executive Director. “The event is designed so that anyone who wants to improve a place to call home can participate, and we are looking to engage 100 volunteers in making a difference.”

The event held in the Elmira area are part of a broader effort that includes events in multiple communities across the US. Visit [www.livegenerously.com/buildingonfaith](http://www.livegenerously.com/buildingonfaith) or [www.ChemungCountyHabitat.org/news-events](http://www.ChemungCountyHabitat.org/news-events) to learn more about Building on Faith 2019. **Register for Building on Faith online today at**

<https://form.jotform.com/92175408355157>

OUR NEW WEBSITE HAS  
**LAUNCHED!**

[www.chemungcountyhabitat.org](http://www.chemungcountyhabitat.org)



**THANK YOU** to our outgoing Board Members for your dedicated service. Steven McNamara served eight years, while Betsy Gorman served four years. They are shown here with Board President Christine Snyder, who presented them with Certificates of Appreciation at their last meeting in June. Thank you Steven and Betsy!

# Cities RISE gives Elmira neighborhood a boost



On August 10, 2019, more than 30 volunteers in bright green t-shirts ascended on an Elmira neighborhood to lend a hand with trash pick-up, minor landscaping, painting and a few home repairs. What a great crew!

A collaboration between Chemung County Habitat for Humanity and the City of Elmira, this event was part of “Cities RISE,” a neighborhood revitalization project funded through the NY State Attorney General’s Office. Elmira was one of several New York

communities selected to be part of the Cities RISE program.

There were volunteers of all ages fixing picket fences, replacing broken porch boards, cleaning gutters, up-rooting overgrown bushes, and having fun while getting the job done. It was a great day of community comradery and cooperation, with spirits running high as progress and improvements were made quickly along a two-block area.

Residents were glad to have our help, and many commented on the improvement. “Thank you for what you are doing for our community,” commented one passerby walking her dog.

There were many involved with the success of this event, first and foremost, our volunteers. Thank you!

We’d also like to thank the following local businesses for their participation and support:

- Culligan Water
- Wegmans
- J&B’s Bulldog Café
- Chamberlain Acres
- City of Elmira, Code Enforcement
- Elmira Fire Department
- Pastrick’s Screenprinting
- Elmira College
- SignCrafters
- JH Design
- Lowe’s



## The E.D.’s Corner

By Sylvie E. Farr, Executive Director

### Summertime at CCHFH is the season for...

Mismatched socks – If you have ever attended a large group event you’ll know what this means. If not, join us and learn the meaning behind the socks.

Getting sunburned at work – Yes, I do work in an office but am often out at project sites; sunscreen is not considered an office supply!

Excitement and enthusiasm – Our volunteers whole-heartedly give their time to help us carry out Habitat’s mission.

Until the next issue,

*Sylvie*

# Women Build 2019 draws more than 50 volunteers

Volunteers decked out in orange with happy faces everywhere! That was the scene on Mother's Day weekend when volunteers gathered at the Scio Street Habitat home for this year's Women Build event. There were more than 50 women (and men) painting, drilling, hammering, cleaning, weeding, and working together for a common cause—preparing another Habitat home for a deserving family. Thanks to their efforts, we made huge strides toward the completion of this home, which is expected to be done this fall.

"It's very humbling to see so many volunteers here working on our home," said the future homeowner. "They don't even know us, but they came here to help."

The annual Women Build event is one of Chemung County Habitat's main fundraising events, and certainly one of the most popular among our volunteers.

Bev Matern, a volunteer, said, "Working together towards the goal of getting a family into their house is the best feeling. The comradery is energizing. These groups of women get right to work and the tasks get done. Meeting the family and working alongside of them was another great part of the experience."

**THANK YOU** to our sponsors and donors who helped make this event such a meaningful success: Chemung Canal Trust company, CFJP Bistro, Just Breathe Yoga, Ziff Law Firm, Hilliard, First Presbyterian Church of Elmira, Perry & Carroll, Creative Designs Salon, H. Strauss, Outback Steakhouse, Garcia's Mexican Restaurant, Lowe's, Pepsi, Sam's Club, Weis Markets and Tops.



Welcome Home!



This is why we do what we do! So far this year, two more families have a place to call home, and that's worth celebrating! At a recent home dedication, the Case family invited staff, board members, and volunteers who worked on their house to tour their Habitat home. Guests enjoyed a performance by the Elmira High School Drum Line and a delicious cake donated by Light's Bakery. Local businesses donated gift certificates to welcome both families to the neighborhood: Thank you Pizza Hut, McDonald's, and Champions Sports Grille.

Congratulations to the Case and Wandell families on their new homes... and thank you to the many volunteers, donors, and community partners who help make homeownership possible for local families.



## Ground Blessing kicks off next Habitat home build on Scio St.



A crowd of volunteers, staff, board members, and visitors, along with Mayor Dan Mandell, gathered to kick off construction on the next Habitat home, which is expected to be completed for the Ruth family this fall. The

brief ceremony included a blessing of the Scio Street home by Pastor Jahura Shazer of Lake Street Fusion Church (pictured above at left with the family).

Attendees were also invited to tour the home and learn more about the Habitat homeownership program. Photo above right: Mayor Mandell presented Sylvie Farr, Executive Director, with a proclamation declaring the day as "Chemung County Habitat for Humanity Day."

### *A Message from the President*

By Christine K. Snyder



#### What does working with Habitat mean to me?

When you work with a non-profit agency where their mission is: Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope. And their vision is: A world where everyone has a decent place to live. It is not difficult at all to feel blessed to have this opportunity to work with Chemung County Habitat.

We build **strength, stability** and **self-reliance** in partnership with people and families in need of a decent and affordable home.

I have so many wonderful memories of seeing these deserving families become homeowner's and instantly improving their lives. I can't think of better way to fall asleep at night knowing that I have had a direct impact on so many people.



# HOW YOU CAN HELP

#### DONATE

No gift is too small. Your contribution goes a long way toward helping local low-income families achieve affordable housing. Ask us how you can sign up for recurring monthly gifts of \$5 or more. Thank you.

To donate online click here:

[www.chemungcountyhabitat.org/donate](http://www.chemungcountyhabitat.org/donate)

or mail a check to:  
Chemung County  
Habitat for Humanity  
PO Box 3110  
Elmira, NY 14905.

#### VOLUNTEER

Lend a hand at one of our home build sites. All skill levels welcome. Individuals or groups can sign up by calling our office at: (607) 734-1361

For more information on how you can be a part of our mission to build homes, communities and hope, visit our website at: [www.Chemungcountyhabitat.org](http://www.Chemungcountyhabitat.org)