



Chemung County  
**Habitat**  
for Humanity®

APRIL 2020

# THE BLUEPRINT NEWSLETTER

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Sylvie E. Farr

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## Habitat for Humanity: Now more than ever

**ATLANTA (March 16, 2020)** — *Habitat for Humanity International CEO Jonathan Reckford issued the following statement:*

In recent days and weeks, a wave of closures, cancellations and postponements has unfurled as the COVID-19 pandemic has emerged. Those decisions — taken individually, totaled in the aggregate — have been stunning acts of solidarity, expressions of concern and collective responsibility for the health and well-being of our communities and our neighbors.

That sense of connectedness and a willingness to actively help shape the world around us for the better have always been a hallmark of Habitat and supporters like you. They are what have sustained our work with families for more than 40 years, they are what will ensure we weather this unprecedented challenge, and they are what will be needed — more than ever — when we all emerge from this current crisis.

We have always believed that we will only find our way forward together. It's true every day—and will be even truer now. The need we work so hard every day to meet will only grow.

When any disaster hits — a storm, a disease, a financial crisis — it is always those who struggle most who suddenly find themselves struggling even more. They are our neighbors. Families already living in conditions

that aren't conducive to good health, those whose finances have long been taxed beyond measure because housing eats up too large a portion of their income, those newly vulnerable because of the economic shock waves that something like this so often sets off.

As this disease has spread, we have implemented many changes ourselves, and we continue to monitor and wrestle with the uncharted territory we all find ourselves in now. Our utmost priority at all times is protecting the people and communities we serve, and that has meant pausing some activities.

When the time is right, Habitat for Humanity stands ready to once again accelerate our efforts with renewed energy and commitment. We are so desperately needed. Because this should be a world where everyone has a decent place to live. It should be a world where we care for each other, where we recognize that we are all connected, and where we come together in times of crisis — and stay together when the urgency has lifted but the need remains.

As much as we wish there might be a playbook for the situation we all find ourselves in, it has not been written yet. What has been written is the command to love our neighbors and to act with kindness wherever we can. We thank you for the close and loving global community that you continue to help us build, and we appreciate your unwavering support.

Today more than ever,  
your support is needed.  
CCHFH is committed to  
continue helping low-  
income families achieve  
affordable housing.  
[www.ChemungCountyHabitat.org/donate](http://www.ChemungCountyHabitat.org/donate)

**NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK**  
**April 19-25, 2020**

**Building homes and hope... together.**  
**Thank you to all of our valued volunteers!**

Since July 2019:  
270 Volunteers  
1,910 Hours



# What a crew! Women Build



Pictured here are photos of volunteers who participated in Women Build on March 7, 2020.

The next Women Build event is scheduled for May 9, 2020, pending the status of COVID-19 social distancing requirements at that time.

[www.chemungcountyhabitat.org/news-events](http://www.chemungcountyhabitat.org/news-events)



# volunteers get 'er done!



May you have many wonderful years in your new home!  
Judy Mason  
2020

Good Luck in your new home  
Emma  
2020



## Stimulus Bill includes benefits for donors

Nonprofits need your support more than ever, and as an incentive to give, the stimulus bill recently signed into law contains a one-time, above-the-line deduction for cash contributions of up to \$300 made to certain qualifying charities, such as ours. All taxpayers would be eligible to take the deduction, even people who use the standard deduction. The incentive applies to contributions made in 2020 and would be claimed on tax forms next year.

The law also lifts the existing cap on annual contributions for those who itemize, raising it from 60 percent of adjusted gross income to 100 percent. For corporations, the law raises the annual limit from 10 percent to 25 percent. Food donations from corporations would be available to 25 percent, up from the current 15 percent cap.

So, if you are able, please consider giving to CCHFH and other favorite charities, and take advantage of this new tax incentive.

HOW  
YOU  
CAN  
HELP  
BUILD  
HOPE

### **DONATE**

No gift is too small.

Ask us how you can sign up for recurring monthly gifts of \$5 or more.

To donate online:

[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 or visit

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

### **REFER A FAMILY**

If you know a family that might benefit from our homeownership program, send them our way...

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



**THANK YOU!**

Because of COVID-19, shopping online has become a necessity for many.

Did you know when you shop **Smile.Amazon.com** they will donate to Chemung County Habitat without costing you a penny? Just use your normal Amazon.com login and choose us from their list of approved non-profit organizations.

It's easy, and every time you shop Amazon will donate to CCHFH.

**Go to: [Smile.Amazon.com](http://Smile.Amazon.com)**



### **The E.D.'s Corner**

*By Sylvie E. Farr, Executive Director*

In my last E.D.'s Corner, I reflected on how far we have come in the past 5 years and couldn't wait to see what was to come in the next five.

What came was the COVID-19 pandemic - nothing that I could ever have imagined. We have closed our office and are continuing to carry out our mission while working remotely and doing our best to stay healthy. Be assured we will see this through. We have much planned for the upcoming year and look forward to the continued support of the Board, staff, and community to make it happen. Stay safe.

*Sylvie E. Farr*