



Chemung County
Habitat
for Humanity®

JANUARY 2021

THE BLUEPRINT NEWSLETTER

Executive Director:

Lindsay Baker

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- Sheila Russell,
Family Services Coordinator
- Richard Van Horn,
Construction Manager

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CCHFH Welcomes New Executive Director

Chemung County Habitat for Humanity is pleased to announce Lindsay Baker as our new Executive Director. Mrs. Baker has deep roots in our community, serving local nonprofits for the past 20 years. Mrs. Baker was welcomed to our Habitat family on January 19, 2021 and will serve as a leader in our community ensuring local families continue to achieve safe, affordable housing.

Mrs. Baker previously held the position of Director of Development at Catholic Charities of Chemung/Schuyler. During her twelve years in this role, Mrs. Baker built an extensive network of community partners, increasing fundraising revenue by 22 percent and orchestrated fundraisers with a combined gross profit of over \$500,000.

"I am excited to translate my skills into the fantastic mission of Habitat for Humanity, bringing people together to build homes, communities and hope.

My predecessor, Sylvie Farr, built a solid foundation that I hope to continue to strengthen," states Baker. Farr left the



Lindsay Baker

organization in October, after six years at the helm of our organization, to pursue an opportunity with the City of Elmira.

"A culmination of passions" is how Mrs. Baker defines her new position, combining her love of real estate with her desire to help those striving for a better life. "I believe the foundation of success hinges on the possession of a home. I cannot imagine a better organization to help provide the stability and pride that comes from homeownership than Chemung County

Women Build event set for March 11th



We're pleased to announce our application for Lowe's Women Build 2021 has been accepted. Women Build provides an opportunity for women to be proactive with supporting and serving our community.

Due to the pandemic, our event will be held virtually on **Thursday, March 11th from 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.**

While there is no substitute for swinging a hammer, we are excited for you to

participate in the fun virtual activities we have planned. Enjoy a tour of our Habitat house and meet a Habitat family. You might even win one of our prize drawings from local sponsors.

Women helping women sends a positive and powerful message to our families and our community. Please join us! You can register for this event through our Facebook page or go directly to:

<https://form.jotform.com/201463626130142>

Habitat home in progress

New Construction Manager joins CCHFH



AFTER

Here's a sneak peak of progress being made on a Habitat house in Elmira, which is scheduled to be completed this Spring. A family has been selected and ready to call this their home very soon. The kitchen cabinets and dishwasher were donated by local families. Whirlpool donated the stove and refrigerator.



BEFORE



Richard Van Horn

With more than 30 years of construction experience under his tool belt, Richard Van Horn joined our Habitat team as Construction Manager in October. We're delighted to have him and his positive attitude on the job. He started in the midst of a pandemic, and worked solo until we were permitted to welcome back some of our skilled volunteers to start building again.

Mr. Van Horn calls himself "a perfectionist," which shows in his quality craftsmanship. His goal is to have the next Habitat home completed by Spring for the next family.

Although new to him, he has embraced working with volunteers and enjoys working with our Habitat families. Van Horn is a welcome and important part of our mission to build safe, affordable homes for Chemung County families.

Van Horn filled the position left vacant after Sean Mathers went on to pursue a new career with a local senior housing organization.

The E.D.'s Corner

By Lindsay Baker, Executive Director



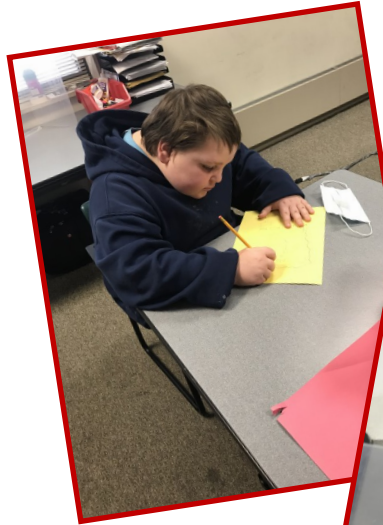
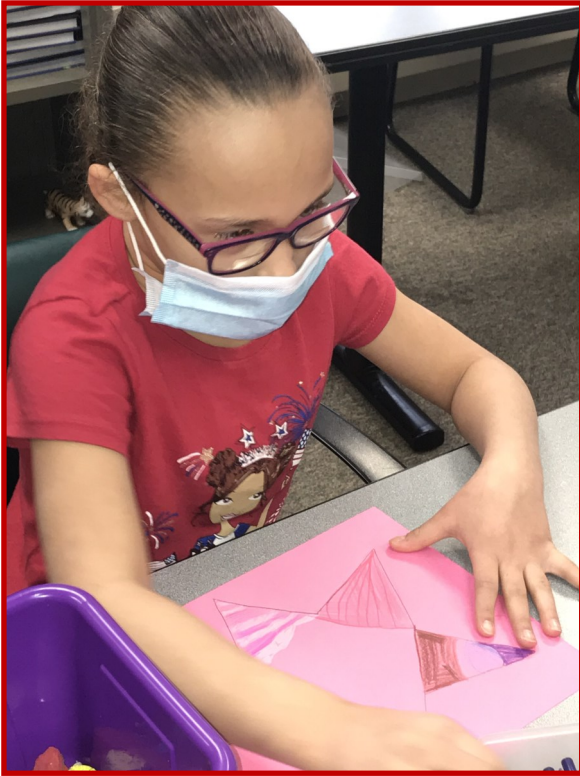
It is my honor to step into this role and continue to serve my community in such a meaningful way.

With the support of our amazing staff and board, it is my mission to further strengthen our community ties and increase services to those that desire a better place to call home.

The pride and stability of homeownership is made possible by the work of Chemung County Habitat for Humanity, and I am humbled to be a part of it. I look forward to working with you!

Lindsay Baker

We Volunteers



Valentines for Volunteers

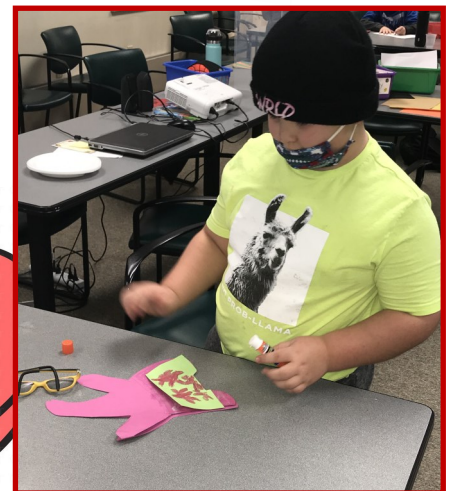
Recently we asked our Habitat families to make valentines for our dedicated volunteers who have been working with us since long before the pandemic. Shown here are photos of children from EOP who joined in on the project to help us show gratitude to our extraordinary Habitat Volunteers.



When the pandemic started, we shut down our build sites, so we could no longer host our regular volunteers. We also had to cancel the many volunteer groups that were signed up to build with us throughout the summer.

Since volunteers are the foundation of our mission to build affordable homes, without them progress was slow and our deadlines had to be adjusted. When we were permitted to re-open our build sites, we reached out to several of our skilled volunteers to ask if they would return, and they did! They came wearing masks and practicing social distancing to keep everyone safe. We are very grateful that they give their time and talents so graciously to Habitat. We would like to recognize the following Volunteers:

Thank you John Bowman, Gary Chollet, Rick Powell, Werner Zercher, Tom Kunkel, Hans Applet, Jason Arnold, Cory Tremaine, Carl Hammond and Dylan Zwan



A Message from the Board President

Christine K. Snyder



The Chemung Habitat for Humanity Board is excited to announce that we have hired Lindsay Baker of Southport as our Executive Director.

Lindsay has an impressive background/experience with the nonprofit sector, grant writing and planning fundraising events.

She is also a dedicated graphic designer, marketing and communications expert. Her expertise and compassion for our community will be a blessing.



CEO of Habitat for Humanity International addresses stimulus efforts

ATLANTA (Dec. 22, 2020) — *Habitat for Humanity International* Jonathan Reckford CEO issued a statement after the last stimulus relief package:

“Since the coronavirus first arrived, home has been the first line of defense. But the economic fallout of the pandemic has put the security of home at risk for millions across the United States, through no fault of their own.

“We applaud this bipartisan economic relief package, which offers important housing support, hard-fought for by advocates. The extension of some eviction protections through January and the extension of the Coronavirus Relief Fund through 2021, which was established by the CARES Act, relieves some pressure on families who were staring down a New Year’s Eve deadline. The bill provides \$25 billion in emergency rental assistance, which if distributed quickly and efficiently, will help some of the most vulnerable families stay in their homes. Direct payments, though lower than the first round, will help families cover a rent or mortgage payment. It also includes \$12 billion in emergency COVID-19 investments for Community Development Financial Institutions and the Minority Depository to help low-income and minority communities that were especially hard hit by the pandemic.

“But these are still partial measures, when what families truly need is long-term support. While the rental payment assistance is welcomed, there is not enough in this legislation for low-income homeowners who face the threat of foreclosure.

“Habitat for Humanity will continue advocating through our Cost of Home campaign, and work with the incoming Congress and administration to prioritize investments in housing as infrastructure, a vital part of economic recovery. The new Congress and administration must work together to ensure that this package is a down payment on their commitment to American families, not the last.”

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

or mail a check to:

Chemung County
Habitat for Humanity
PO Box 3110
Elmira, NY 14905.

VOLUNTEER

During the pandemic, skilled volunteers are invited to work at our build site, following strict social distancing and mask wearing. Give us a call at (607) 734-1361 or visit 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