

# THE BLUEPRINT NEWSLETTER

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## Runway for a Cause Benefits Habitat



Chemung County Habitat for Humanity was selected to be the recipient of proceeds from this year's Runway for a Cause. The event, held on October 2nd, featured the talents of local fashion designers and models. Organizers offered tickets for in-person and online streaming of the event and sold more than 300 tickets. We were honored to be selected as the event's charity of choice this year and were presented with a check for \$6,500. We are humbled and grateful. (*Emily Barrett, CCHFH Executive Director, is pictured above holding the Habitat banner next to event organizers.*)

## Habitat families receive new coats

Cozy Coats for Kids® is a charity driven by the home inspection industry. They provide brand-new winter coats to children in need based on the children's own personal style and color preferences.

They fulfill coat requests with the money raised from donations and then deliver coats directly to those who submit requests. They believe that the gift of a brand-new winter coat in a child's favorite color gives them confidence and improves their overall wellness to help them thrive and achieve their goals.

To learn more about this generous organization, visit <https://cozycoatsforkids.org/>



# A Family Story... breaking cycles of poverty through Habitat

“I will be the first person in my family’s history to own a home” said Emily Herring, mother of two and Habitat Partner Family with Chemung County Habitat. “Owning a home will be a personal achievement for me.”

Emily was raised by a single mother and grew up in a low-income apartment complex, like her mother and grandmother before her. “We never had a big a back yard or any outdoor toys to play with because either they weren’t allowed by the landlord or my mother didn’t want them to come up missing,” she said. Emily and her younger brother dreamed of having their own house with a trampoline or a swimming pool in the summer, but things just didn’t work out that way. Emily’s mother still lives in that same apartment complex. It’s time to break that cycle, Emily said. “I want my children to have a different experience than I did.”

Emily is laser-focused on her goal of homeownership. It’s what drives her. She graduated from Elmira College with a degree in Early Childhood Development, and plans to



*Ms. Herring and her two children*

pursue a Master’s degree. She worked full time with the same organization for more than 13 years and recently achieved her dream job of becoming an elementary school teacher!

She is mother to an 9-yr-old daughter and a 2-yr-old son. Somehow she finds a few hours a week to put in her “sweat equity” hours at a Habitat build site. She wants to be a role model for her daughter and show her that she can be a homeowner someday, too. “Giving my family a home we can call our own is something I’m determined to do.”

Emily and her two children live in a rental house, and they endure living conditions that are far from adequate. Among a list of other issues, drafty doors and windows make it colder than it should be in the winter. “When the cold is more than we can stand, I pack up the kids and go stay with my mother.” Emily taped a plastic tablecloth over one of the drafty doors, and it billows out like a parachute whenever the wind blows.

In addition to structural and interior breakdowns, there are feral cats living in the basement, creating a health hazard for her family. When the heat comes on in the winter or when it’s hot in the summer, cat odors filter into their home. “My daughter suffers from allergies, so when the odors get too bad, it causes her allergies to flare up,” Emily said. “It breaks my heart.”

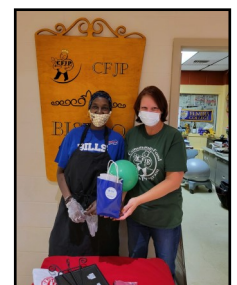
Emily says working with Habitat for Humanity is “one of the biggest blessings” for her and her family. “We are so happy and proud to belong to the Habitat family.”

## World Habitat Day—recognizing our community partners

Every year Habitat for Humanity International joins our partners around the world to rededicate ourselves to recognizing the basic right of everyone to adequate shelter. Habitat for Humanity asks everyone to join together to communicate the message that every one of us deserves the opportunity for a better future, and that a decent place to live can remove barriers to opportunity, health and success that might have been part of a family’s life for years, and in many cases for generations.

On October 4th, Chemung County Habitat for Humanity celebrated World Habitat Day by recognizing local businesses who support our mission through donations, discounts, products, and excellent customer service throughout the year. We delivered gift bags to several locations.

*Pictured below left to right are representatives from some of the businesses we visited: Culligan, Horseheads Do It Center, Quicker Printer, Rainbow Lettering, Turtle Leaf Café and CFJP Bistro.*



## Annual Appeal Fundraising Campaign kicks off in November

Soon CCHFH will mail out our Annual Appeal letters, inviting our community to give what they can to support Chemung County Habitat for Humanity. We have the drive and the expertise to build homes for local low-income families, but we need your financial support to build a strong foundation for our mission: "Bringing people together to build homes, communities and hope."

Please consider giving what you can. To donate now, go to [www.chemungcountyhabitat.org/donate](http://www.chemungcountyhabitat.org/donate). You can make a one-time donation or sign up to give recurring donations... even \$5 to \$10 a month can make a big difference here at CCHFH.



## CCHFH Awarded \$10,000 Grant

In September, CCHFH was awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Elmira-Corning and the Finger Lakes, Inc. in support of our Homeownership Program. This funding will go a long way toward helping local families achieve decent, affordable housing. Thank you Community Foundation.

To help us build on this generous support, our community is invited to give during FLX Gives, an initiative of the Community Foundation, a local giving campaign happening on November 11th for 24 hours. (See details on Page 4.)



## From the director's desk

By Emily Barrett, Executive Director

As we move into Fall and Winter, I can't help but look forward to cozy Sunday dinners, family gatherings and watching the snow fall through the windows. Unfortunately, for so many in our local community, the upcoming season is not one of joy, but instead a time of stress over finances and inadequate housing to provide them warmth and shelter. My heart breaks for those that don't have the ability to look forward to this time of year.

This awareness lights a fire of motivation under me to increase our ability at CCHFH to help even more families change their past cycle of poverty and look forward to a lifetime of memories of warm winters and happy holidays. By working with more families to realize and achieve their dream of homeownership, we can impact lives this year and for many years to come.

In 2021, our organization guided two families through our homeownership program, and they will soon have a home to call their own. We also received a grant to help a dozen other families make necessary repairs to their homes. But this isn't enough. As I look forward, I want to be able to say that we can help four (or more!) families become homeowners each year and that we can assist dozens more homeowners with repairs.

To do this, we need your help. We need our community to band together and be the light for others through donations and volunteering. As we enter the final quarter of the year, we ask that you consider supporting CCHFH mission as a volunteer or as a donor through the following opportunities to give: our Annual Appeal Campaign, the upcoming FLX Gives! (Nov 11 & 12), Giving Tuesday (Nov. 30th), Wine & Design projects (below) or through Amazon's giving program all year long by logging into your Amazon account through [Smile.Amazon.com](http://Smile.Amazon.com) at no extra cost to you (see details on page 4).

Please join us in breaking cycles of poverty and revitalizing our neighborhoods. No amount is too small to make a big impact on the work that we do by building homes, building communities, and building hope.

With gratitude,

*Emily Barrett*  
Executive Director



## Holiday Fundraiser!

We're partnering on a fundraiser with Wine & Design. For every take home craft kit purchased, they'll give us \$10. Express your inner artist and support Habitat! Click on the links below to order your kit today. Deadline is 11/20/2021.

**Gnome** <https://www.wineanddesign.com/calendar/corning-ny/event/habitat-for-humanity-to-go-kit>

**Snowman** <https://www.wineanddesign.com/calendar/corning-ny/event/habitat-for-humanity-to-go-kit-1>

## A Message from the Board President

By Christine K. Snyder



We were happy to announce in our last newsletter that Chemung County Habitat for Humanity is under new leadership with Emily Barrett as the Executive Director and also Sean Mathers returning as the Construction Manager. Along with these great additions to our Habitat family comes renewed energy and commitment towards facing the continuing challenges in our community.

The dramatic decline in entry-level home construction has been a major driver of our national housing shortage. Annual production of smaller, less expensive homes has fallen as well. We are almost forever facing a shortage of decent affordable housing which is why our mission is so important.

Now more than ever, CCHFH is calling on you to support our mission to bring people together to build homes, communities and hope. We invite you to join our cause and give whatever you can during the upcoming season of giving. On behalf of the people we serve, thank you.

### FLX GIVES is Nov. 11, 2021—24 hours of giving!

FLXGives, an initiative of the Community Foundation of Elmira-Corning and the Finger Lakes, Inc., is a 24-hour online celebration of the Finger Lakes region. It connects generous community members with the causes they care most about. Find CCHFH at <https://www.flxgives.org/organizations/chemung-county-habitat-for-humanity>. It is a day to celebrate the critical role nonprofits play in our community.



Keep up with Habitat happenings!  
Follow us on  
**facebook**

- Volunteer Opportunities
- Community Events
- Fundraisers

<https://www.facebook.com/ChemungCountyHabitatforHumanity>

amazon

smile

Here's how you can support Habitat... Did you know when you shop **Smile.Amazon.com** they will donate to Chemung County Habitat without costing you a penny? Just login at the Smile site with your normal Amazon login and select 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**

# 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

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](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)