



Chemung County
Habitat
for Humanity®

January-February-March 2024

THE BLUEPRINT NEWSLETTER

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Announcing the 2024 Women Build event!

Spring has arrived, bringing renewed hope and energy for meaningful work, and at Habitat this means Women Build is in the works! On May 11th, the weekend of Mother's Day, 50 or more dedicated women volunteers will gather to make a lasting impact by working on a Habitat home.

Our Women Build events offer a unique chance for women to take a hands-on approach in their communities by helping build a Habitat home for a local family. No prior experience is required, as volunteers will work under the expert guidance of construction professionals and alongside future Habitat homeowners. Whether you're honing your construction skills or learning new ones, this is an enriching experience for everyone involved, contributing positively to the community we share.

Women Build is not only about building homes but also about building connections. It's an excellent opportunity to engage your

friends and family in meaningful work that

leaves a lasting legacy. Together, we can send a powerful and positive message of women supporting women. You'll find a welcoming and collaborative atmosphere, making new friends along the way.

This year's Women Build event will feature a keynote speaker and special guests, and participants will have a chance to win exciting prizes donated by local businesses.

We're also looking for event sponsors to help support this initiative. If you or your organization are interested in sponsoring materials or shirts printed with your logo, please reach out to our office for more information at (607) 734-1361.

Don't miss out! Secure your spot and register online today through our website at www.chemungcountyhabitat.org.



Girls Play House.
WOMEN BUILD Them.

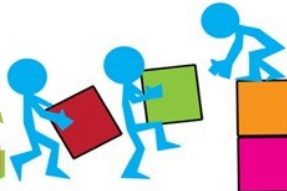
RAMP PROGRAM CCHFH kicks off 2024 ramp building season with a volunteer breakfast

On February 15, 2024, we gathered at Curly's Chicken House for a kick-off breakfast with our amazing team of Ramp Program volunteers, where we brainstormed plans for the upcoming building season. We are deeply grateful for the dedication and enthusiasm our volunteers bring to every project, and we are eager to see the incredible impact we can achieve together in the months ahead. Thank you for sharing your time and skills with families in need. Cheers to a successful and rewarding building season!





BUILDING KNOWLEDGE



Free!
Community Education Series

FIRST SESSION:

“Building a Budget”

April 17, 2024 5:30 to 6:30 pm

219 E. 14th St., Elmira Heights

Choose In-person or Live Stream

Register at: www.chemungcountyhabitat.org

Build a solid foundation for financial success by learning how to create and manage a household budget, organize important household files, and boost your savings strategy.



Thank you to Raymour & Flanigan for hosting a “Build a Birdhouse” event for school-age children on April 13, 2024 • 1-3 PM at their Big Flats store. We appreciate your support and \$500 donation.

Cities RISE Community Clean-Up set for June 23 & 24

Chemung County Habitat for Humanity’s commitment to community will once again take center stage as volunteers gear up for the annual Cities RISE event on June 23rd and 24th. Facilitated by a partnership between the City of Elmira and Chemung County Habitat, this initiative promises to bring transformative changes to an Elmira neighborhood. With volunteers encouraged to register online by May 31st, the event serves as a prime opportunity for residents to play a role in sprucing up and reshaping their community.



The event not only offers an opportunity for volunteers to take tangible steps towards community improvement but also serves as a platform for residents to engage with their friends and neighbors, as well as community leaders. The active involvement of citizen volunteers enhances the success of community revitalization efforts and fosters a sense of ownership and pride in the community.

This collaboration between CCHFH and the City of Elmira through Cities RISE reflects our combined commitment to building a vibrant, resilient, and inclusive community. As the community comes together on June 23rd and 24th, the spirit of collaboration and empowerment will be on full display, showcasing the potential for positive change in Elmira and beyond.

Be on the look out for another Cities RISE event in September!



“Valentines for Volunteers”

On February 14th, Habitat volunteers were surprised to arrive at the build site to see dozens of colorful valentines made by Coburn Elementary school students and Habitat partner families. The valentines were festive tokens of appreciation for our volunteers.



From the director's desk

By Emily Barrett, Executive Director

“Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. You don’t have to have a college degree to serve. You don’t have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You don’t have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.”

--Martin Luther King, Jr.

As we move into warmer weather, we also move into our busiest season at CCHF. Our build site work is in full swing, community clean ups are being planned, fundraising events are on the horizon, and we would be honored to have you serve alongside us! We need you...as volunteers, as donors, and most importantly as partners to share our mission and work with others.

Affordable housing is a shared goal amongst many in our community, and when we collaborate and work together, we form a unified front that can't be ignored. It may be a long journey to reach our goal of “everyone having a safe, affordable, decent place to call ‘home,’ but we can, and WILL, make an impact that generations for years to come will feel here in Chemung County.

Let's do this! See you soon.



Many Blessings,

Emily Barrett
Executive Director

Cornhole Tournament raises funds to build ramps for local families

We want to extend our deep gratitude for the fantastic cornhole tournament fundraiser, organized by an outstanding group from Leadership Chemung. With a whopping 42 teams competing, we're thrilled to announce that this event, held on February 4th, was a huge success, raising funds to bolster our Ramp Program and further our mission to provide accessibility to those in need.

We extend our gratitude to each and every participant for making this event possible, as well as to all members of the Leadership Chemung group: Justin Faulkner, Alison Herman, Tessa Chilson, and Toni Ruocco. We commend you all for selecting our Ramp Program as your community project, and we are sincerely touched by your dedication and hard work in making this fundraiser such a tremendous success.

Furthermore, we extend our sincere appreciation to the local businesses and individuals who generously made donations and contributed raffle baskets to this cause. Your support and generosity have truly made a difference for local families, and we appreciate your kindness and commitment to our community. Thank you for your support in helping us build a stronger, more accessible future for families and individuals in our community.



Above: Justin Faulkner with Leadership Chemung presented funds raised to Emily Barret, Executive Director at CCHF.



2023 Volunteers Recognized for Dedicated Service



Gary
Chollet



Caranell
Parks



Rick
Powell



Werner
Zurcher



Barb
Fitzsimmons

CCHFH volunteers were recently recognized for their dedication, time, and hard work at our Habitat build sites throughout 2023.

We extend our deepest gratitude to those who have been with us for several years, consistently contributing their skills and passion to our cause. Your ongoing support means the world to us and to the families we serve. We celebrate all of our volunteers, especially those who achieved these notable

milestones within our volunteer recognition program:

PLATINUM LEVEL (200 + Hours)

Rex Andrews, Stan Ely, Caranell Parks, and Gary Chollet

GOLD LEVEL (100-199 Hours)

Rick Powell and Werner Zurcher

SILVER LEVEL (50-99 Hours)

Barb Fitzsimmons

*(Photos not available:
Rex Andrews and Stan Ely)*

CCHFH Welcomes New Project Coordinator

We're delighted to introduce a new addition to our staff. Welcome Erik Powell! Erik joined our team on December 18th as our Project Coordinator. He comes to us with a diverse skill set and background.

Erik grew up right here in Horseheads and graduated around the corner at HHS in 92. He worked at the Arnot Mall during high school and college. Much of his family lives nearby. Erik studied voice and music for years, eventually learning, "I had heart, but not the requisite talent." He continued working retail and says, "I had numerous incredible people support my growth. I moved with position changes and spent my kids' (Christopher and Megan) early years in the NYC area, and then back to Upstate (Syracuse) in 2007, returning to the Southern Tier in 2020. "

In his new role here at CCHFH, Erik supports the construction crew and office staff in all aspects of construction planning, execution, projects, programs, and volunteer coordination. Welcome Erik!

*Erik Powell
pictured here
with his kids
Christopher
and Megan...
and a very
thirsty
Christmas
tree.*



Erik's Observations:

What I do: Outdoors...kayak, hike, camp. Space geek. Collect old books.

What I can't do: Whistle. Avoid tearing up during the beginning montage of 'Up'. Tolerate stagnant results.

Work I've done: District and Regional retail at DSW, Barnes and Noble, Five Below etc. Senior leadership at Wayfair.com. Dad.

What I've learned: Everybody has stories big and small, happy or difficult, celebratory or scary...we just need to be authentic and listen.

What I don't like: Cheese (unless on pizza). Spiders. The Sound of Music. Kid's college tuition bills.

Random: Orphan squirrels seem to find their way to me, and I end up raising them.

HOW YOU CAN HELP BUILD HOPE

DONATE

No gift is too small. You can even sign up for recurring monthly gifts of \$5 or more on our website at:

www.chemungcountyhabitat.org/donate , or scan one of the QR

Codes below, or mail a check to:

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



venmo



VOLUNTEER

Skilled and unskilled volunteers are invited to work at our build site.

Give us a call at (607) 734-1361 or visit our website at 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