Habitat for Humanity® Central Arizona

habitatcaz.org

Bringing people together to build **homes**, **communities** and **hope**

Spring 2020

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Dear Friends,

As this issue of our newsletter goes to press our country and local communities are facing unprecedented challenges resulting from the public health crisis. First and foremost, I am hopeful that you and those dear to you remain healthy and are in good spirits as, together, we navigate a lot of uncertainty and pray for clarity.

For the time being, we have closed our Habitat Restore locations and suspended operations on building sites, neighborhood revitalization projects, and other activities in order to do our part in compliance with the guidance being given by our government and public health experts. Our offices have also temporarily closed to the public and we are working to equip as much of our workforce as possible to work from home for what may be an indefinite period of time.

All of us here at Habitat Central Arizona have significant challenges we are working through. I am sure you have some of that to cope with yourself, and I wish you the best in doing so successfully.

The people I am most concerned about are those who are sick, our heroic healthcare professionals who are working daily to save lives, and those who have, or will, experience a temporary or permanent loss of employment and income due to the closure of businesses, largely in the service industry - the sector of the economy that many Habitat homeowners and others we serve depend upon for survival.

As you may know, Habitat does not just build homes. We also act as the financier and mortgage holder on the interest free loans we provide our partner families. As the longer term economic effects of the pandemic ripple through the community, we are planning for how to remedy situations that will likely arise as some Habitat homeowners may find themselves unable to meet all of their financial obligations, including the mortgage payment due Habitat, upon which Habitat depends for part of our revenue stream. **We want to do everything in our power to keep our families in their homes while they regain their financial footing and we want to maintain our operations in the community during this challenging time, so we turn to you, our greatest advocates, and ask for your help in doing so.**

We are grateful for the gift or gifts you may already have given this year, and if you have no more capacity to do so, we understand. If, however, your circumstances could allow you to make an additional gift before June 30th it will make an incredible difference in the lives of the families we serve. **You can give online** at **habitatcaz.org/donate-online** or **text to give now** by simply texting the word **habitatcaz** to **44321** on your smartphone. It only takes a minute.

Or, use the return envelope insert in the center of this newsletter to send a check. In the event you may wish to make a major gift or a gift of appreciated stock or real estate feel free to reach me directly at **jbarlow@habitatcaz.org** or **623-298-9233**, or contact our Chief Development Officer, Roger Neuhaus at **rneuhaus@habitatcaz.org** or **602-451-5126**.

In closing, I wish to share part of a prayer sent to us by Habitat international Chief Executive Officer, Jonathan Reckford. **"May those of us who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake. May we who have no risk factors remember the most vulnerable. May we who settle in for quarantine at home remember those who have no home. As fear grips our country, let us choose love."** Habitat has always chosen to embody these values, and the steps we are taking now are taken in this same vein. May you be healthy, may you be well, and may you and yours feel God's love around you"

Thank you for all you do!

Gratefully,

Jason Barlow

President/CEO

Habitat for Humanity Central Arizona

aging in place

Aging is a part of life, but aging can also be expensive and lonely and not everyone can afford to move into a retirement community. Most older adults would prefer to remain in their homes. The growing elderly population in Arizona is now at about 1,000,000 seniors and rising. Some have referred to this as the “silver-tsunami.”

Meet Loretta. She’s worked hard, raised a family and is now retired. She lives alone and recently took a fall. **Unintentional falls are the leading cause of injury-related deaths among Arizona residents 65 and older.** Like Loretta, many Arizonans face economic insecurity as they age, and housing is generally the highest expense. Mobility challenges also increase sharply with age. When housing costs consume a large portion of household budgets, older adults often sacrifice on other necessities including medicine and even food.

Aging in Place is a partnership with people age 65 or older to help them age safely in their homes. The program focuses on making safety improvements, mobility modifications and weatherization enhancements.

A lack of accessibility features in much of today’s housing makes it difficult for older adults to age safely in place without making these types of modifications.

Aging in Place services, like these provided by Habitat for Humanity, allow older adults to stay in their homes.

Habitat is making homes more age-friendly.

This type of compassion allows people to maintain their dignity and hope.

After a full bathroom modification, Loretta tells her daughter, “Grab bars are blessings!”

construction in training

Habitat CIT students learn critical new skills

You may have also heard about our recently launched Construction in Training program (CIT). With a growing shortage of skilled laborers in Arizona’s construction industry, Habitat saw an opportunity to launch a program that not only serves the growing demand, but also those in need of a second chance. **CIT is a state recognized pre-apprenticeship program intended to strengthen the job placement transition opportunities** with all traditional state and national construction apprenticeship programs.

Habitat’s 16 week CIT program allows individuals looking to re-engage the workforce obtain critical skills *and* certification, making them job-ready for many Valley employers. Graduates can earn National Recognized Construction Certification (NCCER), OSHA 10 Training, job placement assistance as well as leadership and soft skills training.

“CIT is designed to collaborate with the industry and deliver results for employers and workers with outcome driven training that leads to real jobs.” says Hugh Wolf, Director of Training & Education.

Using demand-driven, on-the-job training methods, Habitat’s CIT program saw it’s first cohort of 12 graduate in late January 2020 with another already underway. **Learn more at habitatcaz.org/cit**

Habitat for Humanity® Central Arizona

STEARNS BANK N.A.
We get the job done!

EVENT POSTPONED

BLUEPRINTS & BLUE JEANS

habitatcaz.org/blueprints2020

On March 15, The Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta issued guidance to event planners nationwide recommending events that would involve 50 or more people and scheduled eight weeks out from the date of the announcement be cancelled or postponed. As a result, Habitat has postponed and will reschedule its 2020 signature event as the duration of the Covid 19 virus crisis becomes more clear.

We want to ask that you please purchase tickets, provide sponsorships, or make your gift in support of the event as you normally would.

When the event is rescheduled, your ticket purchase, sponsorship, or gift will be honored and applicable for use at that time.

The families we serve need your continued support now more than ever as many of them are going to be impacted directly by the economic side effects of this public health crisis that may adversely impact the service industry more so than any other sector of the economy. We are asking for your understanding and support to help us continue our service to some of our communities' most vulnerable residents by moving forward with your ticket purchase, sponsorship, or gift.

Thank you for standing with us at this most critical time!

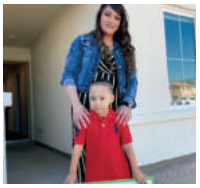
Please visit **habitatcaz.org/blueprints2020**, or text to the word **blueprints2020** to **44321** on your smartphone or simply use the envelope in the center of this newsletter to send a check. Thank you again.

newest homeowners

Cardenas - Peoria
West Valley Presbyterian Coalition
St. Patrick Catholic Community
West Valley Lutheran Coalition

Gonzales - Peoria
American Express
Cox
Total Transit

Dominguez - Phoenix
Ramsey Social Justice Foundation



Hassan - Peoria
Episcopal Habitat Coalition

Garay – Apache Junction
Verdes Habitat for Humanity Project
Superstition Coalition

Hissu and Ibrahim – Phoenix
Southwest Valley Lutheran Coalition

Garcia - Peoria
HelmsBriscoe

Mosqueda - Phoenix
Jerry and Joan Colangelo
Blueprints & Blue Jeans

Gee - Glendale
Chase
Cisco
Home Depot

Rios – Phoenix
APS
Bank of America
Quicken Loans

since 1985

1155 homes built / renovated

1264 affordable repairs

1396 emergency home repairs

3566 families served

We're Celebrating! 35 years of building homes, communities and hope.

Take advantage of the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit. Donations to Habitat are eligible for a dollar-for-dollar tax credit of **up to $400 for single and $800 for joint filers.**

To Claim the Credit You Must:
- be an Arizona resident
- complete Arizona tax form 321 to file with your state tax return
- postmark contributions or make them online by April 15th

Contact a qualified tax advisor for advice on your taxes.
Learn more at **habitatcaz.org/tax-credit**

Habitat Heroes: Jenny Norton & Bob Ramsey

Jenny Norton and Bob Ramsey have partnered with Habitat for Humanity for over 40 years, not only in the Valley but in many parts of the world, serving communities and families in need of affordable housing solutions. Their advocacy and generosity have inspired many and their belief that a home must not only have an affordable mortgage but also have affordable utility bills have paved the way of our sustainable practices.

In 2008 Jenny and Bob sponsored the very first LEED® Platinum Certified Habitat home in the country, right here in the Valley! LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is a rating system that provides a framework to create healthy, highly efficient, and cost-saving green buildings. Jenny and Bob continued to encourage and support "Green Building" providing the funds needed to LEED® Certify many of our homes. They have provided funding, volunteers and advocacy in the Valley as well as Habitat in Haiti and Guatemala constructing **612 affordable homes.** This past February, Jenny and Bob celebrated the completion of their final Habitat home build as they prepare for retirement. "It was a standing room only crowd at their final Dedication", said Jason Barlow, President & CEO of Habitat for Humanity Central Arizona.

"We are so grateful for Jenny and Bob and their life-long commitment to our mission, sustainability and demonstrating the impact one successful and determined couple can have on their community and around the world" - Jason Barlow

The Home Dedication celebrated a new home built in Central City South, the neighborhood where Jenny and Bob spent their childhood. The home was built in partnership with the Dominguez family who celebrate becoming a first-time homeowner. This "Green" home will achieve the highest rating of "Green Building" issued by the US Green Building Council, LEED® Platinum. We also celebrated the first graduating class of 12 students from the Construction in Training (CIT) program. The CIT program is helping to address the need for skilled construction leaders due to the labor shortages in Arizona. The CIT program offers hands on and classroom training and will help stabilize the community through the creation of housing and jobs. Because of Jenny and Bob's forward thinking, we were able to launch this program and the students built the house from start to finish.

We've seen a transformation take place in the community and lives of families they have helped. More than once we've heard families say how the help with their home repairs and affordable mortgage has remined them that here is still good in the world. **We thank God for partners like Jenny and Bob who have joined us and will stay with us in our mission to build homes, communities and hope.**

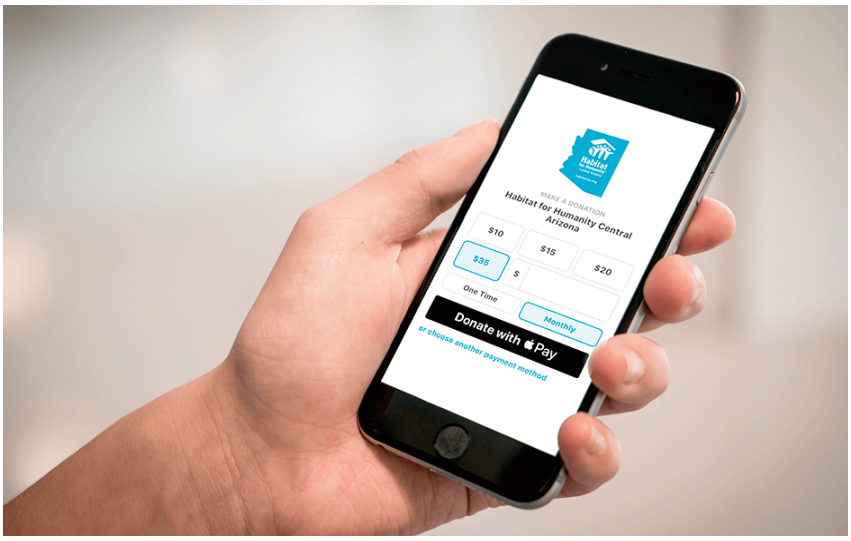
Are you ready to plan your will or trust? We would like to send you our free Estate Planning Guide. This guide will provide you with helpful information to provide for your needs, your family's future and favorite causes. Provide for and protect your family with this free Estate Planning Guide. Learn more at **habitatcaz.org/planned-giving**

text to give

Every donation makes a difference and giving to Habitat has never been easier. Celebrate our 35 years in the Valley by texting the word **HABITATCAZ** to **44321** on your smartphone.

Give a one-time gift or sign up to give monthly!

Remember that Habitat is a Qualifying Charitable Non-profit and **giving $35 a month** can get you up to $400 back on your Arizona State taxes at tax time.



Habitat on the Hill, Habitat for Humanity International's annual legislative conference, is an opportunity for Habitat homeowners, staff members, volunteers and supporters from around the country to unite in Washington, D.C., as advocates for safe and affordable housing. Lawmakers are encouraged to support favorable housing policies and programs, as well as specific budget requests that reinforce the continuation of Habitat's work. We also organized a advocacy day at the Arizona State Capitol in collaboration with other affiliates to help shape future budgets and policies.

Help Habitat make the #CostOfHome something we all can afford.

In Arizona,

1 IN 7 HOUSEHOLDS

spend half or more of their income on housing.

At Habitat, we know that a family should never have to spend more than 30 percent of their income on a home. But consider that today over 18 million U.S. households pay half or more of their income on a place to live. That is unacceptable.

Habitat is uniquely positioned to influence policies and systems. In addition to our direct construction and renovation work in partnership with families in need of decent and affordable shelter, we have the ability – and, now more than ever, the responsibility – to promote concrete, practical public policy housing solutions, ensuring that more families can find appropriate, quality, affordable housing across the state of Arizona.

Join Habitat in making housing affordability a priority in this year's elections. Through Cost of Home, we are calling on candidates at all levels of government to develop housing plans and educating voters that their vote matters to further our goal of improving home affordability for families here at home and across the U.S. More at **habitatcaz.org/cost-of-home.**

Habitat for Humanity® Central Arizona

PO Box 369
Peoria, Arizona 85380

Learn more at **habitatcaz.org/thirty-five**

9133 NW Grand Ave., Peoria, Arizona 85345
623-583-2417 • habitatcaz.org • ROC# 251891

azcentral. TOP COMPANIES TO WORK FOR IN ARIZONA 2018 · PHOENIX COMMUNITY ALLIANCE PROUD MEMBER · Arizona's 2019 Most Admired Companies AzBusiness · BBB ACCREDITED CHARITY · U.S. GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL MEMBER · THINK LOCAL · BUY LOCAL · BE LOCAL Proud Member LOCAL FIRST ARIZONA · GUIDESTAR Exchange GOLD PARTICIPANT · CHARITY NAVIGATOR ★★★★ Four Star Charity

Habitat for Humanity® ReStore®

Anthem
42205 N Vision Way
Anthem, AZ 85086

Peoria
9133 NW Grand Avenue,
Suite 2, Peoria, AZ 85345

Phoenix
115 E Watkins Street,
Phoenix, AZ 85004

Tempe
3210 S McClintock Drive
Tempe, AZ 85282

NEW! West Phoenix
4344 W Indian School Rd., Ste 120
Phoenix, AZ 85031

habitatcaz.org/restores
623-551-6000