We're Celebrating!

35 years of building homes, communities and hope.

habitatcaz.org

Spring 2021

A Home for Habitat - After thirty-five years of slowly combining four different Habitat affiliates to better leverage our strengths and increase our reach, Habitat Central Arizona has a new place to call home. Bringing the various Habitat teams together under one roof was considered by some long overdue and ironically, came at a time when most were working from home. By chance, this allowed Habitat to self-renovate the building to best fit its future business needs with an ultimate goal of serving even more Arizona families.

Habitat's new home office is centrally located at **2830 W. Glendale Ave.** (just West of I-17) making it easier for families who apply for the programs to safely meet with their case managers. At 21,000+ square feet, the renovated buildings allow Habitat to host larger volunteer groups, training sessions, community groups and even Board of Directors' meetings - when the time is right of course.

"Choosing a centralized location was a priority for us," says President and CEO, Jason Barlow. "We really wanted to be in the heart of this great community that we support - easy to find, easy to get to. I'm super proud of our construction team for customizing the space to not only accommodate our current needs, but also our future needs as well."

Chris Owen, Habitat's Board Chair went on to say, "We are excited to host an open-house style event for all our supporters to celebrate this new space - when it is safe to do so." **To learn more visit habitatcaz.org**

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Greetings Habitat Family and Friends -

Happiness, Health and Hope: all of that adds up to Good News! It's good news from Habitat for Humanity. In spite of everything, in the last 12 months **247 families received a hand up** in critical repairs or home improvements and **20 of those moved into newly built homes.** Homes that are only possible through the amazing generosity of Habitat's wonderful donors, sponsors and volunteers. Volunteers like the incredible Verdes group who recently started their 25th home with us! We remain incredibly blessed with partnerships from dozens of corporations, organizations and faith groups that have kept their financial investment in place with us during these difficult times, allowing us to continue serving those that need our help.

In this same period, we also served more than **138 individuals in veteran families** thanks to the **Milanovich Family Fund for Veterans Assistance** and we've been able to help **44 seniors** with necessary life-safety improvements through our **Aging in Place** program.

I am delighted to report that all of our Habitat families are still in their homes, although over 80 required some additional help with mortgage payments due to job loss or reduced hours. We've retained all of our employees and most importantly, all are safe and sound. **All five of our Habitat ReStores** are fully operational and looking to expand so we can offer even more great deals to our customers. We graduated our third construction training class and have now started number four.

We are excited to see the COVID numbers trending in a positive direction in our community. That said, we ask that all of you continue to stay safe and we encourage you to get vaccinated when you can. Meanwhile, our work continues. We have a dozen houses in the works with even more home repairs underway. We are taking many calls daily from families who need repairs and **those looking for an affordable place to call home. From veterans and seniors who need our help, to Arizona moms and dads who work full time and still can't afford a conventional home loan. They need a hand up.** We're committed to doing all we can to move the needle on affordable homeownership solutions in Arizona.

I am blessed with a devoted and talented staff who make me smile every day. They are the ones that make our mission go, come up with new ways to do things and tackle every challenge with compassion and determination. Mostly, we are so grateful for each of you, who stand with us, walk with us, pray with us and work towards a world where everyone has a decent place to live.

Thank you for your continued support!

Gratefully,

Jason Barlow

President & CEO

Habitat for Humanity Central Arizona

Habitat ReStore expansion

Just over a year ago now, Habitat opened our fifth and largest Habitat ReStore located at 4344 W. Indian School (NW corner of Indian School and 43rd Ave.) Since that time things have been going well. The new West Phoenix location has become the second highest grossing store which says a lot considering two months after the grand opening COVID hit and temporary shutdowns were mandated. **Habitat's Chief Strategy Officer, Todd Rogers, says, "Retailers across the country are down 30% with respect to door counts and customer traffic. Opening a new store in a new neighborhood within the context of a COVID-19 environment has been really challenging. Still, we know this is a solid location, and that it's going to grow and continue to be one of our strongest stores."**

Rogers continues, "In our strategic plan we are planning to open two more Habitat ReStores in the next three years. This will allow us to develop a larger footprint in the Valley and be able to serve more customers and donors, which ultimately means Habitat can serve more families." Additionally, Habitat is looking to expand further into e-commerce with a plan to launch an online store in order to sell more specialized items to a broader audience as well as list common products that people purchase on a regular basis at great prices.

With the two former offices now consolidated into a new location, this frees up square footage at two of the existing Habitat ReStores - one located in Peoria and another in Central City South, Phoenix. These locations are now expanding their retail footprint by about 6,000 square feet each, allowing more room for merchandise, more donations, and a wider array of product. The expanded parts of each location will ideally be opened within two months. Both Habitat ReStores will still be open to the public during construction. **Regular hours are 9am - 7pm, Monday through Saturday.**

To learn more, visit habitatcaz.org/restores

For the community - With the community

Sunny and clear winter weekends in Phoenix are hard to beat. Especially when there's work to be done and a strong community with which to do it. Habitat was thrilled to recently roll out the tool trailer once again and work alongside GCU volunteers eager to get back to work in the Canyon Corridor.

For almost a year now, neighborhood revitalization efforts had to be paused due to COVID. As with many other activities, restrictions are slowly lifting, but Habitat has had to limit the number of volunteers that can sign up.

Debra Bradley, Habitat's Chief Operations Officer was on site. "The need for affordable home repairs doesn't go away in a pandemic. If anything, we've seen an increase in the need to help others keep their home safe and secure during this time. While people are staying home more than ever, nationwide, we're grateful for partners like Grand Canyon University and others who have really stepped up and helped us move forward." she said.

GCU Today recently reported that **"Since the initiative started in 2015, GCU has served more than 320 families and completed more than 800 repairs, thanks to students, faculty and staff contributing 26,000 volunteer hours."**

GCU's Local Outreach Manager, Jaci Curran said, "It was great to be able to figure out a way to get our students and staff back out into the community. We have really missed the opportunities to serve our neighbors. Serve the City is an event we all really look forward to at GCU, and we can't wait to be able to have it back in full swing next year."

"The need for affordable home repairs doesn't go away in a pandemic..." - Debra Bradley, Chief Operating Officer

Volunteers from GCU, including President Brian Mueller, work safely and diligently to complete home repairs in the Canyon Corridor

Newest homeowners

Ebrahim – Phoenix
Wells Fargo
City of Phoenix

Rodriguez – Mesa
Superstition Coalition

Ingabire – Phoenix
Luebke/PMI
City of Phoenix

Sanchez - Glendale
St. Thomas More
City of Glendale HOME Funds

Piedra & Mora – Glendale
West Valley Presbyterian

Vasquez - Peoria
Bank of America

since 1985

1172 homes built / renovated

1417 affordable repairs

1519 emergency home repairs

3812 families served

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

Since 1985, with the help of generous donors and volunteers, Habitat for Humanity Central Arizona has been privileged to build more than **1,170 homes**, affect more than **2,500 repairs** and improve a place called home for more than **3,800 Arizona families**.

Show your pride, tag your ride

Habitat specialty license plates now available

Order yours today at azmvdnow.gov

Built to Last Legacy Society

Including Habitat in your estate plans

Habitat continues to move forward with important work. In the midst of all that is happening, many of our friends and supporters are looking forward to the future when they can enjoy community with friends and resume their regular activities.

In response to the ongoing situation, Congress extended some of the COVID relief tax changes to 2021. Below are some resources to help you with your tax planning and to offer some ideas for you to consider if you are thinking about making a gift to support Habitat in 2021.

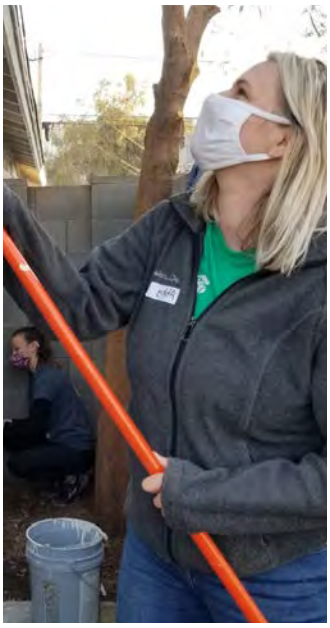
2021 Giving Incentives - The CARES ACT passed in 2020 included several charitable tax provisions to encourage giving. Congress has extended these for 2021 including:

- A deduction for charitable donors who do not itemize when filing their tax returns.
- An increase in the deduction limit up to 100% of a donor's annual income for cash gifts (perviously capped at 60%).

Donor Advised Funds - If you have a Donor Advised Fund (DAF) and wish to help this year, you can make a gift from your DAF without affecting your personal financial security.

Charitable Bequests - Another great way to help support Habitat well into the future is by becoming a member of our Built to Last Legacy Society. By including Habitat in your estate plans you are choosing to leave a family legacy gift. Please contact us for a copy of our free estate planning guide. Learn more by calling **602-232-1072** or visit **habitatcaz.org/planned-giving.**

Arizona Charitable Tax Credit - This allows taxpayers to direct their tax liability to qualified organizations like Habitat. Individuals may utilize a $400 tax credit and joint filers up to $800. Gifts must be received by April 15th for 2020 taxes. Learn more at **habitatcaz.org/tax-credit**.



The Verdes and Habitat

The communities of Rio Verde and Tonto Verde have partnered with Habitat for more than a quarter of a century and are currently building their 25th house for a family in need of affordable housing. Each year, members of the Verde communities come together to help raise the funds and provide the volunteer labor to build a home. **"Their long-time support and dedication is truly amazing!" said Tina Burgoz, Habitat's Chief Development Officer.**

Terry Cummings and his wife Joan have been actively supporting the efforts for 23 years. **"To me, Habitat is the next best thing to walking across the street and helping your neighbor."** Terry said. Terry learned about the Verde's home sponsorship program with Habitat in the local newspaper. The article said volunteers were needed on Tuesdays and Thursdays to help build the house. When he inquired, he said he was interested in helping but had a standing golf game on Tuesdays. Jim Isaacson, one of the founders of the efforts, shared that one of the joys of being a volunteer is you do not have to work every day, you can come late and leave early if you want and you will not get fired, Terry reminisced. "For us, Habitat is one of our top charities to support."

A big thank you to the dedicated donors and volunteers of Rio and Tonto Verde that continue to help Habitat build homes, communities and hope.

Save the date! Thursday, June 17th at 6pm

We're Celebrating!

35 years of building homes, communities and hope.

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Reasonable accommodations will be made upon request. We proudly work with Arizona Relay Service (TTD) 711 to provide access to the hearing impaired.