



Fall | Winter 2020/21

Habitat

Highlights



A NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IN MARQUETTE



Marquette County Habitat for Humanity (MCHFH) welcomes Deanna Johnson as the organization’s new Executive Director. Deanna was recently promoted from her position as Deputy Director upon the re-

irement of Michael Shimon who served the organization for 21 years as Executive Director. She joined the Habitat team in April 2014 and has enjoyed learning all aspects of the Habitat ministry. Prior to joining Habitat, she spent 11 years in the banking industry. Deanna looks forward to deepening Habitat for Humanity’s impact in Marquette County through affordable home ownership and the homeowner occupied repair program, and to partnering with the community to continue building and repairing homes in Marquette County. Richard Graybill, Board President, stated “the Board of Directors was pleased to promote internal staff to replace Mike Shimon’s tenure. Deanna has the expertise and skills necessary to lead Marquette County Habitat for Humanity well into the future.”

Deanna and her husband Joe have 5 children and 5 grandchildren. Together they enjoy spending time with family, outdoor activities, and do-it-yourself projects.

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DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Home Dedication: 2021
- ReStore—check Facebook!
- Vol. Sign Ups - Winter!

GET INVOLVED

- See **pg. 4** for Volunteer Application info!
- Homeowners or Repairs application at: www.mqthabitat.org

POSITIONS OPEN!

- Family Selection Comm.
- Volunteer Committee
- Board of Directors

MCHFH ACCEPTING HOMEOWNER APPLICATIONS!

Are you or someone you know looking to buy a safe, affordable decent place to live? Here are some general guidelines:

- Need:** Current housing is unsafe or in poor condition; or too expensive
- Ability to Pay:** Household income falls between 30-60% of area median income in the County; i.e. a family of 4 would be @ \$19,750—\$39,480
- Willingness to Partner:** Each adult family member completes “sweat equity” to help families build strength and stability through shelter.



FALL FAMILY DEDICATION



Megan Reffruschinni & Tyler Bialkowski and family at new home being constructed in Gwinn, MI.

Marquette County Habitat for Humanity built its 106th home this year, and Megan Reffruschinni and Tyler Bialkowski have been working diligently all summer to get their family into the home by late fall. With the Coronavirus spikes and state mandates since spring, being able to recruit volunteers and groups to work on the home has been a challenge. “Many groups this summer had to cancel due to Covid,” said Cindy Noble, Affiliate Support Manager. “People would want to come and

we’d have lodging and meals set up, and then they would have to cancel a week out.” But being a faith-based organization, staff and volunteers knew that somehow, between all the shut downs, that progress would be made. And it was. The First Presbyterian Group out of Hastings, MI made it up in July, with practicing safeguards such as wearing masks and disinfecting tools. “We want to try and make it,” Dave Allerdig, group leader, said, “We’ve been coming to Marquette for 27 years and this mission is important to us.” Other businesses and groups wanting some volunteer hours for their staff during furloughs also came, with most of the work during the summer being outside.

Tyler, Megan and family have lived in Marquette County their entire lives, and look forward to being able to stay in the UP and have affordable, reliable and safe housing. Megan and Tyler had wanted to be homeowners, but did not have all the resources to go about owning their own home. With three children, it was challenging to save for a larger down payment, and they knew Habitat for Humanity may have programs or education that could benefit them. This working family was longing for some place with a yard where their children could play, and to stay close to family and friends. Megan said that the kids are looking forward to having a place to play, and also “decorating their rooms how they want.” She also indicated that, “Everyone will have their own space, which will be a nice change from more previous cramped quarters.” And when asked what was the most rewarding part she responded, “Seeing it built from the ground up, the work we put into it with our own ‘sweat equity,’ and watching things come together.”

The current plan is for the family to be in their home by Christmas. But with Covid numbers staying high, restrictions on volunteers are greater. With a dedicated construction leader, Jay Langer, and the continued sweat equity by the family, they should be in their warm home soon for the holidays.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Richard Graybill, Esq.
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Julie Frazier, *Vice President*

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Nicholas Hall
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Dale Throenle

“Dream Big—A World Where Everyone Has a Decent Place to Live”

MCHFH STAFF

Deanna Johnson,
Executive Director
Coleen Store,
Office Manager | Bookkeeper
Cynthia Noble,
Affiliate Support Manager
Bob Howe,
ReStore Director
Jaci Johnston,
ReStore Assistant Manager
AIM Committee
Jay Langer,
Construction Supervisor



THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!!

We want to thank the many volunteers who help make Marquette County Habitat for Humanity the great organization that it is! Even with the challenges of Covid-19, people were able to come together with social distance and masks to help build homes for our communities. We were able to coordinate the Women

Build, home repairs and other events for 2020. We want to give a shout out to the individuals that completed 100 or more volunteer hours and the groups that helped out this year:

- First Presbyterian Church, Hastings (pictured above)
- Saginaw Valley State University
- Myefski Architects
- Lake Superior Christian Church
- Moser Family
- Lunch providers and sponsors for events
- NMU interns Alexis Pettengill & Caroline Halonen
- Robert LaCosse
- Hank Armbrecht
- Ken Kukla
- Jeff Noble
- Geriann Bialkowski
- Phillip DeJonge
- Carla Damron

Thank you for your time and talent, and we hope to see you in 2021!



Jay Langer and volunteers renovated this bathroom for walk-in shower accessibility.

2020 REPAIRS PROGRAM RECAP

2020 has been a challenging year for many organizations, including Marquette County Habitat for Humanity. However, even in the midst of a pandemic, MCHFH was able to rise to the challenge and assist 13 families with critical home repairs. Completed repairs this year include three shower modifications for accessibility purposes, plumbing repairs, windows, three new heating systems, two new water heaters, new sewer lines and five roofs!

To qualify for our services, a family must own their home, be current on their mortgage and taxes, and be low to moderate income. If you are interested in applying for a home repair or know someone else who can benefit from our services, please call the office for an application (906) 228-3578 or download it from our website – www.mqthabitat.org.



Women from the MCHFH 2020 Women Build work on the home in Gwinn, MI.

WOMEN BUILD: EVENT UPDATES

The Women Build event for Marquette County Habitat for Humanity (MCHFH) was held Aug. 6-8, 2020. The event was a success with a total of 36 registrants and about 10 additional volunteers throughout the event, for a total of 270 donated volunteer hours. Women, men and children ages 16 and up were invited to the event, and came from all walks of life. Participants worked on siding the east, west and north sides of the home build in Gwinn, and started drywall work inside. The weather cooperated nicely for all the projects, and everyone received a donated lunch and refreshments sponsored by A&M café, Aubrees Pizza, Third St. Bagel and Tadych's Econo Foods.

Each participant received a commemorative "swag" bag with donated supplies such as mini hand sanitizers and tape measures, aprons, gloves, water bottles and a Women Build t-shirt. MCHFH worked under state mandated Covid-19 measures with doing temperature checks each morning, providing masks and asking participants to keep social distancing measures. We want to thank our primary sponsors of the event :



RESTORE UPDATES

Did you know that our ReStore was selected by a group of our peers as being the best ReStore in Michigan for 2019 – 2020? What an honor! We are proud to have received this award and humbled by the interest it received in the community. We received praise and interviews from all the local news stations and print news. One of the criteria for winning the ReStore of the Year included the ability to share donations with other ReStores. We have been blessed by the generosity of our Marquette County donors, including NMU as they renovated their dormitories. We were able to share with ReStores in Manistique, Kingsford, Calumet, Harbor Springs, Kent County, Adrian and Lapeer. Another area that influenced our selection, was our ability to recycle steel, copper, brass, aluminum, lead and general wiring. All of this translates to us having kept over 4,000,000 pounds of debris out of our local landfill!

Our ReStore also has an extensive volunteer training program. We work with SAIL, MARESA, AARP, NMU Work Study and the local courts. The ReStore was selected Best Vocational Internship Training Site in Marquette and Alger Counties for 2019!

Since the May 29, 2020 reopening of

the ReStore, after the Covid-19 shut-down in March, all ReStore staff have been keeping up with the requirements needed to keep donations processed. From picking up donations, unloading, sorting, testing, cleaning, repairing, pricing, displaying, selling, and loading customers purchases, we have been very busy! We are grateful for the support from our community of donors and customers and have received some wonderful donations and many thanks that we are open.

There are a few new faces at the ReStore. We have added Diane Cherwinski to our excellent staff of sales associates. Don Black is currently in training as our Backroom Warehouse Receiving lead person and Ben Reaves recently joined us to help out in the warehouse. Our very own Jaci Johnston was promoted to Assistant ReStore Manager, while keeping her previous duties as donation procurement and delivery driver.

Stop in and welcome these new team members to your ReStore of the Year and congratulate Jaci on her well-deserved promotion. Please remember when visiting the ReStore to wear your mask, use the hand sanitizer in our entryway and keep at least 6' of social distance.

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Info
PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE



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Fax: 906-228-2314
E-mail: info@mqthabitat.org

Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5



PLEASE HELP DONATE TO OUR CAUSE:



Please accept my contribution to Marquette County Habitat for Humanity to help ensure that everyone has a decent and affordable place to live. I would like to contribute:

___ \$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$75
___ \$100 ___ \$200 ___ Other

Please make checks payable to:

MCHFH
PO Box 213
Marquette, MI 49855

We Need Your Help!! Become a VOLUNTEER!

Volunteers are the backbone of Habitat for Humanity—it is how we help people build strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter. HERE ARE SOME WAYS YOU CAN HELP:

- ⇒ Serve on our Board of Directors
- ⇒ Help on a home build or home repairs project
- ⇒ Volunteer at the ReStore
- ⇒ Make or bring lunches to volunteers
- ⇒ Help in the office
- ⇒ Donate to our mission!

Contact MCHFH today to receive an application and get started:

info@mqthabitat.org
906-228-3578
www.mqthabitat.org
Like us on Facebook!

Our Mission:

“Seeking to put God’s love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.”

