

The Hammer Times Summer/Fall 2021



Cheboygan County
Habitat
for Humanity®

Letter from the Board President

Dear Friends,

There is a chipmunk family industriously building a home in our garage. We don't see exactly where in the garage they have decided to build, but we see them scurry whenever we push the garage door button. They also leave remnants of their meals on the floor, fragments of acorns and other seeds. I can understand what they're doing, winter is coming, and they want to be ready.

Humans have similar needs and the opportunities to build a house, furnish it, and supply it with their families' needs are much more different. That's where Habitat for Humanity comes in. We have a long history of providing and repairing homes for families. In Cheboygan many community members are in need of safe, decent housing. It's not as simple as a chipmunk family finding a corner of the garage to assemble twigs and leaves and tuck away an acorn supply to tide them over the winter.

Bathroom floors may need to be replaced. A shower would serve an older person better than a high-sided tub. Safe stairs or ramps and handrails would make coming home and going out a lot easier. Adequate lighting in halls and outdoors can make homes more inviting and safer to come home to.

Habitat has the ability to provide for these needs. Within the last year a number of families have received much needed repairs to their homes. Many families have also found furniture and home goods at the Habitat ReStore. There are building materials and supplies, good used appliances, bed frames, new mattresses and box springs, and bedding available. Even the dishes and glassware for your table are waiting for you to pick out.

Obviously this bounty doesn't happen without your help. Your monetary donations can provide for the home builds/rehabs and home repairs that we do in the community. In addition to monetary donations, we need donations of time to help in the ReStore, sorting and stocking donations, and service on our Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors. The Board has a tradition of hosting a banquet for the community. In the past we have offered Polish, spaghetti and pig roast dinners. If you have an idea for a community meal in the future, please share your ideas with us.

The Cheboygan Habitat for Humanity has had a presence in Cheboygan County for 27 years working to provide safe, decent and affordable homes through home builds, rehabs and repairs to 35 households so far! You can contribute to our future by making a monetary or stock donation, donating items to the ReStore, donating your time on a building project, serving on a committee or on our Board of Directors. I invite you to learn more about how we can work together to provide the gift of a safe, decent home to those in our community in need.

Sincerely,

Elinore Barney

Board President

Words from the Director

As I sit here and reflect upon our time since the last newsletter, I am truly excited for what the future has in store for us here at Habitat. We have truly felt every ripple effect of COVID-19 from staffing shortages to material delays... and let's not forget about busy vendors and contractors. We may have had some delays with getting some projects restarted after COVID, but we are now moving forward and thrilled to continue serving our mission!

One of the biggest impacts our program made this year was installing a handicap ramp for a homebound individual who was literally stuck in their home for a year without any way to get out of their home for appointments. We also installed a handicap shower at this project and helped increase the quality of life for this individual in our community. Having a shower that they can get in and out of and having the ability to get out of their home are truly life changing repairs.

The work we do is so crucial as there are many more community members needing a hand up for critical home repair needs. In our community we constantly hear about situations where people are living in homes that are in major disrepair. We hear from community members living in a home where only half the electricity works in their home, community members who have leaks so bad the flooring has holes in it that they have covered with cardboard or osb and community members whose furnaces are in disrepair, and they use space heaters to heat their home. Habitat works in partnership with these community members to offer a zero interest loan on a sliding scale fee, while working with the homeowners to complete the repairs.

We can't do the work we do in Cheboygan County without our amazing financial donors, ReStore donors and customers, volunteers, and you! It takes everyone coming together to be the hand up for community members in need. You can provide a hand up in numerous ways to support the work we are doing:

- *You can raise your voice on affordable housing issues in our community by speaking with local and state representatives;*
- *You can also advocate for fair housing policies, both locally and statewide;*
- *You can volunteer to serve on a committee, help at the ReStore, join the Board of Directors, or even swing a hammer on some construction projects;*
- *You can make a "meaningful to you" contribution to support our housing programs;*
- *You can interact with us on social media by liking our Facebook page, sharing our Facebook posts and commenting on our social media activity;*

I am so grateful for your continued support! I hope you enjoy the updates we have and we can't wait to see what the next 6 months have in store for our mission.

Sincerely,

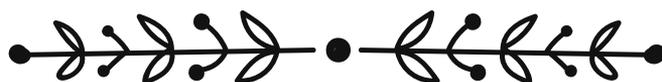
Mandy Martin

Affiliate Updates/Welcome

A tribute to our late Board President: Our affiliate is still mourning the loss of our past Board President, Richard "Dick" Kowalczyk. Richard passed away June 28th, 2021 after a courageous battle with cancer. Richard started volunteering with Habitat in 2008 and transitioned to the Board President role in 2015. While serving on the Board, he was instrumental in starting our A Brush with Kindness repair program and just recently expanding that program into a Critical Home Repair Program, allowing our organization to address critical interior home repairs. During his time with Habitat, our organization served 8 families through our Homeownership Program and 15 families through our Repair Programs.

On top of his volunteer work with Cheboygan Habitat, he was also a member of Cheboygan Kiwanis, Northland Players and Bring It Cheboygan. He served on the board of directors for many local associations and attended St. Mary's Church regularly where you could always find him singing in the choir. When he wasn't busy with all of those great community organizations, he was in plays at the Opera House, he played Santa Claus at the Library and did so many other great things to help the Cheboygan community.

Those wishing to express their condolences can send them addressed to the Kowalczyk Family at PO Box 309, Cheboygan, MI 49721.



Staffing Updates: We are excited to have some new staff members on our team. Trina Bailey and Perry Lyons joined our ReStore staff in May. Trina was a long term shopper with the ReStore waiting for us to hire again so she could join the team. Perry is no stranger to Habitat as he volunteered with Lowe's at the Emmet County Habitat. He retired from Lowe's and wanted a part time job that allowed him to give back and thought of Habitat.

Ron Hart is joining our team in October! Ron attended Central Michigan University where he received a bachelor's degree in Construction Management and Supervision. He also attended the University of Phoenix where he received his master's degree in Special Education. He retired from Cheboygan Area Schools, after working for thirty years. During his employment at Cheboygan Area Schools, he served in the capacity of several jobs; Paraprofessional for the Construction Technology program, Teacher for the Construction Technology program, and lastly a Special Education teacher. While working in the Construction Technology program he built fourteen homes with students, four of these homes were Habitat homes.

He is very excited to be given the chance to work with Cheboygan Habitat in the Construction Supervisory role. It has always been a goal of his to see that people are provided with homes that are designed to be simple, decent, and affordable with a focus on sustainable building practices and energy efficiency.

Welcome to the Team!

Accepting Program Applications

We are currently seeking applicants for our Home Repair Program for the 2022 calendar year. Applicants must live in Cheboygan County, own their own home and have a need for our program. Typically applicants make at or below 60% of the Area Median Income.

This program offers needed repairs with a sliding scale fee, zero interest loan payment. We encourage anyone needing repairs on their home to apply. If our program isn't the best fit for you, we will try to find another program that might work for you.

You can learn about the Home Repair Program by visiting our website, www.habitatcheboygan.org or call 231-597-4663.

We are also seeking applicants for our Homeownership Program. In 2022, we will start the process of rehabbing a home in Cheboygan County to sell to a qualified Program Partner. Applicants must live or work in Cheboygan County for at least 1 year.

Program Partners are selected based on:

- Level of need;
- Ability to pay an affordable mortgage or loan;
- Willingness to partner, which includes taking classes in financial management and budgeting, home maintenance, as well as performing 'sweat equity hours' to help build, renovate or repair projects under construction.

To learn more about our programs, visit www.habitatcheboygan.org or give us a call at 231-597-4663.

Information is also available in our ReStore, located at 9385 N Straits Highway in Cheboygan.



Cheboygan County Habitat for Humanity helps individuals and families achieve **strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter.**

As active participants in building a better future for themselves and their families, **qualified Habitat homebuyers are...**

in need of better housing

Potential homebuyers might be dealing with poorly made, unhealthy or inadequate housing; unaffordable rent; homes inaccessible for their disabilities or damaged by natural disasters; or have other shelter needs.



willing to partner with Habitat

Habitat homebuyers put in hundreds of hours of "sweat equity" helping build their own home and the homes of others in the program. This might also include classes in personal finances, home maintenance and other homeownership topics.

able to pay an affordable mortgage

Habitat offers homebuyers an affordable mortgage. Their mortgage payments cycle back into the community to help build more affordable houses.



In many communities, in addition to building new homes **Habitat also...**



Repairs and renovates existing housing



Leads holistic neighborhood revitalization efforts



Advocates for fair and just housing policies



Helps communities clean up and rebuild after natural disasters



Accepts and re-sells donated household materials through our ReStores



Provides microloans for home improvement in many international locations

Learn how you can help at www.habitatcheboygan.org



Project Updates

Home Repair Project 5 was completed at the end of July 2021! Christy partnered with Habitat to get her front porch replaced, damaged flooring replaced, her roof replaced and a new water heater installed.

By partnering with Habitat, Christy was able to receive a zero interest affordable loan for critical repairs she needed on her home. We are grateful to First National Bank of America, Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis and DTE for your support.



Home Repairs 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 Starting Soon!



Fundraising

Upcoming Events and Save the Dates:

Habi-Hour - Thursday, November 4th 2021: We are excited to provide community members an opportunity to meet our staff and board members, learn about the great things we have going on and how to get involved. There will be a cash bar, music and hors d'oeuvres. This event will be from 6 -8 pm at the Lark Theater. More details online at www.habitatcheboygan.org.

RSVP to mandy@habitatcheboygan.org or call 231-597-4663 x 5. Limited spots available.



Homes for the Holiday Fundraiser - Wednesday, December 15th, 2021: New this year, we are celebrating the importance of home this holiday season. This event will be a holly jolly time, where you can enjoy some tasty hors d'oeuvres, delectable desserts, great company, and some of your favorite holiday jingles. This event will feature a dessert themed auction. Tickets are \$25 each and available online, at the ReStore and at the Habitat office.

We are seeking businesses, groups, or individuals that would like to enter our table decorating contest or donate dessert themed items for this event. Get in the holiday spirit this year while learning about the importance of home this holiday season. For more information, please visit: www.habitatcheboygan.org.

Annual Hard Hats and Hope Fundraiser - Saturday June, 4th 2022: We are so excited to finally have this event back as an in-person event! New this year, we will be having a brunch fundraiser to help raise funds for our mission. We will have all of our favorite brunch foods and beverages, a silent auction and a She Shed raffle! Mark you calendars for this amazing event!

She Shed raffle tickets for the above event will go on sale April 1st, 2022.

Hard Hats and Heels Fundraiser - August 2022: This will be a fun wine and chocolate tasting event with live music, hors d'oeuvres and a 50/50 raffle! This will be a great event to get your friends together for a fun night supporting Habitat and the work we do! Stay tuned at www.habitatcheboygan.org.

We are seeking sponsors for our fundraising events. If your business is interested in learning more, we invite you to reach out to Mandy at mandy@habitatcheboygan.org or 231-597-4663. More details will be available online.



Other ways to support our mission:

Monetary donations are accepted online through our website, in person at our office or the ReStore or mailed to PO Box 309, Cheboygan, MI 49721. You can also donate materials for a project, host a small fundraiser, or donate a vehicle, boat, snowmobile or similar item to support our mission.

We also accept stock gifts through our account with Citizens National Bank Financial Services. To make a stock donation, please see the details below:

Account Number: ABM211111

Account Name: Cheboygan County Habitat for Humanity, Inc.

Name of Receiving Institution: Pershing, LLC

DTC Participation Number: 0443



ReStore

Have you visited the ReStore lately? If you haven't, you're missing out on so many great, gently used items at a great bargain. If you've never been to the ReStore, we're located at 9385 N. Straits Hwy., just about 1/8 of a mile south of the M-33 junction. We're currently open for your shopping needs Wednesday – Friday, from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Saturday, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

In addition to our gently used items, we also carry new, made to order mattress sets from Sealy Restokraft out of Romulus, Michigan; MaxLite light bulbs, the best deal on dimmable LED bulbs around; and new paint supplies, tarps, ratchet straps, bungee cords and batteries.

If you have shopped at the ReStore lately, you know that we have different sales by department every week, plus paper tag sales on furniture and large appliances that change after the first of the month. You'll also have noticed all of the reorganizing, remodeling, and upgrading we have done to our store.

Have you ever donated your gently used items to the ReStore? We can help you by taking your good used items and giving them a second chance at life in someone else's home. If you would like to make a donation, just give us a call at (231) 597-9463 and we can schedule a Tuesday pick-up or a Wednesday – Friday drop-off appointment. We're taking drop-offs by appointment only at this time so we can have someone there to help you and properly get your donations ready for the sales floor. Make sure you call ahead to discuss your donation options and schedule your appointment.

Do you know the good you can do by shopping, donating and volunteering at the ReStore?

Donating your gently used, sellable items helps keep them out of landfills, over 1385 tons so far and counting. Your donations and shopping dollars turn into home builds, rehabs and repairs for deserving families right here in our community.

Since 1994, Cheboygan County Habitat for Humanity has served a total of 35 families by providing Habitat homes and by doing home repairs and ramp builds.

A graphic with a blue background and green brushstroke accents. The text is in bold black font.

ReStore Winter Hours
Effective 11/1 – 05/31
Closed Monday and Tuesday
Open Wed. – Friday
10:00 – 4:00
Saturday 10:00 – 2:00

Volunteer Opportunities

Board of Directors - We are seeking board members to join our organization. Board meetings are the third Tuesday of each month from 4:30 to 6:30. Meetings are in person with an online component for those wanting to attend virtually.

As a board member you will help set the larger vision for the organization and contribute to the organization meeting the goals in place, so that everyone can have a decent place to live. Our organization partners with people from all walks of life to build, rehab, and repair homes for those needing a safe, stable home. As a board member these guiding principles will guide you as a member of our board:

- To focus on shelter by helping to build, renovate or preserve homes, and by partnering with others to accelerate and broaden access to affordable housing as a foundation for breaking the cycle of poverty.
- To advocate for affordable housing as a basic human right and work along social, political, and cultural paths to ensure and promote policies that create fair and sustainable housing policy.
- To promote dignity and hope. We believe that no one lives in dignity until everyone can live in dignity. We believe that every person has something to contribute and something to gain from creating communities in which all people have decent, affordable places to live. We believe that dignity and hope are best achieved through equitable, accountable partnerships.
- To support sustainable and transformational development. We view our work as successful when it transforms lives and promotes positive and lasting social, economic, and spiritual change within a community; when it is based on mutual trust and fully shared accomplishment; and when it demonstrates responsible stewardship of all resources entrusted to us.

If you are interested in learning more or becoming a board member, please email info@habitcheboyan.org. We are looking for 8 new members between now and June 30, 2022.

ReStore - We are seeking volunteers to help during a 4 hour shift Wednesday - Saturday. We are needing volunteers to help with organizing merchandise, processing donations, assisting customers, and organizing and cleaning the warehouse. Both individual and group volunteers are welcome.

Front room volunteers can typically be found organizing and filling books, linens, and kitchenware. Back room volunteers can typically be found organizing and filling tools, lighting and building materials. There is something for everyone at the ReStore. To learn more or sign up as a volunteer, reach out to Melissa at melissa@habitcheboyan.org or 231-597-9463.



Construction - With the hiring of our Construction Supervisor, we are actively seeking volunteers to help with our construction projects. We have numerous repair projects and a home rehab project coming up that we are needing help with. The projects include, but are not limited to, handicap ramps, bathroom remodels, painting, landscaping, and many more activities. These projects are great for skilled individuals, individuals looking to learn new skills, and groups looking for a team building activity.

Volunteer opportunities will start in October of this year and continue forward. We are hoping to have some indoor construction projects during the winter so we can engage volunteers all year long. If you are interested in volunteering on some construction projects, please visit www.habitatcheboygan.org/volunteer to fill out a volunteer application. You can also call Mandy at 231-597-4663 to learn more and request a volunteer application.

By volunteering with Habitat, you are helping to provide a hand up for community members needing a safe, decent place to live. You can help by swinging a hammer, making lunch for volunteers or even volunteering to take photos of the work being done. There are volunteer opportunities for everyone!

Your volunteer hours help us to eliminate substandard housing, one family at a time, by providing support for the ReStore and Habitat. If you haven't, please won't you consider sharing some of your time with us? We would love to have you and show you just how much good your efforts can do.

If volunteering on the jobsite is not for you, reach out to see how you can help in our Administrative office. No matter what volunteer job you do, you are still helping the Habitat mission.



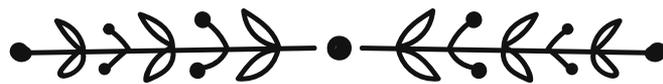
Staff and Board of Directors



2021-2022 Board of Directors

Elinore Barney - Board President,
 Elizabeth Schaefer - Vice President,
 Darrin Deeter - Treasurer,
 Carol Sherwood - Secretary,
 Steve Evoy - Board Member

*Pictured left to right: Representative John DaMoose, 2020 Volunteer of the Year - Elizabeth Schaefer, Elinore Barney, Darrin Deeter and Carol Sherwood; Not pictured: Steve Evoy



Staff

Mandy Martin - Executive Director,
 Ron Hart - Construction Supervisor,
 Melissa Tallman - ReStore Manager,
 Tony Whitmore - Sales and Warehouse Associate II,
 Perry Lyons - Lead Truck Driver and Warehouse,
 Trina Bailey - Sales and Warehouse Associate



*Pictured left to right (top picture): Melissa Tallman, Mandy Martin, SACF Board Member Beth Cottee
 Pictured left to right (bottom picture): Tony Whitmore, Trina Bailey and Perry Lyons. Not pictured: Ron Hart

