

the builder

NEWSLETTER



Fall 2023



135 Summer Street, Passaic

A Legacy Reborn

It takes partnership, community, and collaboration to keep a legacy alive.

The City of Passaic's administration and VFW Post #10117 first reached out to Passaic County Habitat for Humanity in 2019 after the Albert Lawson Memorial Veteran of Foreign War Post was condemned. After further investigation, what was initially considered a roof replacement project, turned out to be a more severe problem.

In the Summer of 2021, we joined together with the City of Passaic, Mayor Hector C. Lora, and members of VFW Post 10117 at 135 Summer Street as demolition crews began removing the old building. We broke ground not just on our first project in Passaic – a four-family homeownership opportunity – but a reimagined and reconstructed home for the Albert Lawson VFW Post.

This past spring a new month-long partnership was formed with the employees of the City of Passaic. Mayor Hector C. Lora challenged city employees to join him on the construction site to help build the future home of the VFW Post 10117 and four new homeowner families.

The collaboration between our construction team and architect, David O'Neil won us the "Best Innovative Design Solution 2023" award from Habitat for Humanity International for the project. As part of its annual Habitat House Design Contest, winners demonstrate Habitat's commitment to high-quality housing that is safe and affordable for the long term, as well as strategies that advance shelter technology toward building more and building better in recognition of our responsibility to meet immense affordable housing needs in an equitable way.

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A Note from our CEO, Scott Millard

In the mosaic of our community, affordable housing forms the cornerstone on which over 350 families have been able to pursue their dreams and achieve their aspirations. Affordable housing is more than just a place to live; it's the soil from which our community's vitality blossoms. It creates a ripple effect that extends beyond the confines of four walls, touching education, healthcare, and economic opportunities.

By providing families with a safe and affordable place to call home, you are empowering them to break free from the cycle of uncertainty. Your support brings us closer to realizing a future where children can focus on their studies instead of worrying about where they'll sleep at night. It offers parents the chance to channel their energy into their careers, knowing that a stable home awaits them. Through affordable housing we are fostering a sense of belonging, resilience, and pride within the communities where we work.

But affordable housing isn't just about construction; it's about community. Through our partnerships with other local non-profits, holistic programs are being developed that provide residents with healthy food, tools for financial literacy, job training, youth development, and personal growth, fostering self-reliance and empowerment.

However, the need is greater than ever. The rising tide of housing costs can displace even the most resilient among us. As we prepare to break ground this fall on our 300th new home in Paterson, and complete our first project in the city of Passaic, your continued generosity will be the cornerstone on which we can expand our efforts and create lasting change. Together, we can transform the landscape of our community into one where every individual has the opportunity to thrive. Thank You!

Building Together

Join us at Hammering 4 Habitat 2023 as we come together to thank our incredible volunteers and build walls for future Habitat homes. Volunteers are vital in our mission of building homes, communities, and hope in Passaic County, and because of that, we want to show our gratitude during our most exciting event of the year.

When: **Friday, October 20, 2023**

Time: 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Where: First Presbyterian Church
722 E. Ridgewood Ave., Ridgewood
Parking on S. Van Dien Ave.

How: **www.habitatpc.org/h4h**

Build a Wall

Build framed walls that will be used in the construction of future Passaic County Habitat homes.

Sign & Decorate Studs

Write special messages to future homeowner families, draw pictures, or simply sign your name. The positive and inspiring messages and decorations you share will be read by the homeowners and forever be part of their homes.

Fun For All Ages

As a thank you to our dedicated volunteers for sharing their time and talents with us, we will have family-friendly activities, a food truck, games, a bouncy house, giveaways, and crafts. All are included with your FREE admission.

How to join us for Hammering 4 Habitat:

- **Register to build:** Visit our website to reserve a wall-building timeslot for yourself or your group by October 13, 2023.
- **Attend but not build:** All are welcome. No RSVP is required.

Monthly Giving Circle



The consistent support provided through **Monthly Giving** allows us to plan ahead and pour more foundations, raise more walls, and welcome more families home throughout the year! That means your contribution will go further to help more Passaic County families.

A Legacy Reborn (continued)

Soon the doors will open to this new two-story mixed-use building where the community will have a new meeting place, ensuring the continuation of the VFW program which supports 67 veteran members, the largest in the state.

As we see what partnership, community, and collaboration can build we are excited to continue exploring new and innovative ways to meet the housing and community development needs of all types of families. The need for affordable housing is greater than ever and so are the costs to provide it.

Would you please consider donating, any amount, as we near the completion of this project for the veterans of Post 10177 and the four future homeowner families who will have a safe, stable, affordable place to call home? To make a gift today, visit **www.habitatpc.org/donate**

On June 10th we dedicated **5 new homes** on Governor Street in Paterson. Thank you to the homeowner families, volunteers, donors, sponsors, community partners, and Habitat staff who made these 5 homes possible!



Building Communities

The Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Credit Program (NRTC) is designed to foster the revitalization of New Jersey's distressed neighborhoods through the utilization of community-driven neighborhood planning and the creation of private, public, and non-profit partnerships.

The Impact

Since 2016, the NRTC has yielded economic and community benefits for the Northside neighborhood Passaic County Habitat calls home:

- 21 home repairs completed
- 10 homes rehabilitated
- 9 new homes built
- 6 new homes under construction
- 3 youth programs supported
- 2 micro-grants awarded
- 1 community garden supported
- 1 new community park under construction

Over \$6.1 million has been invested in Paterson's Northside neighborhood and more than 12,000 residents have been impacted by the NRTC program.

Through community input and collaboration, the program has now expanded to include not only the Northside of Paterson but the Rosa Parks Neighborhood of Paterson's 4th Ward. An area where Passaic County Habitat has been working diligently for over a decade. We've also partnered with the Boys and Girls Club of Paterson and Passaic on a neighborhood plan for the Eastside neighborhood of Passaic. All three neighborhood plans include community programs, resident engagement, and homeownership opportunities.

Businesses in New Jersey, we need your help!

The NRTC provides corporations a 100% state tax credit of up to \$1 million (minimum \$25,000) for funds provided to non-profit entities carrying out NRTC-approved plans like Passaic County Habitat. This allows corporations to direct their existing state tax burden to Passaic County Habitat's neighborhood revitalization efforts. Participation in the program does not cost anything other than the time it takes to complete the simple application. To learn how your corporation can make an impact in the communities we serve beyond building homes, contact steve@habitatpc.org or visit **www.habitatpc.org/nrtc**



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Visit us: habitatpc.org

Make a gift today.

Visit habitatpc.org/waystogive
to learn about how you can partner with us.



@passaiccountyhfh

Passaic County Habitat 2023 Fall Newsletter

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A large poster for the 40th anniversary gala. The background is a photograph of a diverse group of volunteers, mostly women, smiling and posing in front of the wooden frame of a house under construction. The text is overlaid on the image. At the top right, it says "40 years" in large white font, with the Habitat for Humanity logo and "Passaic County Habitat for Humanity" below it. A banner below the "40 years" text reads "of building homes, communities & hope". On the left, "40th anniversary gala" is written in large white font. On the right, "friday, may 3, 2024" is in white, followed by "THE TIDES ESTATE NORTH HALEDON, NJ". At the bottom right, it says "FOR MORE INFO: 973 595 6868 EXT 106 | GALA@HABITATPC.ORG". In the bottom left corner, in small white text, it says "women raise the roof 1997".