

the builder



Winter 2023

New name. Same mission.

Thirty-eight years ago, three pastors came together to start a local Habitat for Humanity affiliate in Paterson, New Jersey. Their vision was motivated by their genuine care for their community. This vision powered by commitment, became an answered prayer for many families. Our mission today is the same as it was then – that everyone in the county we serve would have a safe, stable, affordable place to call home. As we enter into a new year, we have an exciting announcement that propels us closer to this vision.

We are thrilled to announce that as of January 1st, Paterson Habitat for Humanity is now Passaic County Habitat for Humanity.

In addition to our work in Paterson, our ReStore has been located in Wayne for the past 10 years. Building on previous collaborative development efforts in the City of Passaic, we are currently building our first solo development project outside of Paterson, the redevelopment of the Albert Lawson Memorial VFW Post. Which will provide a new home for the VFW Post 10117 and four affordable homeownership opportunities. You can read more about that on page 2.

Since 1984, we have served 385 families and built 285 new homes. These 385 families' lives have been changed by the opportunity to own an affordable, safe, place to call home. Not only are we committed to eliminating substandard housing in our local community, but also in the global community. We partner with Habitat International's Tithing Program, where local affiliates send a tithe for construction of Habitat homes in other countries. Through this program, we have served an additional 586 families worldwide.

When families thrive in their community, that community reflects that same growth and strength. Our name change is a conduit for more partnerships, resulting in a greater impact. We welcome your continued support and partnership as we embark on this new, exciting season in the life of our organization. While we are expanding and changing our name, the heart of our mission remains the same: bringing people together to build homes, community, and hope. Because of you more families will be empowered by the opportunity to build strength, stability, and self-reliance in their own lives for generations to come.



A Note from Scott

CEO, Passaic County Habitat for Humanity

On a recent Tuesday, we celebrated a first. Two cranes operating in two cities, simultaneously! As these cranes lifted trusses in the City of Passaic and modular building blocks in Paterson, they were also lifting the hopes of the 12 families who will finish 2023 very differently than they began it because they will finish the year with a safe, stable, affordable HOME!

We look forward to introducing you to these 12 families, but today I want to highlight 78 other families. 78 families I cannot introduce you to because we cannot provide them with the hope of home.

In early February, we held the randomized selection for our Harrison 8 development. 86 families in need of safe, stable, affordable housing applied for eight available homes. 86 families for eight homes means 78 families will not end 2023 with a safe, stable, affordable home.

So, while it was impressive to watch two cranes working on a single day, and we have much to be proud of and excited about we need to think about the 78 families who we could not serve.

Those 78 families NEED our help. We cannot stop until ALL people have access to the transformational power of safe, stable, affordable housing.

We invite you to join or continue with us by giving today. Your donation is a gift of hope for these families.



135 Summer St., Passaic



177-191 Harrison St., Paterson

Scan to give today!



Update: 135 Summer Street, Passaic

- **December 2020:** A partnership was formed with the City of Passaic and the Albert Lawson Memorial VFW Post to build new hope and a place to call home for VFW Post 10117 and four future homeowner families.
- **Summer 2021:** Habitat family and friends joined together at 135 Summer Street, Passaic alongside Mayor Hector C. Lora and members of VFW Post 10117 to watch the walls of the deteriorating building come down as we took our first steps toward ensuring the future of the Albert Lawson Memorial VFW Post.
- **Spring 2022:** We were well on our way to seeing real progress when we broke ground and began the installation of the foundation for this reimagined and reconstructed space for members of the VFW, the community, and the future homeowners.
- **Fall 2022:** The steel was installed and construction began to move forward.
- **Today:** The exterior of the building is framed and interior framing of the housing units is underway.

Framing the future with hope and home

When applications became available for the four new homeownership opportunities at the site of the future VFW Hall in Passaic, Victoria and Dalio remembered hearing about Habitat for Humanity seven years ago from Victoria’s co-worker, a current Habitat homeowner.

Victoria, Dalio, and their two daughters currently rent an apartment in Paterson. Their dream of homeownership seemed out of reach. They were not alone. We are facing a shortage of over 136,000 homes for rent or purchase relative to demand in New Jersey. In 2022 alone, one in six New Jersey families spent more than half of their income on housing. This is not sustainable.

“It is so expensive to own a home in New Jersey,” said Victoria. “We can’t afford a traditional mortgage. But we heard about the new condos going in on the site of the old VFW hall in Passaic, we looked into the terms and found out we could afford it.”

The new project on Summer Street is the first mixed-use build for Passaic County Habitat. It combines affordable homeownership with a space for veterans and the community of Passaic. The benefits of this build go beyond the lives of the four families who will purchase the condos later this year. The new facility will also benefit the hundreds of veterans in Passaic and provide a space for them to receive essential services.

Victoria recently joined us on the build site alongside Mayor Hector C. Lora and City of Passaic municipal employees to work on the framing of her future home. “We are so happy about this,” Victoria said. “We will own our own home and its brand new. Habitat gives everyone a chance. They really want to help.”



Thank you for making dreams come true!

Please join us for our **Volunteer Appreciation Event** – an afternoon honoring YOU and your dedication to Passaic County Habitat for Humanity. We will have family-friendly activities, food trucks, games, and crafts. Bring your family and celebrate with us the hard work of our volunteers.

Saturday, May 20, 2023 from 11 am to 2 pm
The Boathouse, Garret Mountain Reservation

Thank you for being part of Passaic County Habitat’s team!



Scan to RSVP!



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