



Habitat Happenings

Winter 2015

Accomplishments and Opportunities

This past year brought accomplishments and opportunities. In February, we broke ground on our very first home in Sedona. Not only are we excited to build our first home in Sedona, we would like to thank our project sponsor Salt River Materials Group (SRMG), our volunteer Contractor Jim Lawler, and many other partners who are participating in this build.



Tania Simms,
Executive Director

After experiencing some delays to this project, we were able to begin building in October 2014. This home for Shandra Ryan, and her three children, is scheduled for completion in March 2015.

On July 11, 2014, we dedicated home #12 to Derrick, Karla, and Jessikah Bonner. During the dedication, the Bonners' Pastor, Randy Schreiber, opened and closed the ceremony with a prayer. Karla, her daughter Jessikah, and her sister Kelly shared their beautiful voices through song. Maggi Bradley, their Family Partner, presented them with a Bible, we cut the ribbon, and then presented Derrick and Karla with their home keys. It was a heartwarming experience for all who attended.

In April, our ReStore celebrated three years at our current location at 737 S. Main Street in Cottonwood. We are in a central and easily accessible location and this has benefited us with increased donations and increased sales all of which go to support our affiliate and our mission to build decent quality affordable homes for individuals and families in the Verde Valley.

In 2015, we look forward to completing home #13 and dedicating it to the Ryan family; rehabilitating a home in Rimrock, building our fourteenth home in Fiscal Year 2015-16; and in April of this year we celebrate 20 years as a Habitat affiliate. Stay tuned for special updates as we celebrate our long history in the Verde Valley.

We have great plans for growth and expansion over the next few years. We look forward to continuing to expand and build relationships with our many donors, volunteers, sponsors, and partners in construction. It is because of you that we are able to build homes here in the Verde Valley. None of our work would be possible without you. We pray for your continued generosity and friendship as we work to accomplish this year's goals, deal with opportunities and celebrate even more new accomplishments.

Sincerely,

Tania Simms, Executive Director



Passing of the Gavel

Verde Valley Habitat for Humanity has a new Chairman of the Board of Directors, Mr. Lou Rangel. You'll be hearing more about Mr. Rangel in future newsletters. For now we, give our great thanks to Cullen Hollister, our past chair, who will continue to serve on the board.

Calendar of Events

February:

ReStore President's Day Sale
February 14 and 16: **20%** off storewide. Not valid on appliances, cannot be combined with other promotional offers or clearance items.

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Construction Update



By Deborah Murphy, Construction Manager

As of January 2015, our affiliate is half way through completion of our first Sedona build that is our first LEED (Leader in Energy Efficient Design) home. We anticipate this house being built for the Ryan family, which consists of a single mom with two boys and a girl, will be completed in March. We have had some challenges in getting this house built; however, with a lot of help from our General Contractor, Jim Lawler, it is almost finished. We appreciate everyone who had a part in keeping this build going!

This coming year will also see us rehabbing an existing house in Rimrock. We will have more information to share about this project very soon as we are still in the process of identifying the future homeowner.

The construction committee will soon be recommending where our next ground build will be located. We have several lots available for building in Rimrock, Sedona and in Cottonwood. The Sedona lot is oversized and we will be utilizing it for a three-unit townhouse project that will most likely begin in 2016 or 2017. We will review the existing lots and see what makes the most sense in where we put our efforts next. This will be discussed at our meetings, now being held on the first Wednesday of every month at 5:30 pm in the ReStore Conference room.



ReStore staff member Diane Albright shares why she gives to Verde Valley Habitat for Humanity. ***"I give because I believe in humanity and helping those in need."*** We need your financial support all year long. Call us to donate. 928-649-6788. Your help matters so much!

ReStore News

By Annick Desmeules, ReStore Manager

The ReStore's continued success is due to our faithful customers and generous individual and business donors, as well as dedicated staff and volunteers. We thank all of you.

The ReStore is not just about supporting Habitat's goals in building homes for deserving families in the Verde Valley or providing gently used materials to the community at affordable prices. We also help reduce the load in the local landfill by repurposing used furniture, appliances, building supplies, housewares, home decor, garden equipment and many other items which would otherwise end up in the trash. In a year's time, that amounts to over 200 tons of perfectly re-usable items! What materials we cannot use nor resell we recycle; in 2014 alone, we recycled over 50 tons of steel, aluminum, brass, copper, plastic, glass, paper and cardboard. So before you decide to drop off those doors, light fixtures, cabinets or seasonal decorations at the local waste station give the ReStore a call. We offer free donation pick up and will gratefully accept your unwanted items.

Want to Volunteer?

Contact Maria Lodico at 928-649-6788



Volunteer Spotlight – Larry Robran

What does a barber and hardware have in common? Besides sounding similar, these words describe this month's volunteer SPOTLIGHT. Larry Robran is new to our ReStore affiliate. He is a retired barber who loves to fix things. He works with his hands woodworking at home but wanted to do something for others, so he came to Verde Valley Habitat for Humanity looking to use his talents. He likes working with people and fixing things that come into the ReStore for us to resell and help fund our Habitat builds. Larry has served over 40 hours in the month of January alone. You can always find Larry ready and willing to go the next mile. *We love volunteers like Larry.* They bring a breath of fresh perspective that we all can give back.

Volunteer Activity

2014 has been an exciting time of change for our volunteers at Verde Valley Habitat. We said goodbye to a faithful mover and leader of many, Lori Reed. She has been a face of encouragement to many but has shifted her focus in ministry yet continues to stay on as a regular volunteer and advisor. Maria Lodico now serves as the volunteer coordinator and is here to help carry us forward into the New Year. Volunteers are essential to Verde Valley Habitat for Humanity. Their contributions allow us to provide interest-free mortgages to Habitat families. They provide the skills and labor to construct homes, serve on our committees and our board of directors, assist us in our office and ReStore, and act as our ambassadors at public events. We give volunteers an opportunity to not only make a difference with a day's work, but also make a connection with a family moving towards stability and homeownership. Our homes are made possible through the labor of our dedicated volunteers working side-by-side with our homeowners.

We have had the opportunity to work with many great companies and Organizations this year. A big thanks to Wells Fargo employees, SRMG, Interact Club at Mingus High, Lawler Construction and many other supporters!

New Faces



Maria Lodico
Volunteer Coordinator



Maureen Christmann
Receptionist/Cashier



Susan Kavanaugh
Development Director



Deborah Murphy
Construction Manager

www.vvhabitat.org

Focus on Giving

Development is a nonprofit term for raising money to advance an organization. At Verde Valley Habitat for Humanity, we have done our share of fundraising over the years, but we want to begin to be able to build more homes every year so we plan to do more outreach than ever before.

Two committees are being organized to assist in our development goals. The first is referred to as the Development Committee. The second is referred to as the Special Event Committee. The Development Committee will explore the process of fundraising from a strategic standpoint and contribute good business ideas and best practices to the outreach we will implement to raise sufficient revenue for sustainable operations and the building of new homes. The Special Event Committee will be an active group of men and women who want to have fun organizing and holding special events for our organization such as Blue Prints and Blue Jeans, our annual signature fundraiser.



If you are interested in serving on our two new committees, giving a donation, or giving of your time please contact Susan Kavanaugh at 649-6788.



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