

Habitat NEWS

CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES



Although COVID-19 closed our construction sites to volunteers for several months and continues to limit the number of volunteers allowed onsite, we are still building! With your help, nineteen families have closed on their new homes since the pandemic began, partnering with Habitat to build strength, stability, and self-reliance.

Thank you for building a world where everyone has a decent place to live.
We couldn't do it without you!



"Thank you for making our dream come true. Even though it still feels like a dream, we are very excited to have our own house and to start our new life," said daughter Rose.

The Grubb volunteer group in front of the Zaw Moe home in December

Grubb Properties builds 300th Habitat home in Orange County!

Our construction site on Sunset Drive went from just a foundation to looking like a real home in a matter of weeks thanks to a special partnership. The **2020 Grubb Giving Project** kicked off on October 2 with the raising of the home's first wall. **Grubb Properties volunteers returned weekly throughout the fall to build alongside homebuyer Zaw Moe and his eldest daughter Rose. The partnership celebrated its final build day with a special visit from Grubb Properties CEO Clay Grubb on December 11.**

Grubb Properties exceeded its fundraising goal and raised a record-breaking \$90,000 to sponsor Habitat for Humanity of Orange County's 300th home in Orange County, located in the Northside neighborhood in Chapel Hill. Each year, Grubb Properties recruits clients and industry peers to raise funds and recruit volunteers to build a Habitat home for a local family through the Grubb Giving Project. The 300th home will be the 16th Habitat house built in the historic Northside neighborhood in partnership with the Northside Neighborhood Initiative.

Zaw Moe has been working toward a better life for his family since he first came to the United States as

a refugee in 2005. After years spent working and establishing his citizenship, his family was finally able to join him in 2013.

The family first lived on Columbia Street, close to Zaw Moe's job as a housekeeper at UNC. But due to increasing rent, they had to move out of town, further away from work and school. Their new Habitat home will not only bring them back into town and a neighborhood the family loves but will also allow them to have a stable mortgage payment and stop living paycheck to paycheck. **Additionally, extra funds raised by the Grubb Giving Project will help to build a ramp and other accessible features for Rose's younger brother, who uses a wheelchair.**



The Zaw Moe Family

Special thanks to top sponsors of the 2020 Grubb Giving Project including Samet Corporation, BB+M Architecture, MBI Installed Services, Tobin & Company, and Yardi.

Building Community through Home Preservation Program

Habitat's Home Preservation program has always been about serving our neighbors by providing affordable home repairs and helping them stay safely in the homes they already own. To accomplish this goal, the whole community comes together.

Habitat is a founding member of the Orange County Home Preservation Coalition, which brings together organizations that provide home repairs and modifications to Orange County residents. The coalition was created to increase communication and collaboration among the organizations and to decrease the burden on program applicants. A recent project demonstrates this collaboration in action.

Peggy's Chapel Hill home was built in 1959 by her late husband, and she has lived in it ever since. At 88 years old, she's finding it more and more difficult to maintain her home on her own. Peggy applied for help through the Coalition. Through the collaborative process, she was able to receive a roof replacement from **Orange County Housing**, rafter and soffit repairs from **Rebuilding Together of the Triangle**, and a new accessibility ramp and exterior painting from **Habitat for Humanity of Orange County**.

In addition to Coalition members, community partner **Tar Heel Painters** donated the exterior paint for this project. **Blue Cross Blue Shield NC** and **UNC Health Care** also provided financial leadership support to Habitat's Home Preservation program, making this and many other projects possible this year.

Thank you to all of our partners and community members for helping make more affordable repairs possible in Orange County!



Peggy's new roof now keeps her safe and dry in her home

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: Andy Chen and Meaghan Diehl

For the first time since 2012, Habitat has two AmeriCorps Members joining our affiliate for a year of service! As Construction Crew Leaders on our jobsite, Andy and Meaghan will be working alongside our Construction Site Supervisors to help oversee the jobsite and supervise volunteers.



Andy Chen

Name: Andy Chen

Hometown: Charlotte, NC

What made you interested in participating in

AmeriCorps? I've been around as a volunteer for a bit. It was recommended by a few staff and it seemed like a fun thing to do. It's nice to get more involved with the organization.

What makes you most excited about working with

Habitat? It'll be nice to see the beginning of building the houses and work on it while it's being built. I'm looking forward to the upcoming starts and seeing them through.

What's a fun thing you've done during quarantine? I'm still in school taking classes online for my biology degree at UNC, so mostly studying.

Fun fact about yourself: I have two cats!

Name: Meaghan Diehl

Hometown: Columbus, OH

What made you interested in

participating in AmeriCorps? I was looking for an opportunity where I could get out of bed every morning knowing I'd have the chance to help others.



Meaghan Diehl

What makes you most excited about working with

Habitat? Getting to live out my HGTV dreams! But actually, I really enjoy seeing tangible results at the end of the day and knowing it's supporting the mission of helping my fellow human beings. Also, the nerd in me is fascinated by processes and the fact this one ends with a home is pretty neat.

What's a fun thing you've done during quarantine? I

started a book club with some college friends and then we'd watch their movie adaptations.

Fun fact about yourself: I can play two instruments and am currently learning piano.



FARM TO TABLE



Chef PARIS
FINE SOUTHERN CATERING

Join us for our first ever Farm To Table Dinner Party: At Home Edition.

At Home Edition. Support Habitat from your home with a delicious farm-to-table meal prepared by Chef Paris Mishoe. Other opportunities to support Habitat include this year's silent auction which features specially curated baskets with all sorts of different activities and a raffle to win a Peloton Bike for just \$50 a ticket!

Proceeds from this event and online silent auction will help Habitat for Humanity continue to build homes, communities, and hope in Orange County.

May 1, 2021 Tickets on sale March 15 at:
www.orangehabitat.org/farmtotable

**The safety of our staff and supporters is of the utmost importance. We will regularly review COVID-19 recommendations from local and state health officials and reserve the right to modify or cancel the event at any time.*

Leave your Legacy with Habitat!



After providing for your family, we hope you will consider a legacy gift that makes supporting families and individuals working toward independence part of your life story.

A legacy gift is not only cost-free during your lifetime, but also lasts another lifetime for a Habitat homebuyer. Twenty-four donors, volunteers, and supporters have notified us of their intention to leave a gift to Habitat as a

member of the **Framing the Future Legacy Society.**

Many thanks to additional twenty donors who over the past 30 years, have provided over \$1.687 million in planned gifts to Habitat for Humanity.

One recent gift contributing to this total comes from the bequest of Rev. Robert Seymour who passed away in October.



Rev. Robert Seymour

Because of this, As a result, 19 families have received a hand up into safe, affordable housing.

For more information, visit www.orangehabitat.org/plannedgiving or contact Dianne Pledger at dpledger@orangehabitat.org or (919) 932-7077 ext. 218.

Contact Us and Stay Connected!

919-932-7077 | info@orangehabitat.org | www.orangehabitat.org |    @orangehabitat