



# coming home

The quarterly newsletter for Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity

PIKESPEAKHABITAT.ORG

FALL 2017

## Homeowner Highlight

# From Homeless to Homeowner

"I've slept next to dryers in laundromats because it was warm, and I've slept under park benches when it was raining so hard." Homeless on and off from age 12 to 21, Jamie had a childhood that was unstable and uncertain. She has come a long way since then, putting herself through college and raising her two incredible children, Jayden and Kaydence. Life is going better for Jamie, but she was still missing a home. That's when she looked to Pikes Peak Habitat to guide her into homeownership.

"My kids are getting older and the time was right for something more stable. I wanted them to stay in the same school and to have their own rooms."

**My biggest goal in life is to provide stability for my kids.**

Currently, Jamie and her two children live in a 2-bedroom apartment, where she and her daughter share a room. "I don't remember the last time I had my own room," Jamie said.



Jamie with Kaydence (9) and Jayden (12)

Jamie was overwhelmed with emotion when she got the call she was selected to be a Habitat Homeowner. "I broke down in tears," she said. "Owning my own home will change our lives tremendously. My biggest goal in life is to provide stability for my kids."

For now, Jamie is kept busy on the construction site completing her "sweat equity" hours. She also attends monthly homeowner classes on how to be a successful

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## From Homeless to Homeowner



Jamie's family at her Ground Blessing in August

homeowner. "The classes are so beneficial." Jamie continues, "They help change your mindset from renter to homeowner."

Jamie and her children hope to move into their new home in the late spring. For Jamie's son Jayden, having a home means new friends. For her daughter Kaydence, it means having her own room. And for Jamie, having a home will mean stability and security

for the three of them. "This is the house where they will have Christmas, proms, and graduations. And someday, maybe even a puppy" Jamie is so thankful for the opportunity. "I had lost my faith in humanity and Habitat brought it back."

## What's NEW at the ReStore?

If you are doing any renovating and are in need of new cabinets, head down to the ReStore. They recently received a large donation of brand new cabinets and are available for purchase starting in October. Come check them out at the ReStore!

**411 S. Wahsatch Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80903.**

Have items to donate? Call our donation hotline, **719.475.0841**, for a free pickup.

### Roundup at the ReStore

Now when you purchase items at the ReStore, you can donate your change to Pikes Peak Habitat and help build homes for local families. It may not seem like much—just a few cents here and there—but it all adds up. Last month, generous customers rounded up and donated over \$1,100! *Thank you!*



Thanks to a grant from Colorado Technical University, Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity homeowners, employees, and their eligible family members, may be eligible to receive a 25% tuition grant towards a college education

at Colorado Technical University (CTU). To learn more visit our website: [pikespeakhabitat.org/ctu](http://pikespeakhabitat.org/ctu).



Pikes Peak  
**Habitat**  
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Pikes Peak Habitat helps qualified veterans  
build and purchase their own home  
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*Building strength, stability and self-  
reliance through affordable housing.*

**[pikespeakhabitat.org](http://pikespeakhabitat.org)**



Meet the Williams Family! Though they are currently living with family, the house is too small and seven people share a room. They are thrilled to be partnering with Pikes Peak Habitat and hope to move into their home next summer. The Williams Family home is sponsored by the *Real Estate Build* where 50 or more real estate companies in El Paso County will join together to financially sponsor and build a home. Participating Real Estate companies to date are: Swift Results, Pikes Peak Association of Realtors, Assurance Properties, Accent Realty and Renovations, Berkshire Hathaway, and Muldoon Associates.

### Thank you to our Real Estate Build Sponsors:



**SwiftResults**.com  
FAST SALE • FAIR PRICE • NO FEES • NO HASSLES

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### Letter from a Board Member: Joel Hamilton



I have always been called to public service from an early age, participating in voluntary church youth service groups in my teenage years and later on getting involved with my own children's school and scouting service projects throughout whatever community we called home. Growing up in a military family, where my father served in the U.S. Air Force for 23 years, I learned at an early age the importance of selfless-service and belonging to a cause that is greater than self. This example steered me into my own 28-year career in the U.S. Army, providing both myself and my family the opportunity to make a difference in the 14 different communities we found ourselves in during our time in military service.

Despite living in so many different cities across the United States and abroad in Germany, the one constant was the realization that people can truly make a difference in the lives of others when they come together

united in a common cause. **It requires local community passion, involvement, and mobilization at the source of the issue to make lasting impact.**

My involvement with Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity has truly been life-changing for me and my wife. When you have the opportunity to visit with families who are working so hard to provide for themselves and their children, doing all of the right things, but are challenged by barriers in their path to home ownership and all that comes with it, such as pride, safety, security, and hope for the future – and you see their investment through “sweat equity” pay off on the day of a home dedication - you gain true life perspective. This is what the Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity experience has meant to me and my family – to be part of a cause bigger than self, and to walk a path of servant leadership within the community that is changing lives, one family at a time.

# You Are a Gift to Your Neighbor

Kris Medina  
Executive Director/CEO

A scripture verse from Galatians 5:14 describes all of your giving hearts so well. The verse is "For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"

In times of our community's great needs, whether locally, nationally and globally, you all give of yourselves to support our neighbors in need. Instead of being paralyzed by the overwhelming needs of the lack of affordable housing; economic and political strife; fire ravaged states; flooded towns and cities; earthquake shaken countries; and war-weary strangers - you take action. You do not sit idly by and wait for others to act because you have seen a need and are doing your part.

We at Pikes Peak Habitat witness your daily giving and are extremely grateful that you love your neighbors as yourself. Our dedicated volunteers provide gifts of time and skills; churches offer gifts of prayer and tithe; local companies offer gifts of funding, staff time and professional services to lift those in need. We also very much appreciate that you continue to support the local needs while expanding your outreach to those in extreme distress.

All this is summed up in a Chinese parable ~

*One day an elephant saw a hummingbird lying on its back with its tiny feet up in the air.*

*"What are you doing?" asked the elephant.*

*The hummingbird replied, "I heard that the sky might fall today, and so I am ready to help hold it up, should it fall."*

*The elephant laughed cruelly. "Do you really think," he said, "that those tiny feet could help hold up the sky?"*

*The hummingbird kept his feet up in the air, intent on his purpose as he replied, "Not alone. But each must do what he can. And this is what I can do."*



Thank you for doing what you can do!

**To help those affected by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, please visit our website at [pikespeakhabitat.org/press-releases](http://pikespeakhabitat.org/press-releases)**



**Pikes Peak  
Habitat  
for Humanity®**

2802 N. Prospect St.  
Colorado Springs, CO 80907

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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## habitat happenings

All events are open to the public.

**Pikes Peak Habitat Board of Directors meeting**

Monday, November 6 at 5:45 pm.  
Colorado Springs City Hall  
107 N. Nevada Ave., 2nd Floor

**Give Something Back at Great Storm Brewing**

Monday, November 13  
5:30 pm—8:30 pm.  
204 Mount View Lane #3  
\$1 for every pint sold goes to Pikes Peak Habitat.

**#GivingTuesday**

November 28, 2017

A global day dedicated to giving back.  
Support PPH by going to our website,  
[pikespeakhabitat.org/donate](http://pikespeakhabitat.org/donate)

**Colorado Gives Day**

December 5, 2017

An annual statewide movement to celebrate and  
increase philanthropy in Colorado. Give online at  
[www.coloradogives.org/pikespeakhabitat](http://www.coloradogives.org/pikespeakhabitat)