



coming home

The Newsletter of Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity

PIKESPEAKHABITAT.ORG

FALL 2018

Home Dedication

You are invited!

Homeowner Highlight

Home dedications are the icing on the Habitat cake, so to speak. They are the wonderful sweet celebration of another Habitat family completing the process of homeownership. On Saturday, January 12th, 2019, at 11:30 a.m. Pikes Peak Habitat will be ringing in the New Year with the dedication of Penny's home, and **Habitat supporters and members of the public are invited to join in the celebrations.**

In 2017 Penny became the sole provider for her niece's newborn twins. They were born prematurely and their mother could not take care of them. Social Services contacted Penny to see if she would assume custody of the babies. Without a second thought, Penny agreed, adding to the three older children she took custody of ten years ago. Now with a family of five children from infants to teens (Penny also has a son of her own who is grown and has his own family), Penny needed to find a more affordable and permanent home big enough for her and the five children.

"If I did not take these children, there would be no guarantee our family would have seen them again, or that they would have stayed together..."

With the new babies joining the family Penny's mobile home rental would not suffice. She packed up the family and moved to a rental home. Due to the high cost of rentals (according to Zillow.com in Nov. '18, the estimated cost in El Paso County for a five bedroom rental is \$2,128/mo.), Penny was forced to move to a home too small for the family. Even the cost of that house has added a financial strain for her.



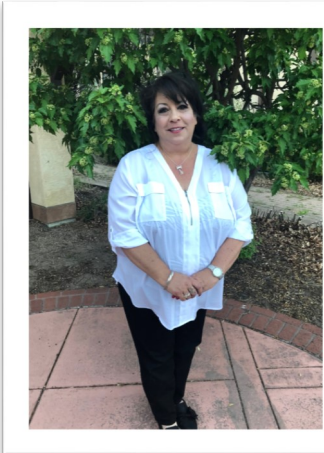
Penny and her family

Now as a future homeowner with Habitat, Penny no longer worries about how much or how often rent will increase. She will no longer need to move each year. Penny dreams of having a home where the whole family can sit down together for a meal. A home with a yard. A home where the children have their own rooms. These dreams are about to become a reality for Penny and her family.

Through Thrivent Financial's very generous act of love and kindness, agreeing to sponsor 50% of the cost to build a Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity home, Penny was selected as a future homeowner from a pool of applicants. To apply for Habitat homeownership, Penny had to demonstrate a need for affordable housing, including but not limited to

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unsafe, overcrowded, and unhealthy conditions or unaffordable payments; a willingness to partner with Habitat (she was required to complete 200 hours of “sweat equity” and attend mandatory homebuyer classes) and an ability to make monthly mortgage

payments upon purchasing her Habitat house with an affordable mortgage. Penny’s income must be within 35%-80% of the area median income for El Paso County, and for a family of six, that’s between \$31,546 and \$72,100 per year. Her mortgage payments will not exceed 28% of the gross household income at time of sale.

Throughout the 11 months it has taken to build Penny’s new home, many El Paso County (and beyond) church congregations have joined Thrivent in helping it to become a reality by financing the build and working on the construction site. Indeed over 3,000 hours of volunteer labor have built this home.

Many churches and individuals have volunteered and toiled on more than one occasion (some week in, week out), with others providing food, and running fundraisers such as Christ The King Lutheran Church (Colorado Springs) that donated the sales from its annual Pumpkin Patch.

Companies such as Mike Maroone Colorado took part in Pikes Peak Habitat’s corporate *Adopt-A-Day* team building program to support the build, and its employees very kindly donated the proceeds to Pikes Peak Habitat from a Honda and Acura classic car show in September, which they held. Students from the United States Air Force Academy Preparatory School spent six Saturdays working side-by-side with Penny on the construction of her new home (see guest commentary from one of the

students on page 7). And the final ingredient that makes the Habitat cake always rise and the roof go on are individual donors, whose yearly and recurring monthly gifts, when leveraged with volunteer labor and donated materials and services, make this all possible. **Thank you to one and all!**

Please join the Pikes Peak Habitat Board of Directors and the Colorado Springs Thrivent Financial team (this is the 12th build in El Paso County that Thrivent has supported), as they celebrate together another new permanent and affordable El Paso County home, and Penny’s achievement of homeownership.

“How nice it would be to go to bed and think, ‘I did it. We did it. We are homeowners and we are finally home.’”

Editor’s Note: Dedication ceremonies are held outside (weather permitting) and last about 45-60 minutes, concluding with an open house including light refreshments (and a cake!) after the ceremony. **ALL** are welcome! Check pikespeakhabitat.org or call 719.475.7800 on day of dedication should adverse weather etc. be forecasted.



What's NEW at the ReStore?



Wondering what to do with your leftover paint?

Now you can recycle it at the ReStore!

Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity's ReStore is the first ReStore in Colorado to be a certified PaintCare drop-off site. That means the paint we collect will be recycled by Green Sheen—sorted and managed for reuse, recycling, energy recovery, or safe disposal—and then can be resold in our ReStore. We can accept up to 10 gallons of paint per person. Partial gallons are also accepted. Paint accepted includes latex and oil-based house paint, stains and varnish in containers up to 5 gallons in size.

Please note: We do not accept aerosols (spray paint or other spray products), containers without original labels, or containers that are leaking or empty.

This is just another way we continue to keep products out of our local landfill.

We have materials for just about all your renovation projects, including cabinets, flooring, tile and more. We also have a large selection of furniture and light fixtures.

Come check us out!
ReStore | 411 S. Wahsatch Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Hours of operation:
Monday – Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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



Interfaith Build for Unity

A Call to ALL Hands from ALL Faiths

Every Faith Put Into Action

Working as a volunteer on the construction site for a Habitat home is already a wonderful community affirming experience! You get to do good while working along-side a great team. As one volunteer stated, it is too much joy!

What if you could make that experience even more community affirming by working along-side folks with very different backgrounds from your own—getting to know them and breaking down stereotypes, barriers and preconceptions? How nice would it be to volunteer and become friends with people from different ethnic and religious backgrounds than your own? If you are the kind of person who says, “Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me,” you are going to want to participate in our Interfaith Build for Unity.

The goal of the Interfaith Build for Unity is: “We will create an environment where a dedicated group of people of different faiths can safely come together in dialog and action to develop positive relationships and understanding of one another’s beliefs that will work to the benefit of the whole El Paso County community by promoting peace and reconciliation. We will put our faiths into action and work together to build affordable homes for low-income families.”

We are in the beginning stages of pulling like-minded folks together to venture into this effort. We are planning a kick-off meeting in late February and there will be several construction dates in 2019. Ultimately we are planning to dedicate our first Interfaith Build for Unity home in 2020.

We need every hand—YOUR hands—and every person—YOU—to help us with this effort. Call Iain at 719.475.7800 ext. 105 to find out more about how YOU can be the change you wish to see in the world!



A Hand Up, Not A Hand Out!



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.

Homeowner Services



Pikes Peak Habitat's Little Village Subdivision, Summer 2019. Designed by Larry Gilland and team (LGA Studios).

How does Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity make an Impact in El Paso County?

Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity engages in housing activities that help promote affordable housing. We have programs for individuals who are in need of permanent affordable housing and for individuals who already own their own home.

Homeownership

Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity's homeownership program offers qualified applicants the opportunity to help build and purchase their own home. Qualified applicants must meet three main criteria: a need for housing, an ability to repay an affordable mortgage and a willingness to partner with Habitat.

If you or someone you know is interested in purchasing a home, Habitat homeownership might be the solution.

From January 7th – 11th, 2019, Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity will be accepting applications for homeownership. If you are interested in learning more, check out our website at pikespeakhabitat.org/apply or call 719.475.7800 ext. 109.

Home Repair

Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity's Home Repair program is designed to assist those who own their own home, but lack adequate resources to make minor, exterior home improvements. Projects may address grading and drainage, porches, gutters and downspouts, siding, fencing, and handicap accessibility.

For a list of full criteria and to learn more about the program visit pikespeakhabitat.org/home-repair/ or call 719.475.7800 ext. 109.

A Letter from a Board Member



David Warner, Board President

Dear Reader,

Affordable housing has been a passion of mine since 1994 when I initially ran the Community Development Banking Division of the First National Bank of Chicago. For the next five years I participated in many not-for-profit boards specializing in lending for renovating and constructing low and moderate income residences (single family and multifamily as well as commercial properties.) Now as Market President for Great Western Bank in Colorado Springs, I continue to support affordable housing projects professionally and personally as the bank provides commercial affordable lending opportunities, provides event sponsorships to area not-for-profits, including Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity (PPHFH), and allows me time out of the work day to serve on PPFH committees. When asked what Habitat's outreach is, I respond **"We provide decent affordable homes to deserving families in El Paso County; and, we are doing God's work. We offer a hand up, not a hand out, to help families achieve the American Dream of homeownership."**

I am excited to say that I have now been serving as PPFH's Board President for four months, working shoulder to shoulder with Executive Director/CEO Kris Medina as we set the trajectory for the organization for the next five years. I relish the opportunity to work with Kris and the board to affect change and support our homebuilding program that builds up our homeowner families, in support of permanent, affordable housing in El Paso County. My primary goals for the fiscal year 2019 include: 1. Support the staff and to help our families and our community through expanding the repair and construction programs; 2. Finding land or lots for donation/sale and have an inventory for future homebuilding; 3. Expand ReStore's impact.

It is a privilege and an honor to serve PPFH and our community in any way I can; and, make a difference in the coming year. I pray we can all do God's work together here on earth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "D. Warner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Guest Commentary

Volunteer

As a Morale, Welfare and Recreation officer at the U.S. Air Force Academy Preparatory School, my vision was to plan events for the group that would be fun, but allow us to give back to the community. Habitat for Humanity helped me achieve this vision. With our volunteer opportunities occurring on Saturday, many cadet candidates at the Prep School give up their Saturdays to help make their community a better place.

After finishing our first volunteer day, quite a few people asked me about when were we coming back to volunteer because they had so much fun. Going out and learning new skills was fun, but it was also rewarding to meet people in the local area. One thing I loved was not only were we working with other volunteers, but we worked with the homeowners. This made me happy, because I was able to learn about the person who would live in the house I helped build.

I'm very busy in school with academics, football and military training. I'm usually up late at night working on assignments to stay ahead. However, I look forward to waking up early on Saturday to volunteer. I hope to earn an appointment to the Air Force Academy after graduating from the Preparatory School so I can continue my dream to make a difference in the world and become a pilot. My passion for both has carved me into the person I am today and continues to influence my growth.

Commentary By: Cadet Candidate Johnny Montgomery

USAFA Preparatory School, Habitat for Humanity

(The comments and opinions expressed in this commentary are the sole responsibility of the author and do not reflect the views of U.S. Air Force Academy Preparatory School, U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Air Force, or the Department of Defense and do not imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.)



United States Air Force Academy Preparatory School students, together with members of the 10th Air Base Wing Chaplains, take a well-earned break for a group photograph, while working on Penny's home. Also see cover page article.



2802 N. Prospect St.
Colorado Springs, CO 80907

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**PIKES PEAK HABITAT
FOR HUMANITY**

2802 N. Prospect St.
Colorado Springs, CO 80907
Ph. 719.475.7800
pikespeakhabitat.org

ReSTORE

411 S. Wahsatch Ave.
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
Ph. 719.667.0840 | Fax 719.477.1303
pikespeakhabitat.org/restore

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COMING HOME EDITOR

IAIN PROBERT

A partner agency of



Save the date

You are invited to participate!

Thrivent Financial Home Dedication & Celebration "Penny's Family"

Saturday, January 12th, 2019 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

226 Red Finch Lane

Fountain, CO 80817

Mission

Seeking to put God's love into action,
Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity brings people together
to build homes, communities and hope.