



# coming home

The Quarterly Newsletter of Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity

PIKESPEAKHABITAT.ORG

SPRING 2020

## Building Hope Amidst the COVID-19 Crisis

*New affordable homeownership development to begin in Colorado Springs*

Despite the challenges we have and will continue to face because of the COVID-19 pandemic, low-income families can still achieve their dreams of purchasing safe, permanent, and affordable homes. Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity (PPHFH) has had to make difficult decisions and adapt our operations to ensure the safety of our partner families, volunteers, customers, staff, and our community, but we are committed to bringing people together to build homes, communities, and hope, even in these tough times.

In late March we reluctantly closed our ReStore for 10 days to ensure the safety of staff and volunteers. When the ReStore reopened, sales were restricted to essential construction items until April 27. Many of you know that our ReStore is a major source of funding for our homebuilding operations. This closure, the subsequent restricted sales, and the reduced volunteering opportunities across the affiliate have led us to reduce the number of new homes that we will build in our upcoming fiscal year. Instead of building nine homes, we will now concentrate on six. However, we will also restart our home repair program with six projected repairs on owner-occupied, qualifying homes.

To consolidate our construction activity and associated costs, we have shifted our planned build locations and delayed breaking ground on the Jacob's Run and Micah's View neighborhoods in Fountain. Instead, in addition to finishing three homes in progress in our Country Living neighborhood in Fountain, we will shift our focus to new home construction in Colorado Springs.

Recently, PPFH received an unprecedented and tremendously generous donation from local nonprofit Love in Action of 30 developed lots inside of a 90-home neighborhood, called The Ridge at Sand Creek. Love In Action donated the land, provided the expertise to obtain

**“Love in Action’s gift to PPFH of 30 developed residential lots and Pikes Peak Habitat’s ability to build affordable and safe homes on the donated land is a delightful way to build community and hope.”**

the governmental entitlements to build the lots, and managed the construction of the lots. Donating land and delivering it in a ready to start home construction format is a huge benefit to PPFH as it prevents us from expending time, effort, and costs in the areas that we don't have particular expertise. These donated lots make it possible to build 30 homes to be sold to Habitat partner families. “It is exciting when two nonprofits can come together to leverage their individual missions to serve more El Paso County residents through permanent, affordable housing. Love in Action’s gift to PPFH of 30 developed residential lots and Habitat’s ability to build affordable and safe homes on the donated land is a delightful way to build community and hope,” said Kris Medina, PPFH Executive Director/CEO.

As we continue to partner with families to help them build strength, stability, and self-reliance through affordable homeownership, we know that the COVID-19 pandemic will continue to weaken vulnerable families across our nation and local community, particularly when it comes to housing. The shortage of safe, decent, and affordable housing was already at crisis levels in El Paso County pre-COVID-19. Now as before, PPFH continues to partner with our dedicated community to bring affordable homeownership to our neighbors in need as we all work toward our vision of a world where everyone has a decent place to call home. Find out how you can build homes, community, and hope on the back page of this newsletter.

# Putting Faith in Action with Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity

**Streaming now: Our first-ever virtual Ground Blessing!**

2020 marks the 15th year of partnership between Pikes Peak Habitat, Thrivent Financial, and local churches located in El Paso County. The *Thrivent Faith Build* is a tradition that brings together the Body of Christ to provide safety, security, and self-reliance for a local family. And despite the challenges that 2020 has brought, we are dedicated to ensuring that Crystal and her family will find peace, hope, and love in their new home.

One of the most heartwarming aspects of a Thrivent Faith Build is the Ground Blessing. Not only does this symbolic breaking of ground kick-off the construction of Crystal's new home, but it also represents the community rallying around her family with prayer, encouragement, love, partnership, and service. Because we were unable to meet in person this year, we decided to bless Crystal and her home virtually. Eric Stolp, PPHFH Board Member and Thrivent Financial Community Engagement Leader, shared, "Although this event looks a little different this year, it is still a very exciting milestone that is worth celebrating. . . . When it is safe to be back on the build site, we look forward to serving alongside you all and helping build this home for Crystal and her family."

Watch the video by visiting [pikespeakhabitat.org/thriventbuild](http://pikespeakhabitat.org/thriventbuild) or by scanning the QR Code.



Scan to watch the Thrivent Faith Build Ground Blessing Video



Bringing our community together with the Interfaith Build for Unity (picture taken pre-COVID-19)

## The Interfaith Build for Unity, Coming Soon!

El Paso County is a community made up of people from a variety of different beliefs, ideologies, theologies, political perspectives, and more. Despite our differences, we believe that there is more that unites us than divides us. And one of the things that we all can agree upon is that everyone deserves a safe and decent place to call home.

This fall, we will be bringing people together from all faiths (and no faiths) to stand side-by-side and build for unity. Keep an eye on the Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity Facebook page and website for some exciting news and details!

Until then, are you a part of a faith community that may be interested in participating in the Interfaith Build for Unity? If so, reach out to Dustin Alarid, our Faith in Action Program Manager. He will be happy to chat with you about how your community can be part of this monumental new project. Dustin can be reached at [dustin@pikespeakhabitat.org](mailto:dustin@pikespeakhabitat.org) and 719-722-4967.



Future Thrivent Faith Build Homeowner Crystal

# Letter from the Executive Director/CEO



*Kris Medina, Executive Director/CEO*

Dear Friends,

Here at Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity, our mission to put God's love into action by bringing people together to build homes, communities, and hope has not changed. However, how we carry out that mission looks a little different these days. Since the outbreak, we have made several operational adjustments to ensure the safety and health of our partner families, volunteers, customers, staff, and our community at large. We promptly enabled business office staff to work remotely and closed the office to the public. We implemented a 10-day closure of our construction sites and ReStore at the end of March and then re-opened both on a restricted basis.

After the short pause in construction activity, we have continued to build with our construction staff of three

and our dedicated Core Volunteers, while implementing protocols adhering to social distancing, sanitization guidelines and utilizing personal protective equipment.

Because of these efforts, we have finished the 2<sup>nd</sup> Real Estate Build for Lisa's family and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Veteran Build for Ron and Amanda's family! We have released a virtual Home Dedication video for the two families to celebrate, so if you haven't seen it, look out for that on our website ([pikespeakhabitat.org](http://pikespeakhabitat.org)) and social media pages.

Now, our ReStore and construction programs, both qualifying "essential business" segments, are open to the public on a more expanded basis and continuing with safety protocols, such as wearing masks, practicing social distancing, and frequently disinfecting equipment and common areas. We continue to limit volunteer opportunities at both the ReStore and construction sites for the foreseeable future. Please visit our website to learn how to contact our volunteer coordinators and the current volunteering guidelines to meet federal, state, and local safety measures. We need you and your dedication to service and want you to join us in our endeavors to lift others up to the opportunities affordable housing can provide! We also respect the need to do this mindfully and safely for all involved.

In this time of crisis, Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity's work is so desperately needed — because everyone should have a decent and safe place to live. Whether working remotely, on the construction sites, or at the ReStore, our staff and volunteers continue to work diligently to serve our partner families and our expanding community. We're also excited to debut our 2019 Year-in-Review (page 4/5) highlighting last year's life-changing impact, thanks to you — our donors, volunteers, partner organizations, and local community members. Your dedication and generosity allows us to build homes, communities, and hope.

In Partnership,

*Kristina Medina*

## **PPHFH BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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*President*

MARTHA JOHNSON,  
*Vice President*

RYAN PANARISO,  
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PETER SCANLON,  
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RYAN TEEPLES

LAUREL THORSTENSEN

BARBARA TREACY

BILL WALL

## **PPHFH LEAD STAFF**

KRIS MEDINA,  
*Executive Director/CEO*

STEPHANIE CAMPBELL,  
*Director of Finance*

GREG KOVACH,  
*Director of Operations*

IAIN PROBERT,  
*Director of Strategic Partnerships*

JANET RISLEY,  
*Director of Homeowner Services & Real Estate Management*

JEFF WHITE,  
*Chief Operations Officer*

## **COMING HOME EDITOR**

SARAH BUNCH,  
*Donor Relations Manager*



# 2019 Year in Review

**6**

homes built with net proceeds from ReStore

**recycled materials**

288 tons of metal  
42 tons of porcelain  
780 yards of cardboard  
225k gallons of paint

**16**

lives transformed through our Homeownership Program

**donations**

**ReStore**  
Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity

**sales**

**13**

homes in progress

**\$130,327**

reinvested into the community through Habitat homeowners' property tax payments

**134**

hours of homebuyer education completed by future homeowners

**17,345**

ReStore volunteer hours

**Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity**

**\$160,500**

the average cost to build a PPHFH home

**deconstruction**

1,764 volunteer hrs  
10 homes  
116 volunteers

**18,645**

donations to the Restore  
16,679 drop offs  
1,966 pickups

**29,122**

construction volunteer hours

**under construction**

**1,905**

individual construction volunteers

**tithe impact**

**226**

families served since 1986

**14yrs**

of partnership with Thrivent Financial

**faith**

**CityServe Day volunteering at PPHFH sites**

120 volunteers  
720 volunteer hrs

**Transforming lives.**

**Building community.**

**Thank You to the Donors, Volunteers, Partner Organizations, and Local Community Members Who Made This Possible! ♥**

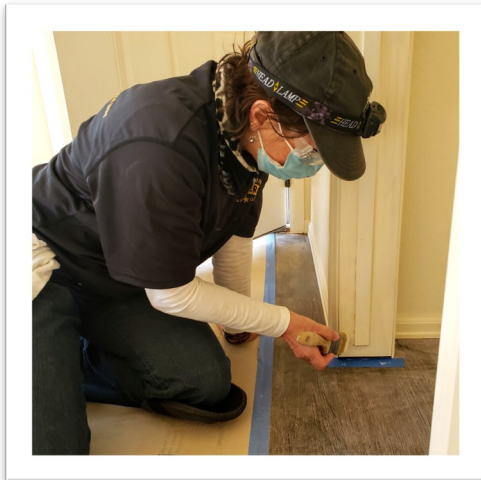
# Core Volunteers Prove Essential to Construction

The lifeblood of our organization, volunteers, build 90% of a Habitat home. Habitat relies upon volunteer support to keep costs down, allowing for affordable mortgages to be provided to its homeowners and to continue building homes for low-income families throughout El Paso County. During the COVID-19 outbreak, Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity (PPHFH) has prioritized the health and safety of the people in the communities we serve, as well as the staff, volunteers, and partners who help carry out our mission.

After a temporary closure in March, we reopened our construction sites, implementing many operational changes so that we could safely pick up where we left off. However, this would not have been possible without the help of a group of dedicated men and women who volunteer with us weekly: our Core Volunteers. Their service and hard work are vital to our construction efforts, even more so lately, as they continue to prove their commitment to building with PPFH while our construction sites have been closed to the general public. A small number of Core Volunteers have been on-site each day, Wednesday through Saturday, and the progress they have made in the past month or so has been tremendous. The Core Volunteers' hard work and dedication has achieved significant progress in siding, insulation, drywall, shed building, trim, interior, roofing, excavation, foundation, and fencing work projects.



*Core Volunteers John Lesnak (left) and Mike Crusham (right) milling lumber for a home*



*Core Volunteer Diane Salkovich painting a home's interior*

These volunteers are used to the hard work of building homes, but these days, the routine is a little different. Before the day of their shift, volunteers are screened for symptoms of illness or contact with confirmed COVID-19 cases and asked to stay home if either is apparent. Volunteers and staff wear face masks while on-site and maintain social distancing by splitting into small teams across the construction sites. And at the end of each day, equipment such as hard hats, safety glasses, and tools are disinfected by staff to ensure the safety of the next day's volunteers.

The need of our neighbors has never been more pronounced. This extraordinary group of volunteers continues to build with PPFH because they believe in our mission to provide safe, decent, and affordable housing for families here in El Paso County. They also work alongside our future homeowners and have formed endearing relationships with the families, so it's personal for them. Their heartfelt commitment to helping families realize their dreams of first-time homeownership is especially appreciated during this time.

Habitat builds strength, stability, and self-reliance through shelter. It's only because of the devotion of our Core Volunteers who are willing to venture out and serve the El Paso County community during this time that we can continue building homes, communities, and hope for our neighbors in need. Thank you to all of our Core Volunteers!

**Our construction sites are now open to the general public!**

**To learn more and sign up to volunteer, visit [pikespeakhabitat.org/volunteer](https://pikespeakhabitat.org/volunteer) or contact Construction Volunteer Coordinator Sarah Buchen at 719.290.1969 or [volunteer@pikespeakhabitat.org](mailto:volunteer@pikespeakhabitat.org).**





# Volunteers are the Heart of the ReStore



*Core Volunteers Ed Hettler (left) and Bob Ray (right) sorting donations*

During any regular month, around 200 volunteers support operations at our ReStore. By dedicating their time and expertise, volunteers provide much-needed support to the organization of inventory and assisting customers. Their volunteerism enables the ReStore to process more donations, serve more customers, and achieve more sales. The net proceeds of ReStore sales help fund Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity's programs: new home construction, repairs program, and homeowner services. Through their service, ReStore volunteers fundamentally advance our mission to help low-income families achieve their dreams of affordable homeownership in El Paso County.

At the end of March, the ReStore closed for 10 days to help ensure the health and safety of our customers, staff, and community. Following the closure, the ReStore reopened in a limited capacity and adopted several procedures so that we could continue to serve our community safely. These procedures include sanitizing the entire store, enacting social distancing protocols, as well as requiring all staff to wear masks and gloves. We also ask all customers to wear face coverings when shopping at the ReStore. During the ReStore's reduced operations, we could only sell essential construction items, and, unfortunately, could not utilize volunteer support. Our volunteers' absence was a firm reminder of the immeasurable magnitude they have on our ability to serve our community. The ReStore is now back at full operations, including welcoming volunteers back in the store. "We have some of the greatest volunteers anyone could hope for!" said ReStore Volunteer Coordinator Dusty Last. "As a staff member, I've had the opportunity over the past years to get to know these amazing people. They do so much for us. They sort, prepare, and price all of the items that are donated. They are a wealth of knowledge for our customers. They keep our departments organized and tidy. They are the heart of our ReStore."



*Core Volunteer Suzanne Ballard sorting donations*



*Core Volunteer Janna Blanton pricing products*

There is a dedicated group of people that regularly dedicate their time and talents to the ReStore: our Core Volunteers. Suzanne, a Core Volunteer, has been volunteering with the ReStore for over 14 years. She shared that she started volunteering to support her community and stays because she makes a positive difference in so many lives. Suzanne said, "It makes me feel good inside! I know I help improve other peoples' lives. Why would I ever stop doing something that makes me feel that good?" Ed and Bob, also Core Volunteers, have been with the ReStore for almost 10 years. They both enjoy being a part of the ReStore team and speak of the camaraderie and friendships they have built while working to make a difference in our community. Janna, a new volunteer, shared that even though she is working full-time, she felt she could do more to make a positive impact locally and found this to be true as a ReStore volunteer. Whether new or seasoned, what unites all of our ReStore volunteers is their dedication, their generosity, and their willingness to lift others up to create a better El Paso County community! To learn more and sign up to volunteer, visit [pikespeakhabitat.org/volunteer](http://pikespeakhabitat.org/volunteer) or contact ReStore Volunteer Coordinator Dusty Last at 719.213.5655 or [restorevolunteer@pikespeakhabitat.org](mailto:restorevolunteer@pikespeakhabitat.org).



2802 N. Prospect St.  
Colorado Springs, CO 80907

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Our Mission**

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

**Our Vision**

A world where everyone has a decent place to live.



## HELP BUILD HOMES, COMMUNITIES, AND HOPE BY MAKING A GIFT!

### MONETARY DONATIONS

Donate Online: [pikespeakhabitat.org/donate](http://pikespeakhabitat.org/donate)

**Pikes Peak Enterprise Zone 25% State Tax Credit**

Check donations of \$250 or more

**GIFT SOCIETIES**

- Hope Builders
- 1986 Club

**OTHER WAYS**

- Planned Giving
- IRA Distributions, Stocks/Securities
- Employer Matching Gifts
- Gifts In Honor or Memory
- Adopt-A-Day Sponsorships

**QUESTIONS? CALL 719.475.7800 EXT. 110**

### MATERIAL DONATIONS TO RESTORE



- Visit our Website for a List of Acceptable Donations
- Drop off Donations at ReStore Donation Dock
- Schedule a Free Pickup on our Website or by Phone

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

**RESTORE DONATION HOURS: RESTORE DONATION HOTLINE:**

Monday – Saturday  
9:30 AM – 4:30 PM

719.667.0841



**BUSINESS OFFICE**

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

**RESTORE**

411 S. Wahsatch Ave.  
Colorado Springs, CO 80903  
Ph: 719.667.0840

**Stay Connected!**

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

**Follow Us on Social Media!**



# Federal CARES Act Includes Charitable Giving Tax Break for Donors

The recently passed CARES Act includes new and increased financial incentives for those who want to make donations in support of qualified charities, like Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity (PPHFH)! If you're able to donate during this time, please consider donating to our El Paso County Housing Stability Fund. Learn more about the fund below or at [pikespeakhabitat.org/housingstabilityfund](https://pikespeakhabitat.org/housingstabilityfund).

## If You Take the Standard Deduction:

You can take an "above the line" tax deduction for direct donations\* made to qualifying charities in 2020, **up to \$300 per return, in addition to the standard deduction.**

## If You Itemize Your Deductions:

You can take a tax deduction of **up to 100%** of your Adjusted Gross Income for direct donations\* made to qualifying charities in 2020. So, individuals who itemize their deductions can greatly or completely reduce their taxable income for 2020 through a cash donation to Pikes Peak Habitat!

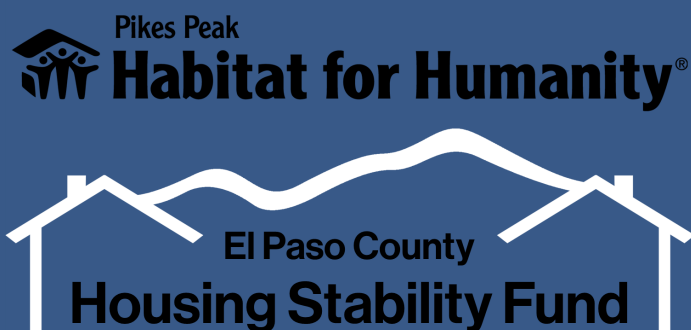
## Corporate Donations:

Corporations can take a tax deduction of **up to 25%** of their Adjusted Tax Income for direct donations\* made to qualifying charities in 2020, up from the previous limit of 10%.

\*These provisions only apply to direct contributions to charities and are not applicable for donations made through donor-advised funds, private non-operating foundations, and supporting organizations.

The Enterprise Zone tax credit offers a 25% Colorado state credit for donations \$250+ to PPFH. However, these donations are not also eligible for the additional tax credits listed above.

**Please consult your accountant or tax preparer for more information about these changes and how they can help you help others during the COVID-19 crisis.**



The El Paso County Housing Stability Fund was created in response to the COVID-19 crisis to help current Habitat homeowners keep their homes and to help build safe, affordable homes for low-income families in El Paso County.

Habitat is needed now more than ever. And now more than ever, we need YOU.

Please donate online at [pikespeakhabitat.org](https://pikespeakhabitat.org) or mail a check with the included envelope.

Every donation to this fund goes directly towards helping current & future Habitat homeowners in El Paso County achieve strength, stability, and self-reliance through affordable homeownership. Thank you! 