

Second ReStore Expands Capacity to Serve

Both stores provide much-needed funds to build and repair homes



Inside view of ReStore Northeast

After many years of planning and several months of construction, Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity (PPHFH) opened its second ReStore location in northeast Colorado Springs (6250 Tutt Blvd.) with a grand opening ceremony in September of last year. If you're not familiar with this major fundraising arm of Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity, our ReStores are home improvement stores and donation recycling centers that sell building materials, new and gently used furniture, appliances, and home accessories at a fraction of the retail price. The proceeds of customer purchases and revenue generated from recycling help fund Pikes Peak Habitat's critical work – the construction, renovation, and repair of homes for families and individuals in El Paso County and around the world.

Our new ReStore is a spacious 22,550-square-foot and located in the Dublin Commons shopping center off of Powers and Dublin boulevards. It also boasts a drive-thru donation center and a large parking lot that ensure a convenient shopping experience for our customers. Like our first location near downtown Colorado Springs (411 S. Wahsatch Ave.), the new store is fully stocked with all kinds of materials to build, renovate, and decorate homes – all at 50-70% below retail prices! An exciting addition for both stores, we've recently added new mattresses to our inventories. "Shoppers can find unique and high-quality items, such as furniture, lighting fixtures, tiles, and paint, but inventory changes frequently, so stop by soon and often. We wish to thank our donors, supporters, shoppers, and the entire El Paso County community for helping to make this store possible," said Jeff White, PPHFH Chief Retail Officer.

In fiscal year 2021 alone, our southern ReStore location generated \$902,000 in net profits to help support Habitat's mission while also diverting 11,554 tons of reusable material from landfills. Now, the new store has doubled ReStore's fundraising capacity. Every purchase and every donation made at our ReStores not only uplift the homes of our customers, but also lift up families in need of a decent, affordable place to call home.

Both ReStore locations are open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The donation drive-thru closes one hour before closing each day. Both ReStore locations are powered by small staff teams and rely heavily on volunteers to support operations. ReStore is currently hiring full-time and part-time positions and both stores need more volunteers. Our southern location particularly needs more volunteer groups. To shop, donate, volunteer, or learn more about our ReStore job openings, please visit our stores. More information about volunteering and our job openings can also be found on our website, pikespeakhabitat.org.



WE'RE ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR OUR VETERAN HOMEOWNERSHIP PROGRAM

This application cycle will remain open until a qualified veteran applicant is found. Learn more about the program and its qualifications at pikespeakhabitat.org/veteranbuild

Five New Families Partner with Habitat



On January 22, we held a combined Ground Blessing ceremony for our five current partner families. This celebration marked the beginning of their journey to affordable homeownership through their partnership with Pikes Peak Habitat. Each element of a Habitat future homeowner's journey is crucial to building a stable foundation for their family. Every one of our future homeowners completes over 15 hours of mandatory first-time homebuyer classes that include topics such as Money Management, Being a Good Neighbor & HOAs, and Home Maintenance. Each one also completes at least 200 hours of sweat equity – volunteer work at our construction sites, ReStores, or business office.

Once their home is built, partner families purchase their home with a mortgage made affordable through the support of our community partnerships, donors, and volunteers. These hardworking families are truly our partners, and they need our hand up now more than ever.

Left to right, future homeowners Prisca, Anna, Noella, and Perla shovel dirt at the Ground Blessing ceremony alongside PPHFH Board Member Chuck Smith, PPHFH Construction Supervisor Alex St. Clair, PPHFH Director of Homeowner Programs Janet Risley, and PPHFH Executive Director/CEO Kris Lewis

With extreme demand and a historically low supply of properties available in El Paso County, the cost of housing in the Pikes Peak region continues to rise at a seemingly insurmountable pace. Now more than ever, our work requires all of us, together. By empowering families and eliminating barriers to affordable homeownership, together, we create stable homes and communities. Together, we build successes that impact others far beyond what we can imagine. From attending homeowner courses to completing sweat equity hours, each step empowers future homeowners and helps create the access and skills they need to succeed. Your support makes this possible! Thank you for your dedication to helping Habitat strive toward our vision of a world where everyone has a decent place to call home.



Left to right, future homeowners Jennifer and Perla working on sweat equity hours

Blessings Abound

Reflections from Laurel Thorstensen, recently retired PPHFH board member, on her ministry of service with Habitat



Laurel Thorstensen, past Pikes Peak Habitat board member

I retired and moved from Minnesota to Colorado Springs seventeen years ago. I remember how back then, I would see television stories telling of the work of Habitat for Humanity. I was always moved seeing anything about Habitat and so wished that I could volunteer, but my life as a parish pastor and the distance of a Habitat project did not allow it.

But, we moved to Colorado Springs and shortly heard of Thrivent sponsoring its first Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity home. That home was to be built within a mile of where we live. God works in mysterious ways! My husband and I volunteered on that home, and we developed a very serious case of “Habititis”. With the first swing of a hammer, I realized my new ministry!

Now fifteen years later, we still work at a Habitat site or ReStore nearly every Thursday. Worship now has an extended avenue of meaning for me. As a volunteer, I have met and come to love so many of our Habitat homeowners. I have worked alongside them as they completed their sweat equity hours. As a volunteer, I have come to know and love other volunteers who have become good friends. They give so happily and unselfishly of their time to help dreams come true.

My passion for decent, affordable housing has grown exponentially. Permanent housing provides stability for our families – financially, educationally, and emotionally. As a retired member of the Pikes Peak Habitat Board of Directors, I have talked to so many folks who have supported this mission financially and with love and prayers and work. I thank God for each of you and your passion and perseverance in the work of Habitat. I look forward to continuing to work with you to provide decent, affordable housing through Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity. We are blessed people; let us continue to be blessings to so many others.

In faith and hope,
Laurel Thorstensen

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Did you know ReStore South accepts volunteer groups?



We can accept large groups of up to 20 people for full- or half-day shifts. To find out more or schedule your team's volunteer day at ReStore South, contact ReStore Volunteer Coordinator Dusty Last at 719-213-5655 or restorevolunteer@pikespeakhabitat.org.






What's Happening on the Build Site

The Ridge at Sand Creek in Colorado Springs:

So far in 2022, we completed the following homes:

-  1st Interfaith Build for Unity
-  2021 Thrivent Faith Build

We began construction of the following homes in January:

-  2022 Apostles Build
-  2nd Interfaith Build for Unity
-  2022 Board Build

We will begin two more homes this summer with all five homes expected to be completed by the end of the year.



Home Repairs Move Forward Thanks to Community Partnerships

Partnerships are a fundamental aspect of Pikes Peak Habitat's work as we carry out our mission to "bring people together to build homes, communities, and hope." The generosity of our community partners vitally enables Habitat to leverage our resources and create opportunities for families and individuals to have a safe and affordable place to call home. Since relaunching our Home Repair Program in 2020, our repair efforts have been greatly bolstered by the commitment of our generous community partners.

The Ent Credit Union Community Fund of Pikes Peak Community Foundation helped Pikes Peak Habitat expand our Home Repair Program by supporting the purchase and design of a trailer that stores and transports the tools and equipment needed for repairs. Their funding helped our staff and volunteers complete 13 repair projects for veterans, seniors, and workforce families throughout El Paso County since 2020.



Ent employees Candy Vandenberg (PPHFH Board of Directors) and Rick Nieves (Habitat for Humanity of Pueblo Board of Directors Vice President) in front of the newly designed trailer

This year, the Myron Stratton Foundation has awarded a \$150,000 grant to fund a new program called the Senior Home Modification program, created in collaboration between Pikes Peak Habitat and Silver Key Senior Services. The program will provide home safety and accessibility improvements such as installing interior grab bars, chairlifts, and ADA-approved door handles and thresholds, as well as building exterior ramps and railings and roof repairs. The Senior Home Modification program's services are still being finalized between Habitat and Silver Key and will be available soon.

Reflecting on Habitat on the Hill 2022: Building a More Equitable Future



In early February, Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity joined over 600 home affordability advocates from all over the country at Habitat's second virtual legislative conference, with a focus on "Building a More Equitable Future." Building on the virtual foundation laid in 2021, this year's conference welcomed new and seasoned advocates alike, providing opportunities to engage even more supporters to raise a larger collective voice.

This year's conference included insight from esteemed keynote speakers and housing policy experts. It also provided virtual

networking opportunities with peers from across the country and facilitated discussions on policy solutions at all levels of government to improve equity in housing. Training included dialogue on the increasing need for housing supply and how we can advocate to address it, as well as opportunities to advance our collective Cost of Home goal to improve home affordability for 10 million people. The conference culminated in "Virtual Capitol Hill Day" – meetings with congressional offices to advocate directly for our policy priorities.

These congressional meetings are the heart of Habitat on the Hill and provide the best opportunity to make Habitat's united priorities clear to their members of Congress. Given the historically low supply of affordable homes, the coordinated Habitat on the Hill 2022 legislative asks included:

FIRST ASK: Support the Community Restoration and Revitalization Fund (CRRF) – an effective policy solution to support nonprofit developers like Habitat to create or preserve single-family homes for affordable homeownership and build civic infrastructure.

SECOND ASK: Relating to appropriations, finalize the fiscal year 2022 budget and support vital housing and community development federal programs in the fiscal year 2023 budget. For the FY23 budget, we asked legislators to fund:

- Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) at \$1.9 billion. Administered to states through Housing and Urban Development (HUD), HOME funds support Habitat's work to repair, rehabilitate, or reconstruct owner-occupied housing, and support land acquisition, infrastructure improvements, new construction, demolition, and down payment assistance. Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity has used HOME funds to support over 20 families in our Woodmen Vistas, Cucharras/Institute, and Dale Street neighborhoods.
- Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program (SHOP) at \$20 million. This program is also administered through HUD. Habitat affiliates use SHOP funds to purchase land and vacant homes and to develop infrastructure, enabling families the opportunity to own a Habitat home.
- Section 502 Single Family Housing Direct Loan Program (USDA502) at \$2 billion. Administered through the United States Department of Agriculture, this is the only federal homeownership loan program that exclusively assists low- and very-low-income families living in rural areas, helping them to secure safe, decent, and affordable homes. In the past 60 years, more than 2.1 million families in rural communities have achieved homeownership through this program.

To learn more about how you can be involved in supporting Habitat's advocacy work, visit pikespeakhabitat.org/costofhome.

Breaking New Ground: An Update on Pikes Peak Habitat's Faith Programs

In the past couple of months, Pikes Peak Habitat has celebrated some exciting milestones in the world of faith relations.

The "Building As One" Interfaith Initiative

In 2010, the United Nations proclaimed the first week in February annually as World Interfaith Harmony Week to showcase the importance of interfaith dialogue among people of diverse faith backgrounds, belief systems, and spiritual practices as well as spreading the ideals of dignity, respect, and care for one's neighbor. This year, the Faith Relations Committee created the "Building As One" Initiative in recognition of the 2022 World Interfaith Harmony Week. Throughout the first week of February, Pikes Peak Habitat celebrated this special occasion by:

- Creating a new webpage where individuals could take actionable steps to engage with this initiative daily
- Hosting an interfaith dialogue event on Sunday, Feb. 6th which brought together individuals representing diverse faiths and beliefs to discuss the state of affordable housing in El Paso County and learn from one another
- Publishing a public declaration in recognition of the U.N. initiative and inviting the public to consider signing in support



Table discussion during the "Building as One: Interfaith Dialogue Surrounding Housing Affordability" event



Ms. Andino and her son Michael in front of their newly completed home

Celebrating our First Interfaith Build for Unity Home Dedication

Since its creation, the Interfaith Build for Unity (IBU) has encouraged people from a diverse set of faiths, spiritual practices, and beliefs to put aside their differences, put their faith into action, and work together to build homes, communities, and hope. The IBU project provides an opportunity for individuals from diverse backgrounds to volunteer alongside a group from a different belief tradition on our construction site – creating conversations of tolerance and support for one another while helping to build a home for a local family.

After a year of hard work, Pikes Peak Habitat celebrated the first IBU home dedication on March 27th with a diverse coalition of volunteers, faith communities, and donors. During the event, attendees were invited to participate in a traditional round dance led by the Native American Women's Association and welcomed Ms. Andino and her family home. Though the first IBU home is finished, the unity, fellowship, and hard work continue as the second IBU house is already underway.

Celebrating the Final Thrivent Faith Build Home Dedication and 2022 Apostles Build Faith Leader Kickoff

On January 22nd, Pikes Peak Habitat, Thrivent, and El Paso County churches came together to pray a blessing over our 2021 Thrivent Faith Build partner family, present them with keys to their new home, and welcome them into their new neighborhood. When Brittany opened the door to her family's new home, it marked the start of a new chapter in their lives – a dream realized by the generosity of Thrivent, the home's sponsor, and local churches, volunteers, and donors who put their faith into action.

This home dedication marked the completion of our 15th and final Thrivent Faith Build Home – a remarkable achievement that speaks to 16 years of dedicated partnership with Thrivent in building homes, communities, and hope for local families in El Paso County. Though the Thrivent Faith Build program is ending, we continue to work with Thrivent to identify partnership opportunities that strategically align with both of our organizations.

Eric Stolp, Thrivent's local Community Engagement Leader and a Pikes Peak Habitat board member, shared, "We have decided that the traditional Thrivent Faith Build program will be sun-setting, and our partnership will be evolving into new, exciting areas. Moving forward, Thrivent will continue to partner with and support Pikes Peak Habitat in a variety of ways including sponsoring international and domestic disaster recovery trips, and supporting local affiliates through Thrivent action teams."



Noella, one of our 2022 Apostles Faith Build future homeowners, shares her family's story at the 2022 Apostles Build Faith Leader Kickoff

Though the Thrivent Faith Build is ending, Pikes Peak Habitat is continuing our faith build efforts through our 2022 Apostles Faith Build, which is supported in part by Thrivent transitional funding. The Apostles Build is an ecumenical Christian house-building project that raises walls, funds, and prayers to make a difference in the lives of a local family.

Faith leaders and pastors representing churches from across El Paso County came together on March 3rd for the Apostles Build Kickoff Event. Faith leaders had the opportunity to learn about the faith roots of Habitat for Humanity since its inception in 1976, hear about ways their congregation can engage with our faith programs locally and globally, and engage in fellowship with other local faith leaders. Additionally, we were honored to hear from Noella, one of our Apostles Build future homeowners. We are excited to partner with church congregations to build the 2022 Apostles Build Home, and for this new stage in our partnership with Thrivent as we continue to come together as the body of Christ to work towards creating a world where everyone, everywhere has a decent place to live.



Eric Stolp, PPHFH board member and Thrivent Engagement Specialist welcomes Brittany's family home during the their home dedication ceremony



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.



Business Office

2802 N. Prospect St.
Colorado Springs, CO



Questions about financial donations,
volunteering, or our housing programs?
719.475.7800



Donate to give a hand up, not a hand out
to a deserving family in need

Make a donation online or mail a check to
our business office



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Northeast Location

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Monday - Saturday
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