

Construction and Conservation *How Pikes Peak Habitat Is Building Greener*

Environmental stewardship is an important value here at Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity, and our construction crew is constantly working to make our new homes greener, more energy-efficient, and more water-friendly. We've implemented some exciting changes, with more in the works!

"We build our houses very tight," explains Eric Wells, Pikes Peak Habitat construction superintendent. "We want to keep the energy that we put into the air and water inside of the house, so if we cool a house down to, say, 70 degrees and it's 90 outside, we don't want any of that hot air coming in or cold air escaping. If we can minimize that, then we're making an energy-efficient house."

To help realize this goal, Pikes Peak Habitat's new homes use heat-pump technology for both water heaters and mini-split air-conditioning systems. "What heat pump technology does," says Wells, "is it pulls the heat out of the surrounding air, the ambient temperature, and then it moves it to somewhere else." Rather than generating heat, these pumps utilize already existing heat molecules, making them extremely energy-efficient. Construction staff also use dense fiberglass insulation and foam board to seal leaks in home frames, ensuring even more energy efficiency.

New homes are equipped with Energy Star-certified appliances, and garages have plugs for charging electric vehicles.

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Go Green with the ReStores

Our ReStores keep tons (literally!) of material out of landfills every year. We recycle paint, porcelain, and metal. We also love upcycling! Read more on page 6, and check out the profile of local artist Ania Milo, who refurbished a home using paint, lumber, fixtures, tools, and furniture from the ReStores.



Pikes Peak Habitat Thanks Our Volunteers

April 15-21 is National Volunteer Week, and we celebrated with our annual Volunteer Appreciation Event, held at The Pinery at the Hill on April 20. See the recap, including award winners, on page 7.

Honoring Our Veterans

Pikes Peak Habitat values our veterans and thanks them for their service. In this issue, read about veteran recognition through our

- Roof deployment (p. 5)
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Partnering to Serve

*Reflections from Kris Lewis, executive director/CEO
at Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity*

Partnership is key to what we do and how we do it at Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity. We partner with workforce families who invest sweat equity in building their homes. We partner with seniors, veterans, and other cost-burdened homeowners in need of critical repairs – who find inspiring ways to “pay it forward” in their communities. We partner with local and state leaders to promote initiatives and policies that support affordable homeownership. And we partner with the many people who donate, shop at, and volunteer in our ReStores.



Kris Lewis

We wouldn't be able to do any of this – to work toward our vision of a world where everyone has a decent, affordable place to live – without the partnership of our corporate sponsors, individual donors, faith communities, volunteers, and other organizations who support us in so many different ways.

In this issue of *Coming Home*, we celebrate some of these partners and the opportunities made possible through collaboration. We rejoice with five families who have recently commemorated milestones – ground blessings and home dedications. We also recognize the 12 Colorado Springs mayoral candidates who spoke at our forum on affordable homeownership, and as two of them head to a runoff, we appreciate their thoughtful engagement with this issue. We look forward to partnering with a new city administration while remaining grateful for the support and actions of retiring officials.

During this Earth Day season, we also focus on the construction crew's partnership with Colorado Springs Utilities to provide water-wise landscaping options that conserve water and save money for our homeowners. We highlight how the ReStores keep tons of hazardous waste out of landfills every year through their paint and porcelain recycling partnerships, and we offer upcycling ideas for customers with creative and crafty tendencies – including a sidebar on a local artist who refurbished an entire home, thanks to the ReStores!

Volunteers are the heart and soul not only of our ReStores, but also of our construction site and home repair program. Our annual Volunteer Appreciation Event (VAE), held in April, gave us a chance to express our gratitude to these individuals and groups for their partnership, time, and energy.

At this year's VAE, we especially recognized volunteers who are also veterans. This is just one of the ways we're committed to honoring El Paso County veterans. In this issue, we spotlight a partnership with a national company and a local contractor who donated materials and time to our Veterans Build home. We share the story of another local veteran who's partnering with our home repair crew. As Memorial Day approaches, we are particularly aware of the sacrifices our veterans have made – and of how we can best honor those sacrifices.

As we thank many other partners, it would be remiss not to also thank you – for your donations, support, cheerleading, advocacy, time, and engagement! We cherish the opportunity to partner with each one of you in this important work of ensuring that everyone, everywhere has a decent place to live. Thank you.

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Families Plant Seeds for Growth in Their New Homes

Spring is a time for new beginnings, and over the past few months, Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity has celebrated with several families!

Perla and Her Family

On Saturday, Feb. 25, Perla and her two children cut the ribbon at their new home in The Ridge at Sand Creek neighborhood.

Perla's home was built through the Fund for Humanity. The Fund consists of mortgage payments from Pikes Peak Habitat homeowners, as well as net proceeds from both ReStores.

For her sweat equity, Perla volunteered at the ReStore and on the construction site. In addition to working on her own house, she also helped with the roof on her neighbor Anna's!

Perla will live in the home with Alexander, a high school senior, and Tiffany, a medical assistant.

Anna and Her Family

On Saturday, April 29, Anna and her family joined local interfaith leaders and Pikes Peak Habitat to dedicate her new home, constructed as the 2nd Interfaith Build for Unity (IBU). This build brings together people from a variety of different backgrounds, beliefs, and faiths, who put aside their differences and work together in unity to help build affordable homes in El Paso County.



Above, clockwise from top left, Jessica and her son; Kayla and her two children; the homeowners break ground; and Maria with her adult son.

At the dedication, the Native American Women's Association led participants in a round dance, and leaders from several faith traditions offered blessings and prayers. The Air Force Academy Gospel Choir provided music.

Anna will live in her new two-story home with her mother, for whom she serves as caregiver, and her three daughters.

During her remarks, Anna noted that Pikes Peak Habitat homeowners aren't just neighbors – "we're family," she said.

Ground Blessing

Earlier that morning, three families broke ground for their new homes, which also will be part of the Pikes Peak Habitat community at The Ridge at Sand Creek.

Jessica is a single mom who works for a local school district. Her home will be constructed as our third IBU, and she also participated in the IBU dedication of Anna's home.

Kayla is a Colorado Springs native and single mom to two teenagers. Maria works in the plant industry, has an adult son, and will live in her new home with her teenage twins.

Both of their homes will be built through the Fund for Humanity.



Above, Perla (left) and her children cut the ribbon on their new home. Above right, Anna (right), her mother, and two of her daughters prepare to cut their ribbon. Right, seven Pikes Peak Habitat homeowners and new neighbors celebrate together!



What's Happening on the Build Site

The Ridge at Sand Creek in Colorado Springs

So far in 2023, we have finished two homes:

- Fund for Humanity Build (Perla) in February
- 2nd Interfaith Build for Unity (Anna) in April (two-story)

We are scheduled to finish three more in 2023:

- 4th Veterans Build (Karmen) in July
- 3rd George Hammond Build – Honoring Tim Trowbridge (Susie and Alex) in October
- 2023 Apostles Build (Ricardo and Mariela) in December (two-story)

We have broken ground on...

- 3rd Interfaith Build for Unity (Jessica)
- Fund for Humanity (Kayla)
- Fund for Humanity (Maria)



Construction and Conservation

(continued from page 1)

In addition to the steps Pikes Peak Habitat is taking to conserve energy, our new homes will feature water-friendly landscaping.

“Water is just a scarce thing these days, and it’s not going to get much better in the future as we get more and more people needing it,” says Wells. “Plus, if we install really water-thirsty landscaping for our homeowners, their water bill’s going to be very high, and many people are already struggling to pay utility bills.”

Colorado Springs Utilities has a department devoted to energy and water conservation, and Wells has been working with them to review Pikes Peak Habitat’s practices. “CSU has been very integral in reworking our concept of landscaping,” says Wells. They provided him with a list of trees, shrubs and plants “that are used to the air conditions that we have here,” he explains. “Most are native and are drought-tolerant and drought-resistant, and they don’t take a whole lot of water.” Beginning this spring, all new Pikes Peak Habitat homeowners will choose their trees, bushes, and plants from these options.

In addition, Colorado Springs Utilities staff will volunteer at the construction site to help with landscaping on May 20. “Not only did they help us come up with some great alternatives for landscaping,” says Wells, “but they want to come out and help install it as well. They love plants!”

Grass, such as the fescue and bluegrass typically used for lawns here, also tends to require a lot of water – but a new strain, Tahoma 31 Bermudagrass, has recently been developed. Unlike most Bermuda-grasses, it can survive at our elevation, and it needs minimal watering. “It’ll brown up a little earlier in the fall than some other grasses,” says Wells, “but it’ll green up earlier in the spring. It is a little more expensive, but we’re working with CSU on getting grants to cover some of these costs.”

He adds that Pikes Peak Habitat also uses rocks and mulch in our landscaping to reduce the amount of sod needed.

For other El Paso County homeowners who are interested in water conservation in their own yards, Wells recommends visiting the Colorado Springs Water-wise xeriscape garden, 2855 Mesa Road, for inspiration.

Why Doesn't Pikes Peak Habitat Build Homes with Solar Panels?

With Pikes Peak Habitat's emphasis on green building practices and the number of sunny days in El Paso County (285 annually, according to the county website!), constructing homes with solar panels might seem like an obvious choice.

Reality, as usual, is more complicated.

Sunshine isn't the only notable feature of the local climate – we also live in "Hail Alley." The Rocky Mountain Insurance Association estimates that Colorado averages three to four "catastrophic" hailstorms each year, and the possibility of wind and hail damage accounts for up to 50% of homeowners insurance premiums in our area.

This cost rises even more for homes with solar panels, which are likely to sustain severe damage.

"I would love to install solar panels on our homes," says Jeff White, chief programs officer for Pikes Peak Habitat, "but unfortunately, this would make insurance rates completely unaffordable to many of our partner families."

For Pikes Peak Habitat homeowners who might want – and be able to afford – solar panels down the road, we do equip our homes to support this option. "We're making it easy for them to install the panels," explains Eric Wells, construction superintendent. "We're running conduit from the attic to the nearby breaker box for future solar panels if a homeowner chooses to have those installed – basically [the homes are] solar-ready."



Solar panels (left, shown at the Colorado Springs Utilities Water-wise Garden on Mesa Road) are energy-efficient but often cost-prohibitive.

Partnership Provides Roof for Veterans Build Home



On April 11, future Pikes Peak Habitat homeowner and Army veteran Karmen received a roof on her new home, thanks to Owens Corning's Roof Deployment program. The

national roofing company donated hail-resistant shingles, and local contractor Integrity Roofing and Painting supplied the labor.

Karmen drives by the house with her sons every day, and the roof "is the first thing I can see when we turn the corner," she says. "I will always be thankful they came and touched my home."

"We take great pride in our quality and service to all of our clients," says Aaron Dunbar, Integrity's director of commercial roofing. "As a veteran-owned and -operated company...giving back to someone that has sacrificed and served our nation is heart-felt by everyone in our company."

Owens Corning has donated materials for more than 400 roofs for veterans since launching the program in 2016. "Owens Corning and Habitat for Humanity are great partners and have shown a dedication to serving our communities and making a difference in the lives of people like Karmen and every life they touch," says Dunbar. "The positivity and focus of these organizations makes such a huge impact that Integrity Roofing and Painting is blessed to be a part and we look forward to continuing the partnership and continuing to make positive impact in our communities, one roof at a time."



Photo courtesy Aaron Dunbar

women building hope.
women building community.
women building tomorrow.

women build
strength | stability | independence

2023

march 2-4

may 4-6

august 3-5

november 2-4

join us!



Reuse, Repurpose, Recycle with ReStores



Visitors to the Pikes Peak Habitat ReStores – Northeast, 6250 Tutt Blvd., Colorado Springs, 80923, and South, 411 W. Wahsatch, Colorado Springs, 80903 – might notice decorative dragonflies hanging from the ceilings. These upcycled projects are made from ceiling fan blades, table legs, and other reused items – and they're just one of many projects illustrating how old items can be given new life.



"I've always been huge on repurposing and recycling," says Andria Vincent, ReStore Northeast manager. And the ReStores are an excellent source of supplies. "You can find glue sticks here. You can find hot-glue guns here. You can find little nails and little hammers and make things with tiny hinges,"

she says. "Just walking up and down the aisles, you can find so much stuff here....It's not just doors and windows and furniture. It's unique hardware, unique tile."

Upcycling requires creativity and imagination to transform an item, or parts of an item, into something new. Vincent and Toby Drury, the ReStore South manager, not only enjoy seeing what customers come up with, but they've completed their own upcycling projects, too. Some of the ideas they mentioned include

- Turning a hutch into a cage for a bird or rabbit, or a vivarium for a snake
- Transforming a dresser into a hallway bench
- Adding shelves to a bifold door and using it as a corner shelving unit
- Filling tubs or toilets with soil and using them as raised planters
- Repurposing a tub as an outdoor pond
- Turning an entertainment center into a child's play kitchen

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Artist Relies on ReStore to Refurbish Home

Ania Milo moved to Cascade in 2021 after a government career. Now a full-time artist, she spent nine months transforming a house on her property into an eclectic, colorful getaway – with products from the ReStores.

"I was like a child in a candy store," she says, "because I knew that I was getting a great bargain, so I didn't have to limit myself."

Furniture wasn't all she found. Light fixtures, décor items, paint, cabinets, flooring, faucets, siding, and even tools came from the Pikes Peak Habitat ReStores. She estimates the restoration cost a third of what it would have if she had bought new items.



Milo added kitchen cabinets and a backsplash from the ReStore. She painted the cabinets dark blue to match the home's color scheme. Photo courtesy Ania Milo.

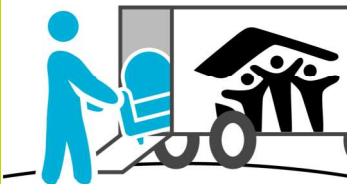
She said she enjoyed "just being free to choose the things that I wanted to buy and choose the things that I wanted to do in here because I didn't have to worry about the cost."

But saving money wasn't her only motivation for shopping secondhand.

"I loved restoring the furniture. Giving them a new life and making them my own is what motivated me to do it," she says. "What's really important is that this didn't end up in the landfill somewhere."

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your donation
helps a family build a strong
foundation for the future.



The ReStores Need Your Donations!

Do you have gently used or even new home improvement items you no longer need? Has spring cleaning turned up building materials you forgot you had? Are you upgrading your cabinets or sofa?

Please visit pikespeakhabitat.org for guidelines, then plan a drop-off or schedule a pickup today!

Pikes Peak Habitat Honors Our Volunteers at Appreciation Event

Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity held our annual Volunteer Appreciation Event on April 20 at The Pinery at the Hill. The event, which took place during National Volunteer Week, provided an opportunity for us to thank the volunteers who devote their time, energy, and enthusiasm to the construction site, the home repair program, and the ReStores. Our volunteers are vital in helping us work toward a world where everyone, everywhere has a decent place to live – and we cherish their contributions.



Above, VAE guests chat before dinner. Above right, guests serve themselves in the buffet line.



Above left, longtime volunteer George Hammond (l) sits with Sam Adams. Above, a guest arrives.



Kris Lewis, Pikes Peak Habitat executive director/CEO, and Eric Stolp, board vice president, recognize the 2023 Volunteer Award winners. From left, Chaplain Kevin Hostettler receives the Millard Fuller Award; the Young Men's Service League and the Air Force Academy Cadets were named the ReStore Northeast and South (respectively) Volunteer Groups of the Year; Ent Credit Union was recognized as the Construction Volunteer Group of the Year; Jim Nolan won the Journeyman Award. Not pictured are fellow Journeyman Award winners Jack Keaton and Susan Farrar, and Heather Berens, winner of the Chris Brownlow Golden Hammer Award.

Veterans Celebrated at Event

Pikes Peak Habitat recognized our volunteers who are also military veterans by giving special t-shirts at the Volunteer Appreciation Event April 20. On the back of the blue shirt, a red silhouette of a military service member salutes in front of an American flag printed in white. The text reads, "Serve. Protect. Build."

Dusty Last, ReStore volunteer coordinator and a veteran, says, "As veterans, we served to protect our nation, and now we build for those who have served and protected our nation."

She adds, "I love the concept of honoring our veterans that are continuing to serve. In building a home, they're protecting....A decent place to live is one of the best forms of protection a family can have."



Thank you,



for being the 2023 Earth Day Corporate Sponsor!



Because of Keysight and all of you, our ReStores recorded 465 donations from April 17-22 in spite of Colorado's notorious spring weather! Proceeds from the ReStores help fund Pikes Peak Habitat homes, so by donating, you're supporting affordable homeownership for workforce families in El Paso County!

Home Repair by the Numbers—Year to Date

🔧 19 repairs completed 🛠️ 5 repairs in process 🛑 2 deconstructions completed 🤝 countless lives changed!

Pikes Peak Habitat Home Repair Program Partners with Veteran's Family

Ed, an Army veteran, and his wife, Jennifer, moved to Colorado Springs from Boulder County to be closer to family. Jennifer explains that she was spending five days per week in the Springs to care for a grandchild, but that situation wasn't sustainable. "We've been married almost 30 years," she says. "We kind of like each other. We would like to reside in the same house."

When they bought their Colorado Springs home, they knew they would have to replace the windows and roof. What they didn't anticipate was having to spend more than \$40,000 on a sewer tap because the line had collapsed. They sold another property to cover that repair but had nothing left to pay for the windows, roof, or electrical issues. Jennifer's mother, Sandy, who has advanced Alzheimers, lives with them, and they also needed to make the home accessible for her.

Before selling their other property, they had reached out to the United Way and 2-1-1 Colorado, who supplied contact information for organizations that might help. One of those was Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity's home repair program. When Leah Cowles, home repair manager, contacted them, though, they initially refused.

"I sent Leah an e-mail saying, 'Thank you so much, but in the end we figured out how to pay for the sewer,' so we were going to respectfully decline because we wanted to make sure there were funds available for everybody," Jennifer explains.

However, Cowles contacted the family again and explained that The Home Depot Foundation had provided a grant specifically for repairs on veterans' homes. "She explained to me that the funds were set aside for veterans, and this is because of Ed's service," Jennifer says.

Ed emphasizes that while he appreciates the home-improvement project, his military career was rewarding even without it. "If I didn't know all this were to happen, I still would have joined the Army for four years and re-enlist for more," he says. "I always loved what I did in the military."

Pikes Peak Habitat is replacing their windows and screen doors, addressing electrical issues, adding accessibility features, and possibly repairing the roof.

Accepting assistance was difficult at first – Jennifer uses the word "humbling" – but they encourage other prospective homeowners to "step back and accept a blessing sometimes," she says. "Usually I'm the one that gives them, or tries to do that, so to be on the receiving end of it is great."

Despite some health challenges, Ed has assisted with the repairs as much as possible. "They're doing this to my house, so I try to do the same for them," he says. "I put my blood, sweat, and tears into it, too."

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From left, a home repair volunteer cuts boards at a home. Ed installs trim around a window. Ed and Jennifer stand in front of their new windows. The home repair truck and trailer are parked at a site.

Candidates Discuss Affordable Homeownership at Mayoral Forum



Above, left: Colorado Springs mayoral candidates mingle with voters in the Ent Center lobby. Right: The 12 candidates join event moderators onstage.

On Feb. 28, Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity, with KRDO NewsRadio and KRDO NewsChannel 13, hosted a forum on affordable homeownership. All 12 Colorado Springs mayoral candidates participated in the forum, held at the Ent Center for the Arts.

Kris Lewis, Pikes Peak Habitat executive director/CEO, provided opening and concluding remarks. She said the forum cast a “non-partisan lens on a bipartisan issue that should have non-partisan solutions.”

Andrew Rogers, program director and co-host for KRDO Morning News on KRDO NewsRadio, and Bart Bedsole, KRDO NewsChannel 13 anchor, served as moderators. KRDO NewsRadio and KRDO.com broadcast the forum, courtesy of Gold Hill Mesa.

The candidates shared their definitions of affordable housing, discussed causes of the housing crisis, and proposed solutions. The moderators also posed questions submitted by audience members.

The April 4 election resulted in a runoff between candidates Wayne Williams and Yemi Mobolade.

At the forum, Williams and Mobolade agreed the city needs more affordable homeownership opportunities for workforce employees and their families, and the mayor’s office can act to address the issue.

Williams pledged to work to reverse state regulations that have slowed condominium construction. He also proposed eliminating city sales taxes and utilities connection fees for affordable homes, allowing more flexible zoning, and working with the private sector.

Mobolade promised to support public-private partnerships and to work closely with nonprofit

City Council Election Results

Pikes Peak Habitat congratulates the four newly elected city councilmembers! We look forward to partnering with you to advance affordable homeownership in Colorado Springs.

- Lynette Crow-Iverson (at-large)
- David Leinweber (at-large)
- Brian Risley (at-large)
- Michelle Talarico (District 3)

We also thank these outgoing officials for their service and look forward to continuing to build our relationships with them:

- Mayor John Suthers and his staff
- Stephannie Fortune, District 3 city councilmember
- Bill Murray, at-large city councilmember
- Tom Strand, city council president
- Wayne Williams, at-large city councilmember

organizations. He proposed starting a gap fund for middle-income workers and appointing a city housing officer who would report directly to him.

“We look forward to working with the new city administration to find solutions to our affordable homeownership crisis,” said Lewis. “We appreciate the support Mayor John Suthers and his staff have provided to Pikes Peak Habitat as we work toward a world where everyone has a decent, affordable place to live, and we’re excited to build on this legacy.”

Voting for the runoff is via mail-in and dropbox, with ballots due by 7 p.m. on May 16.



Wayne Williams (left) and Yemi Mobolade (right) speak at the Pikes Peak Habitat Mayoral Candidate Forum Feb. 28.



Reuse, Recycle, ReStore

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“Corner kitchen cabinets can be turned into kids’ toy bins just by switching out some hinges and turning them on their side,” says Vincent. “There are simple things that you can make.”

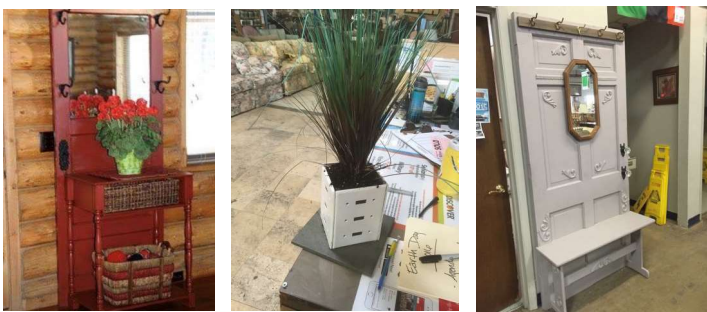
In addition to offering inspiration and products for customers looking to reuse and repurpose, the ReStores also serve as recycling centers for paint, porcelain, and metal, including copper.

“We are the largest PaintCare recycler in the state of Colorado,” says Vincent. For perspective, she explains that it takes 155,000 gallons to paint the Pentagon, the world’s largest office building. In 2021, Pikes Peak Habitat ReStores recycled 188,000 gallons. “So this tiny affiliate was able to recycle more paint than it takes to paint the world’s largest office building!” she says.

Donations are recycled into Green Sheen paint, available for purchase at the ReStore South. The stores can only accept five gallons of paint per customer per day, but Drury points out that’s five gallons total – so if someone has ten cans with half a gallon or less, they meet that requirement.

In addition, the ReStores work with Colorado Springs Utilities to recycle porcelain, including high-flow toilets and sinks, into road base. “A lot of people don’t realize, because we’re around porcelain and use it so much, how dangerous it is,” says Vincent. “If we were to put a sink or a toilet into the landfill today, 500 years from now it’s still a sink or a toilet because it does not biodegrade at all. So by bringing it to us and having it go to ‘commode the road,’ they’re recycling it into something we use.”

Reducing waste – through reusing, repurposing, upcycling, and recycling – is important to both Vincent and Drury.



Above, upcycled projects use old doors, benches, and light-switch covers.

ReStore Goes Online!

The Pikes Peak Habitat ReStores will soon be adding a new storefront – online! We’ll be listing unique, eclectic, vintage, and unusual finds, including the items pictured here. When the store goes live, the link will be posted at pikespeakhabitat.org/restore.



“I would like to see less things going in the landfill and less things produced. I think we really need some changes in our society to be able to come up with a better way of doing things,” says Drury. “We’re over-inundated with things. We now over-produce, and half of it goes to waste. I would really like to see more ways to keep more of that from happening.”

That’s just one way the ReStores fill a valuable niche, accepting and reselling items such as building supplies and old toilets that most other thrift stores don’t take. The ReStores keep gently used home goods and construction materials circulating in the local community, and they connect vintage items with people who appreciate the heritage.

“You don’t know what you’ll find from day to day,” says Drury. “You see history when you’re in the ReStore.” He mentions donations including antique gas lights from around 1908, removed during a remodel of the Colorado Springs City Auditorium, and signed photographic prints of the Pikes Peak Road Race that came from a local resort.

Vincent says the stores also have received unique contributions from individuals who have cleaned out their basements and attics. Many of these items will be available online (see above) rather than in the brick-and-mortar locations.

“We get the old speckled tile that nobody can find because they don’t make it anymore,” shea says. “There’s unique stuff that comes in that you would never [otherwise] see in your lifetime.”

She adds, “It’s super neat, and people still don’t realize that about the ReStore, and it’s so fun. I love the ReStore!”

Artist's Refurbishment

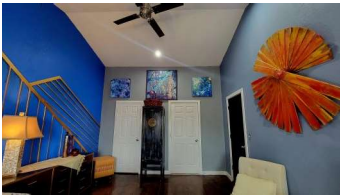
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"It's very important to me not to throw things away, because we're such a use it once and throw it away [society]," she says. "I'm a full-time recycler. I love to go poke around. I can spend hours in these stores looking through things and picking things out."

She also appreciates the personal touch from staff at the ReStores. "It's nice when I walk in, because I've been there so often that the regular workers there know who I am and remember my name," she says. "Being new to the area, that makes a big difference for me that people remember who I am."

She says they've already started asking about her next project – and she knows what it will be: "to put a greenhouse on the side of the barn." She plans to use ReStore windows and lumber for the project.

And she wouldn't mind doing more home refurbishments. "This was so much fun, doing this!" she says. "I almost want to do it now for other people. I'm available for hire!"



Above left, Milo created wooden wall decorations using lumber from the ReStores and refurbished a living room coffee table (right) to match the room's color scheme. Photos courtesy Ania Milo.

Car Donations Help Habitat Build Homes

Pikes Peak Habitat participates in Habitat for Humanity International's Cars for Homes program, which accepts donated vehicles to resell or recycle. Proceeds help fund Habitat's homeownership and home repair programs.



Cindi, an El Paso County resident, recently donated her truck to the Cars for Homes program. The vehicle is in good condition, and she could have sold it herself but instead chose to support Habitat's work.

"I...am moving early next year so I no longer need this truck," Cindi says. "Many people approached me to sell but I'd rather donate to a worthy cause."

Pikes Peak Habitat thanks Cindi for her generosity! Her donation not only supports affordable homeownership for workforce families but also positively impacts the environment. As Habitat's Cars for Homes donation page explains, "Recycling cars keeps a huge amount of steel out of landfills – enough to build nearly 45,000 steel-framed homes every year. The energy saved each year is enough to power approximately 18 million homes!"

Since launching the program in 2005, Habitat has accepted more than 120,000 vehicles for resale or recycling. In the past five years alone, the program has raised more than \$30 million.

Learn more at Habitat.org/CarsForHomes.

Veterans' Home Repair

(continued from p. 8)

For her sweat equity, Jennifer participated in COS-ILoveYou's CityServe event April 29 and also is helping with therapeutic horseback riding.

While the project, which spans more than two weeks, has caused some chaos in their home – requiring them to move furniture away from outer walls, for example – the couple characterize the experience as overwhelmingly positive.

"You guys are genuine and you just want to help," Jennifer says.

"I'm very grateful that I'm getting this opportunity to help with my house and my family, and I just honor being in the military and all this falling in my lap, and being blessed with all this goodness that we're getting for our family," says Ed. "[I'm] just overwhelmed. I need a helping hand, and then all of a sudden it happens. It's like a blessing."

They plan to stay in the home, which they share with an adult son as well as Sandy, Jennifer's mom, for the rest of their lives.

"This is our forever home," says Jennifer. "I'm glad we made this move. My heart's a little more content and at ease around this place."



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

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Colorado Springs, CO 80907



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