

## The Dog Days of Summer

Homeownership is transformational for people— that’s why Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity does the work we do. But the effect extends beyond humans!

Visitors to Pikes Peak Habitat’s neighborhood at The Ridge at Sand Creek might notice dogs barking, walking their people around the block, visiting our volunteers and construction staff, and generally loving life in their new homes.

“I feel like they’re at peace, just being here and being able to just come and relax on the couch or play in their backyard,” says Monya, a Pikes Peak Habitat homeowner who has lived in her home for almost two years. She recently doubled the canine population of her household when a puppy, Boss, joined canine brother Bingo and three human siblings.

“When we found Bingo, he was being starved to train him to be a service animal,” she says. “So we were able to rescue him from that, and then he came and he did great. He was so wonderful with us.”



*Boss is living his best life in his new home with a backyard, a canine brother to play with, and human siblings to love.*

Bingo, a goldendoodle mix, joined the family about six months after they moved into their house. Then a few months ago, they learned about a puppy who needed a new home. He joined the family on Monya’s birthday.

“He’s just been thriving and doing great,” says Monya. “I think just having somebody to play with, another dog, and then of course playing with the kids, and everybody does great with both of them. It’s like they were meant to be here.”

Bingo and Boss aren’t the only dogs enjoying life in Pikes Peak Habitat’s newest neighborhood, though. So is 11-year-old Nahla, a mix who lives with her human, Judith.

“She loves it!” says Judith. “She has more room to run around, and I open the door and she goes in the backyard and comes back in whenever. So it’s nice for her, definitely, to have all that space.”

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*Above left, Jovani takes Bingo for a walk and chats with future Pikes Peak Habitat homeowner (and neighbor) Ricardo. Above right, Nahla poses in front of flowers. (Photo courtesy Judith.)*

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# Karmen and Sons Come Home to Community

On Saturday, July 8, Army veteran Karmen and her sons celebrated their home dedication – a milestone Karmen worked hard to achieve through her 200 hours of sweat equity.

Her home, Pikes Peak Habitat's 4th Veterans Build, is part of our neighborhood at The Ridge at Sand Creek. The family has already become part of the community here. In addition to working on her neighbors' homes and yards as part of her sweat equity, Karmen has attended ground blessings, home dedications, and maintenance classes with them.

She also took her sons trick-or-treating in the neighborhood back in October, and they've gotten to know some of the other homeowners' children.

"The kids' gang keeps growing!" says Pikes Peak Habitat construction assistant Chaz O'Shaughnessy. "It's incredible to just see them open up and be able to quite literally be kids, grow up in a safe and nurturing environment."

Although Karmen drove by the home with her sons every night to track the construction progress, the boys, ages 10 and 8, didn't get to see inside until after the dedication. "They were just so excited," she says. "They were running through the house and had so many plans for their rooms."

But first the family celebrated with some of the volunteers, staff, and sponsors who made the home possible.

Iain Probert, Pikes Peak Habitat's director of strategic partnerships, emceed the event and presented Karmen with quilts created by Quilts for New Beginnings specially for her and her sons, and



turtle-shaped pillows made by crafters at Black Forest Lutheran Church.

Then Alex St. Clair, construction supervisor, gave Karmen a Bible, symbolizing Pikes Peak Habitat's Christian heritage; a golden hammer as a reminder of her sweat equity; and a mini-tool kit to help with home maintenance.

Karmen has already used the tape measure from the kit to choose a curtain size for her front window!

Pikes Peak Habitat board member and fellow Army veteran Paul Hasty read I Corinthians 13, substituting the word "home" for "love." As he reminded guests, love is what makes a house a home.

He also presented Karmen with an American flag in recognition of her military service.

After Karmen cut the ribbon, she was joined by her mom, sisters, and other family members, who toured the home and celebrated with her. Several of her fellow Pikes Peak Habitat homeowners also participated in the festivities, including Jennifer, Judith, and Monya, whose home was our 3rd Veterans Build.

Karmen says a washing machine and dryer are her first major purchases. "I can't wait to wash my clothes without going to the wash house!" she exclaims. "That will be better, and then after that I'm going to start furnishing."

She looks forward to settling in and experiencing the future in her family's new home.

"If [the boys] go to college, or if they go their own ways, then it's always some place to come back to," she says. "If they ever need anywhere to stay, they're always welcome."



*Above, from left: Iain Probert, Pikes Peak Habitat director of strategic partnerships, gifts the family with quilts from Quilts for New Beginnings and turtle-shaped pillows from Black Forest Lutheran Church. Karmen speaks at the dedication. Paul Hasty, Pikes Peak Habitat board member and Army veteran, presents Karmen with an American flag. Alex St. Clair, Pikes Peak Habitat construction supervisor, presents her with a golden hammer symbolic of her sweat equity.*

# An Ode to Joy

*Reflections from Kris Lewis, CEO of Pikes Peak  
Habitat for Humanity*

This summer's newsletter showcases many themes – community, togetherness, celebration, conservation – but one word stands out more than all the others: joy.

We see it in the antics of a puppy reveling in the freedom of a fenced backyard. In the laughter of children walking their dogs through a community where they know and trust their neighbors. In the faces of volunteers chatting with a boy who has a decent home with his own bedroom because of their efforts.



*Kris Lewis*

Joy shows up in obvious places, like our home dedication ceremonies. This summer, we welcomed Karmen and her sons to The Ridge at Sand Creek, and the celebration took over the entire street. Joy shouted from the expressions – and mouths! – of Jacob, Paul Jr., their cousins, and the neighborhood kids as they ran through their new home and played in the backyard. It spilled from Karmen's lips as she planned her furnishings and her family's future.

And it showed at our Volunteer Appreciation Event, when we honored the many special people whose generosity with their time makes our work possible. We got to meet several moms from the Young Mens Service League – women who have devoted hours to volunteering with their high-school-age sons because they believe in contributing to their local community. We love hearing about the fun these moms and sons have together as they work at the ReStores and our construction site.

But joy appears in more subtle ways, too. It's in the excitement of construction staff when they discover innovations to conserve energy and water – saving money for our homeowners and stewarding resources for future generations. It's in the pleasure our partners at Colorado Springs Utilities feel in digging their hands into the dirt and sharing their enthusiasm about water-wise plants, trees, and landscaping.

And it's in the communities we build. Joy peeks through when people from diverse faith traditions come together to talk, laugh, share, and devote their time to building a house with a single mom. It even shows when that mom describes her decision to sacrifice professionally to be present for her son. It's the story of a homeowner with a broken leg waking up after a snowstorm and seeing that her neighbors had quietly shoveled her front walk and driveway.

Together, we're tackling an enormous problem: the lack of safe, affordable homes for workforce families in El Paso County and around the world. We face obstacles, setbacks, and misunderstandings that can seem insurmountable. We're haunted by people we can't partner with, stories without a happy ending.

But this newsletter reminds us – reminds me, reminds you – that what we do matters. That we are building a better world, family by family, child by child. That on the other side of sorrow is joy.

Please join me, my friends, in celebrating.

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# Young Men's Service League Finds Volunteer Opportunities Through Pikes Peak Habitat

At the Pikes Peak Habitat Volunteer Appreciation Event in April, the Young Men's Service League (YMSL) was recognized as the ReStore Northeast Volunteer Group of the Year. The people who took the stage to receive the award weren't young men, though — they were a group of women!

"Four of the moms walk up, and people are like, uh, Young Men's Service League?" says Karen Farmiga, the Pikes Peak chapter's vice president of philanthropy. "So [the emcee] had to explain that yes, it's moms and sons serving together, and we couldn't invite any of the boys because of the alcohol [served at the event], so it's just a funny story. And the boys get all the credit."



*From left, Eric Stolp, then vice president of the Pikes Peak Habitat board; YMSL moms Karen Farmiga, Laura Boylston, Heather Torrey, and Jennifer Royer; and Pikes Peak Habitat CEO Kris Lewis pose with the YMSL award at the Volunteer Appreciation Event in April.*

The Pikes Peak chapter of YMSL, which has more than 135 chapters in 18 states, was formed in 2021.

Farmiga explains that although the organization is nationwide, "it takes the village of moms locally who have sons in that freshman to senior year of high school to have the audacity and the dedication to spin up the chapter."

Jennifer Royer, who now serves as board president, was key in forming the Pikes Peak chapter, says Farmiga. "She wanted this present in our community," she explains.

When her oldest son started high school during the COVID-19 pandemic, Royer began connecting with other moms who might be interested in helping start a local chapter.

One of those moms was Farmiga, who had been involved in a mother-daughter service organization, the

National Charity League, and wanted a similar experience with her sons.

"I had thought, this kind of stinks; there's nothing...that [my boys and I] can do together and give back to the community in an organized fashion," she explains. So she seized the chance to help start the Pikes Peak YMSL chapter, initially taking the position of assistant vice president of philanthropy.

"At the time, it was, What organizations need the help of moms and young men? What would fit the bill?" she says. "There are strict rules as to who we can serve, meaning it's got to be a nonprofit organization, and it has to be serving people in the community."

The Pikes Peak Habitat ReStores met those criteria. And the minimum age for volunteering at the stores is 12, so high school boys are eligible.

## Working with Pikes Peak Habitat

The organizations turned out to be a good fit.

"Pikes Peak Habitat supports families, and the YMSL has families work together to better their communities through service," says Sarah Buchen, Pikes Peak Habitat volunteer manager. "They help us to accomplish our mission, and we get to educate them about affordable housing and how their service impacts and benefits the community that they live in."

YMSL moms and sons began volunteering at both Pikes Peak ReStores, and after a few months, Farmiga asked about additional volunteer opportunities. That's when she learned that moms and boys ages 16 and older could sign up for shifts on the construction site, too.



**YOUNG MEN'S  
SERVICE LEAGUE**

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# What's Happening on the Build Site

## The Ridge at Sand Creek in Colorado Springs



So far in 2023, we have finished three homes:

- Fund for Humanity Build in February
- 3rd Interfaith Build for Unity in April (two-story)
- 4th Veterans Build in July



We are scheduled to finish two more:

- 3rd George Hammond Build – Honoring Tim Trowbridge in November
- Apostles Build in December (two-story)



We are breaking ground on

- 4th Interfaith Build for Unity
- Fund for Humanity



## Keeping Our Homes Cool

As summer heats up, Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity construction staff and volunteers are making sure our new homes stay cool, while conserving energy and keeping costs down for our homeowners. Two methods that help us achieve these goals are heat-pump technology and insulation.

Heat-pump technology is used in our mini-split air temperature units, as well as hybrid water heaters.

“What heat-pump technology does is it pulls the heat out of the surrounding air – the ambient temperature – and then it moves it to somewhere else,” says Eric Wells, Pikes Peak Habitat construction superintendent. “So for the water heater, it will pull heat out

of the air inside of the house and shove it into the water, and it'll heat the water that way.”

Unlike units that generate their own heat, this technology is “very efficient,” explains Wells.

He worked with Mitsubishi, who manufactures the mini-split units, along with energy consultant Jim Riggins and Colorado TruEnergy Solutions LLC. He says, “We’ve come up with a solution to utilize mini-split systems that will provide both heat and cooling inside of the house, working on the exact same technology that the hybrid water heater works off. It steals heat or cool from the outside air and transfers it inside to keep that house conditioned.”

Although we’ve just started installing the mini-split systems, early data shows they’re saving homeowners about \$50 in utility bills every month.

The heat-pump technology provides an energy- and cost-efficient way to moderate temperatures inside homes – but keeping that air from leaking outside, and outside air from seeping in, is another crucial piece of the puzzle.

This is where insulation comes in, and our homes are well-insulated from foundation to roof.



*Above left, dense fiberglass insulation helps conditioned air remain inside our homes. Above right, two-inch foam boards provide additional insulation for the concrete we use in our foundations.*

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## Colorado Springs Utilities Partners on Water-wise Landscaping

Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity has been working with Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) to offer water-wise landscaping options to our homeowners. And CSU employees came out to our build site for two volunteer days – May 20 and June 24 – to install plants, trees, and sod for three homes.

Lisa Pace, conservation specialist at CSU, spearheaded the landscaping efforts, providing guidance on best practices for placing trees and watering.



"CSU has had a huge impact on the work Pikes Peak Habitat does for the community," says Eric Wells, construction superintendent. "Future Pikes Peak Habitat homeowners for years to come will be impacted in a very positive way."

On their first volunteer day, the CSU crew placed plants and trees in Anna's and Perla's yards. They also added rock landscaping features.

Although the plan had been to install sod, too, the weather didn't cooperate. Abundant May rains left the Tahoma 31 Bermudagrass too wet to cut, so CSU staff came out for a second volunteer day June 24. With other volunteers – including future Pikes Peak Habitat homeowner Ricardo – they installed sod in Anna's and Perla's front and back yards.

They also landscaped Karmen's yard, just in time for her home dedication!

"The expertise, education, and programs in water and energy conservation that are readily available to all CSU customers is unmatched compared to other cities I've worked in," says Wells. "I'm grateful for their eagerness to work with us, and I'm looking forward to what we can accomplish together going forward."



## Save the Date! Mike Maroone Car Show to Benefit 5th Veterans Build



Mike Maroone Honda is once again hosting a car show to benefit Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity, with proceeds supporting our 5th Veterans Build.

Mark your calendar now! This year's event will take place Sunday, Oct. 8, at Mike Maroone Honda, 1103 Academy Park Loop, Colorado Springs, CO 80910. Join us for fun, fine cars, and fundraising to support affordable homeownership for El Paso County work-force families!



## Max Finds a Home, Thanks to Pikes Peak Habitat

In April, communications manager Monique Bos was looking through local news sites for coverage of a Pikes Peak Habitat event. As she searched, she happened across a story about a 5-year-old Lab mix who needed a home. He sounded like the perfect companion for Copper, her 6-year-old hound, who'd seemed a bit lost since his brother (also a Lab mix) passed last summer.

And he turned out to be a great fit! Renamed Max, he's loving life with his new family. The first time he met Copper, they both started dancing! They adore long walks, stealing each other's toys, and snuggling with their humans.



## Future Homeowner Jessica Speaks at 3rd Interfaith Build for Unity Launch

Bringing together people from various faiths can be challenging — but it's also worthwhile! That was the message at Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity's 3rd Interfaith Build for Unity (IBU) kickoff June 8 at Nancy Lewis Park in Colorado Springs.

Representatives from faith traditions including Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, and Judaism gathered to participate in a mixer, hear from future IBU homeowner Jessica, and sign up their congregations for IBU volunteer days.



"Interfaith is messy, and it's hard," says Chloe Henry, Pikes Peak faith in action program manager, "but it's also very beautiful."

She stresses the crucial role of volunteers to Pikes Peak

Habitat's mission. "Over 90% of our homes are built by volunteers, and so what that means is that your faith community truly matters," she says. "The members that you bring, the friends that you bring along with you, the family member that you drag kicking and screaming matter, and they are really making a difference in the lives of families."

After an interfaith mixer, she introduced Jessica, who shared her story.

Jessica, single mom of 8-year-old Bryson, lost her job of 15 years because of economic impacts from COVID-19. She found a new career, but the employer "never gave me the time that I needed, ever, for my son," she says. "They would not give me weekends off, didn't matter what my numbers were. I had no help, so he had to sit at home all day with me, every day."

So she made the difficult decision to change careers again. Her new job gives her more time with her son, but she had to take a significant pay cut. Because of that, she and Bryson live in less than ideal conditions. They share a 285-square-foot home with minimal privacy. "It's not on the nicest street in the neighborhood, if you know what I mean," she explains, "and my landlord isn't the



*Tamer Sayedahmed, center, speaks with other participants in the interfaith mixer.*



*Jessica, 3rd Interfaith Build for Unity future homeowner, left, speaks with Chloe Henry at the IBU launch.*

most amazing person out there as far as fixing my residence."

When she first heard about Pikes Peak Habitat's homeownership program, she felt almost too demoralized to apply. "I'd been denied on so many things," she says, "and then I'd been accepted and then denied and then kicked off. I could never make too

much, and I could never make enough."

But she went through the rigorous application, interview, and home visit process anyway — and was approved! "I'm very thankful, and I'm very blessed to have been part of this situation," she says.

As part of her sweat equity, she'll work alongside volunteers, including those who sign up for IBU days, to build her home.

"I'm so excited to work, and I'm a goofball, and I love to talk a lot — and cry a lot!" she says. "But bear with me, 'cause we're gonna have a good time!"



"What I'm most excited about my house," says Bryson, "is that I can build with Legos, and I can run around, and I can build forts."

Jessica also shares a message of hope: "Even though you might think you might be losing something, the grass sometimes is greener on the other side," she says. "Since I was approved, all types of blessings have [come] my way, so I'm very thankful."

Congregations can still sign up for IBU volunteer days at Pikes Peak Habitat's construction site to help build Jessica's home. Groups of five people from two different faith traditions are paired and spend the day working together, sharing a meal, and getting to know each other.

Beginning in August and running through Spring 2024, we have opportunities on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. If you or your congregation would like to be involved, please e-mail [Chloe@pikespeakhabitat.org](mailto:Chloe@pikespeakhabitat.org).



## The Dog Days of Summer

*continued from cover*

And Nahla adores Eric Wells, Pikes Peak Habitat's construction superintendent, and Chaz O'Shaughnessy, construction assistant.

"When she sees them, I can't hold her anymore on the leash. Those are her two favorite people, for sure!" says Judith. "She's crazy about Chaz and Eric!"

"We're crazy about Nahla, too!" responds O'Shaughnessy. "She's adorable."

### Canine Companionship

The benefits of sharing life with a dog, cat, or other companion animal are well-documented – and our homeowners have their own experiences and perspectives to add to the discussion.

"She understands what I am saying to her, and she can tell me what she wants," says Judith. "It's really nice to have a pet."

Sarai, Monya's daughter, says having the dogs makes life "more fun in the house. If we have nothing to do, we can all just play with the dogs, and we can all just go in the backyard and have fun with the dogs."

"It feels like there's more children in the house," says Monya's son Jovani, and his mom concurs.

"It's like another kid, because they whine," she says. "They make messes, but then they also can sense when you're sad, especially Bingo – he does really great with that."

Jovani agrees. "When I'm sad, Bingo just comes in my room, jumps on my bed," he says.

Judith, who works from home, says Nahla keeps her company all day. "She lies under the desk where my feet are," she comments. "She likes to get petted all day, and whenever she gets a chance, she sits there next to me, and I have to pet her, especially in the evenings or in the mornings when I get up."

In addition to the companionship, both homeowners also say their dogs provide security.

"When Jovani came in [to the room],



*Jovani and Bingo visit Pikes Peak Habitat volunteers taking a lunch break.*

he instantly went to stand in front of him," Monya observes of Bingo. "He's like, This is my person. When we first got him, he did the same thing with me. They're very protective, and it's another lookout."

"She's a good watchdog," Judith says of Nahla. "By now she knows the volunteers and the people from Habitat and the neighbors, so she's okay, but if somebody comes to the door she has not met, she barks. When she's in the backyard, if there are people behind there in the street, she alerts, and if she doesn't stop barking, then I go outside and look to see what's going on."

### Home Sweet Home

Monya says her dogs are thriving – and so is her family.

"I think it's safety and just the comfort of, they know that this is theirs," she explains. "There's adventures here, too. There's a lot more kids. There's pathways to walk, there's a creek down there, so lots of space for right now, as there's not so many houses, for the dogs to run, the kids to go outside and play."

Plus, "we get to have separate rooms, and we get to have our own stuff," says Sarai. "Ever since we moved from the apartment, everything's just been bigger, so we have more space to do stuff."

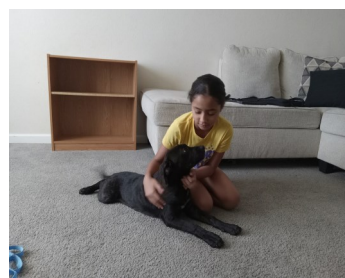
For her part, Judith is as happy in their new home as Nahla is – if not more.

"The dining room is really nice and spacious, a bigger bathroom I can actually turn around in, and that little mudroom area," she says. "I finally have my own washer and dryer and a little area where I can hang up the clothes and put shoes, a little bench, and a bigger mirror, so it's actually pretty neat. And just to be able to walk in the backyard and have that privacy and sit there and relax, I just love it."

She concludes, "The whole house is just perfect!"



*Above, Nahla helps out with construction! (Photo courtesy of Judith). Below, Sarai shares a hug with Boss.*





## Building Community in The Ridge at Sand Creek... One Family at a Time

I love that here, especially, you know your neighbors, and we're building the homes together, and it's so great. I love that, I really do.

In the wintertime I broke my leg twice...and we had that heavy snow, and it was a lot. And then [her next-door neighbor and fellow Pikes Peak Habitat homeowner] shoveled the snow, they cleared out the driveway and the porch....That was so awesome!

To have that kind of community, where people look out for each other, that's great.

And the kids playing outside – you don't see that too much anymore, a neighborhood where kids get together and play outside. I like seeing that. It's great. My grandkids come over and they play; it's really nice.

It's a peace of mind you have when you live in a community like that.



**-Judith, Pikes Peak Habitat homeowner**



We cannot rebuild a family, but we can build a safe home. We can build a neighborhood where kids can play. We can build a neighborhood where kids can step outside and do dumb things and learn from it, and, as we all know, we need that.

We get to be a model for these kids and show them that regardless of what you've seen before, there are people who also do the opposite and will move mountains with you and show you how to move mountains and help take care of each other and show how to treat others with dignity and respect and kindness. We have a small little corner of this world, and we can do our best to show the best of who we are.

**-Chaz O'Shaughnessy, Pikes Peak Habitat construction assistant**

I met [next-door neighbor] Perla when I first started back in August here. We were all communicating. She went to our [ground blessing] and I was at her dedication as well, and we were at Anna's dedication. So we all built that bond of seeing each other. We went through our maintenance classes together. It's like a whole community of women!



**-Karmen, Pikes Peak Habitat homeowner,  
4th Veterans Build**



It's exciting...just seeing the progress over the last almost two years!

**-Monya, Pikes Peak Habitat homeowner, 3rd Veterans Build**



*Read more of our stories at our blog, updated weekly!*  
[pikespeakhabitat.org/blog](http://pikespeakhabitat.org/blog)

## Young Men's Service League

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"This is perfect: one organization serving the two components," she says. "This is part of what I think is impactful for all boys: to get to see the ReStore, what comes in and how money is being generated from that component of the organization, to then go to Build [the construction site] and actually see it put into action, follow that process of how it's helping the families....It completed the Habitat circle of volunteer support."

Seeing tangible results is rewarding, Farmiga says.

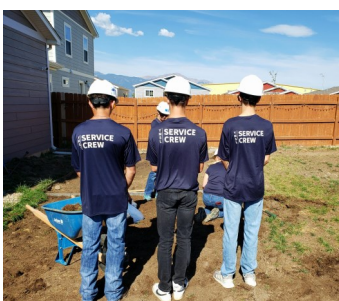
"At the ReStore site, we'll come in and organize the furniture, organize the doors or the tiles, and now people can actually find what they're looking for, and it's real time," she explains. "I think that immediate satisfaction is good for boys."

Plus, they have fun! ReStore tasks include dismantling items we can't sell and removing metal for recycling. So "boys get to smash things at ReStore, in a very safe manner," says Farmiga. "We don't let them do that at home!"

"They've been phenomenal," says Dusty Last, ReStore volunteer coordinator. "They come in, and they get the job done, for sure."

Between the stores and the construction site, they're also learning how to use various tools and developing skills they might not learn at home.

"It's active," she says. "They're constantly doing something; there's always a need."



### How YMSL Works

Farmiga says the YMSL aspires to sign up 24-26 boys per class, plus moms. "It is a commitment, because we are all part of this village to create this impact together, so every mom has a job," she explains. "There's a bunch of different committees in addition to the board [and] we ask everyone to serve a role."

The boys don't just volunteer; they also develop leadership skills and attend meetings about topics ranging from changing oil and tires to financial planning.

And participating in the organization allows them to interact with peers from across the city.

"A lot of times, boys and moms may only meet people within their school district," Farmiga says. "We have probably at least half a dozen school districts that are represented within this chapter."



### Growing Through Service

Last, who has worked with YMSL since they began volunteering with Pikes Peak Habitat, says, "It's been fun watching them grow. I think it builds leadership skills for them as the new kids come in and see the senior kids lead by example."

"Our group loves both ReStore and Build!" says Farmiga. "The volunteer program is well-run, period. There's always a need. Safety comes first, so if people are apprehensive about being on the build site, you're not going to be made to do anything you're uncomfortable doing or use any tools that you're uncomfortable handling, or you'll be trained."

Pikes Peak Habitat staff voted on the volunteer award, and Last and Buchen agree that YMSL deserved the recognition.

"Whether it's on the job site, whether it's here or at the North store, they're dedicated, and they all make a commitment to a certain number of hours a year," Last says. "So they have to coordinate with their parent, which I think is perfect. I think it creates a real good bond between the parent and the child. And that's definitely good for the community, and it's good for their teamwork skills and their leadership skills."

And receiving the award provided valuable affirmation not only for teenage boys who are serving the community – but also for the moms who have volunteered their time in getting the Pikes Peak YMSL chapter up and running.

"We were ecstatic," says Farmiga. "We were tickled pink, because...we all felt the immense pressure of building a new chapter, and then [it was affirming] to have given back to the community and be recognized for the hard work."





## Keeping Our Homes Cool

*continued from p. 5*

Houses often are built on concrete pads or foundations. Pikes Peak Habitat's are no exception, but "energy can easily escape through that concrete," says Wells. "Concrete is not a good insulator."

So Pikes Peak Habitat construction staff and volunteers add insulation to our foundations.

"We have two sets of two-inch foam boards that we pour concrete in between," he explains.

The R factor is a way of measuring resistance to heat transfer, "so the higher the number, the slower the heat is able to transfer through it," says Wells. A concrete foundation without insulation would have an R factor around 2, he explains, but Pikes Peak Habitat foundations measure at R-20.

"We have our focus on energy efficiency at our foundation, and then going up," Wells says, "instead of just using the standard R-19 insulation [on walls], we're using a denser R-21 fiberglass insulation, and on top of that, we have one-inch foam board on the outside, which adds an additional 5-R value, so our walls are R -26 in total."

In addition, "While we are framing, we are conscious of where air can leak through, such as under the wall-framing plates, between the seams of our plywood, our sheathing that we put on the walls, at the top places where air can infiltrate from the attic," explains Wells. "On all of those places, we are using caulking to seal those gaps up, to stop or mitigate that draft as much as possible."



A new Colorado law required all builders to take these measures beginning in July, "but with our focus on energy conservation and reducing the utility bills of our homeowners, we've been doing this for a very long time," says Wells. "So we are ahead of the curve and where we need to be for this next set of energy requirements."

## What Else Is Going on at Pikes Peak Habitat This Summer?

Future homeowner Kayla is investing sweat equity in building her new home! Please join us for her home dedication in November.



Kayla's home will be the 3rd George Hammond Build – Honoring Tim Trowbridge.

Owens Corning donated materials and MD Roofing and Solar supplied labor for a new roof for Army veteran Ed and his wife, Jennifer.



Owens Corning's Roof Deployment Project provides free roofs to veterans as thanks for their service.

Kris Lewis, Pikes Peak Habitat CEO, is a Business Leader of the Year finalist in the Southern Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce 2023 Accolades awards! Congrats, and thanks for your leadership!



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### 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 80907



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

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