

Paraguay Trip Helps Prepare for Global Village

Chloe Henry, Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity Faith in Action program manager, traveled to Paraguay in September to spend a week working on a Habitat for Humanity Global Village project.

As its name indicates, Global Village is an international volunteer opportunity. According to the Habitat website, participants “learn about adequate and affordable housing needs from the local community’s perspective and...also contribute to safe and affordable housing solutions.” The program paused due to the COVID-19 pandemic and is slowly restarting.

Henry hopes to offer a Global Village trip to one of our tithe partners – Bangladesh, the Dominican Republic, or Uganda – in 2024. Through our tithe program, Pikes Peak Habitat contributes 10% of undesigned and unrestricted donations to international Habitat organizations and funds.

“Global Village is a wonderful opportunity to be able to get a unique insight into the work being done around the world to support affordable homeownership in local contexts and to be able to partner in that work for a short time, while being immersed in the culture itself,” she explains. “From an organizational perspective, it’s a great way to see that Habitat affiliates around the world are coming together to support the mission of affordable homeownership in ways that make sense for their local communities.”

She emphasizes that Global Village trips aren’t “volun-tourism.”

“This is not your typical vacation!” she says. “It is this tension where you really try and immerse yourself in the culture, and there are ways and time set aside for



Global Village volunteers dig a hole for the water filtration system at Norma’s new home in Paraguay.

cultural activities and getting to know and build relationships – but the intention is also to partner in work for a local family.”

Habitat Paraguay, which hosted Henry’s trip, is celebrating its 25th anniversary. The affiliate had full funding for one home, so they asked community members to choose the recipient.

Henry explains that in this particular community, many people own their land, but the

existing homes are often inadequate. Habitat helps with repairs when possible, but they also frequently tear down older structures to make space for new construction.

Community members chose Norma, who lives with her daughter and grandchildren.

“Norma has cancer, and so they wanted her to be able to have a safe place to be home,” explains Henry.

The Global Village volunteers helped complete the home – grouting the tile, installing the water filtration system, painting finish on the inside walls, and landscaping. They also took several trips through the various communities where Habitat Paraguay is working.

Story continued on p. 6

Also in This Issue of *coming home*...

What’s Happening on the Build Site.....	p. 2
Kayla’s Family Anticipates Coming Home.....	p. 2
Affordable, Attainable Homeownership Matters: Letter from the CEO.....	p. 3
Homeowner Cherishes Legacy, Thanks to Home Repair Program.....	p. 4
Meet Our 5th Veterans Build Family.....	p. 5
End-of-Year Fundraising Campaigns Target Different Needs.....	p. 5

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 (Perla's home)
- 3rd Interfaith Build for Unity in April (Anna's two-story home)
- 4th Veterans Build in July (Karmen's home)



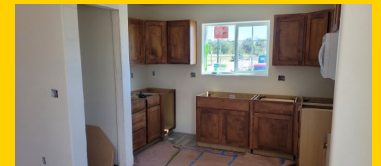
We are scheduled to finish two more:

- 3rd George Hammond Build – Honoring Tim Trowbridge in November (Kayla's home)
- Apostles Build in December (Ricardo and Mariela's two-story home)



We are working on

- 4th Interfaith Build for Unity (Jessica's home)
- Fund for Humanity (Maria's home)



Kayla's Family Anticipates Coming Home

On Nov. 4, Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity is celebrating the completion of Kayla's home, the 3rd George Hammond Build – Honoring Tim Trowbridge.

Hammond is Pikes Peak Habitat's longest-serving volunteer.

Trowbridge is a member of our Board of Directors and a prior Board president, treasurer, and secretary. In addition to volunteering on the construction site, he participates on the finance, ReStore, and site selection committees. He also serves on the Habitat for Humanity International U.S. Policy Committee of the U.S. Council and the Habitat for Humanity of Colorado Advocacy Committee.

"This is how they're spending their retirement!" says Kayla. "They're coming out and they're doing my house....It's a special breed of people."

She adds, "You can tell that the people who work here love what they do....They understand that it's not just a job; there's a purpose behind it."

And that purpose is especially meaningful to Kayla, a single mom to two teenagers. She grew up in Colorado Springs and works full-time but, like many local residents, struggles with the rising cost of housing here. In fact, the family has moved so often her son hasn't even unpacked at their latest residence.

"My son lives out of boxes because he's so used to moving from place to place to place," she says.

As the completion of their new home nears, though, "he knows we're good, we're done moving now," says Kayla. "I'm excited for him!"

Story continued on p. 7



Affordable, Attainable Homeownership Matters

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



Kris Lewis

At Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity, we've just released our FY '23 Year in Review (available as a PDF on our website). This publication highlights the work we've done over the past year to help make affordable, attainable homeownership a reality for more workforce families in El Paso County and internationally. And the "we" in that sentence is you, me, all of us.

The price of housing here in Colorado is a major issue that's drawing national attention, and there isn't one quick or easy solution. Addressing the problem requires all of us – with our combined creativity, our enthusiasm, our energy, and our hope.

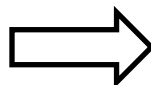
But hope can be difficult to sustain in the face of what often seem like overwhelming odds. The median home cost in Colorado Springs – part of our El Paso County geographic service area – has risen by almost \$40,000 since December, according to realtor.com. That's more than an annual salary for many workers in retail, service, healthcare, and education!

And this is why our work continues to be crucial. It's transformative for the individuals and families who partner with us to purchase or remain in their homes. For the volunteers who forge life-sustaining relationships at the construction site, on the home repair crew, and at the ReStores. For the donors who continue to support us with financial and in-kind contributions. For the international families who receive crucial assistance through our tithe program. And certainly for the children who are now growing up in a community where they can have a basketball hoop on the driveway, friends to play with, and a dog to love.

In this issue, we delve more deeply into two stories highlighted in the Year in Review, which offer hope and affirmation that what we do matters: Rose is a homeowner who has worked with our repair program, and Kayla will celebrate her

home dedication Nov. 4. We also take you on an international trip to Paraguay, as we prepare to resume our own Global Village program in 2024. We introduce you to our newest Veterans Build family, and we share with you some information about our end-of-year fundraising campaigns, acknowledging with humble gratitude that out of many worthy organizations you can support, you are choosing to join us in the transformative work of homeownership. Thank you.

Scan the QR code to access the downloadable Year in Review PDF and watch a video of Pikes Peak Habitat CEO Kris Lewis discussing highlights.



PIKES PEAK HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ERIC STOLP
President

JOE DESJARDIN
Vice President

JANNA MULDER
Secretary

ROBERT GIUNTA
Treasurer

JAY CARLSON

PAUL HASTY

PETER HILTS

RYAN MOHLING

RYAN PANARISO

TIM TROWBRIDGE

TYE TUTT

CANDY VANDENBERG

BILL WALL

DAVID C. WARNER

PIKES PEAK HABITAT LEAD STAFF

KRIS LEWIS
CEO

STEPHANIE CAMPBELL
Director of Finance

IAIN PROBERT
Director of Strategic Partnerships

JEFF WHITE
Chief Programs Officer

COMING HOME EDITOR

MONIQUE BOS
Communications Manager



Homeowner Cherishes Legacy, Thanks to Home Repair Program

This fall, Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity has been fundraising for our home repair program – and we’ve highlighted Rose’s story in our campaign.

Rose and her five siblings grew up in a one-story house southeast of downtown Colorado Springs. Their mom, Geraldine, raised them mostly by herself.

“She worked really hard to support us, and she always said her biggest achievement in life was having children,” says Rose. “Her biggest goal in life was just to keep us all together.”

Although Rose moved to Aurora as an adult, she and her mom remained close.

“When I had my son, I said, ‘Mom, I don’t know what I’m going to do,’ and she said, ‘I’m going to retire and we’re going to do it together,’” says Rose, whose two children are now teenagers. Kevyn, age 19, is a Marine, and Adrianna is a high school sophomore. Geraldine “was very close with my kids her entire life. She was a really good mom.”

Geraldine continued to live in the home where she’d raised her children, and Rose frequently drove from Aurora to provide assistance and support.

“I was coming here almost every single day, because my mom was very strong-willed and she did not like to ask for help,” she explains. “If I wasn’t around, I didn’t know what was going on.”

About two years ago, she started to look for programs that might help her mother. “First of all, the windows weren’t safe!” explains Rose. “They opened, but they didn’t have a way to lock or anything, and she was here by herself. The rest of the stuff, she probably was okay with, but I really wasn’t okay with it because I just wanted her to be safe.”

After she found out about Pikes Peak Habitat’s home repair program, she helped her mother fill out the paperwork. In addition to replacing the windows, the



crew planned to upgrade accessibility features.

But three weeks into the process, Geraldine passed away in her sleep.

“It was a sudden cardiac event. She died very, very unexpectedly,” says Rose. “She was 80, but if you met her,

you would have thought she was 50. She had a lot of energy.”

Rose, who works as a certified nursing assistant, eventually was able to purchase the home where she’d grown up. She and Adrianna relocated to Colorado Springs, and Adrianna is enrolled in a local high school.

Pikes Peak Habitat decided to complete the repairs – both because we had started the project and because Rose qualifies under our income guidelines. The plans were adjusted to fit her and her daughter’s needs. They spent several months without a working bathroom as repairs were completed – and the new bathroom was finished just in time for the start of the school year!

Both mother and daughter appreciate the chance to live in Rose’s childhood home.

“We have so many memories of being with her,” says Rose. “My daughter would always call my mom her best friend, because my mom helped to raise her.”

The urn with Geraldine’s ashes has a prominent spot in the home. “I want her to see everything that has [gone] on and see the finished product,” Rose explains. Her mom had temporarily relocated during the repair process, “so when she saw the house last, there was no floors, there was nothing. All the appliances, all the cabinets, everything had been removed. So I just want her to be able to enjoy it too, because this house was very important to her.”

And Rose’s stepfather, who passed when she was seven, is nearby.

“He’s actually buried in Evergreen Cemetery...and if you stand there you can see the house,” she shares. “She’s here, and he’s there, and it’s like they’re both looking over us.”



Rose holds the urn with her mother’s ashes in front of the Colorado Springs home where she grew up. Honoring her mother in the repair process has been important to her.

Meet Our 5th Veterans Build Family

Trinady, Damian, and their twin daughters will be Pikes Peak Habitat's 5th Veterans Build family. Mike Maroone Honda has already contributed to their future home through the 6th Annual Honda and Acura Charity Car Show – and the fundraising will continue with our holiday Gingerbread Home Build! We're excited to introduce this family to you.

Damian grew up in Omaha, but the Army brought him to Fort Carson – and eventually to his family. He met Trinady through a friend. At the time, she attended college in her hometown of Alamosa, but her school didn't have the program she wanted. So she decided to move to Colorado Springs, both for her education and to be closer to Damian.

They soon married, and a few months later, they learned Trinady was pregnant – with twins! Their daughters, Analise and Ember, are now two, and both parents are excited about raising them in their new Pikes Peak Habitat home.

"I'm looking forward to giving the girls a better future, giving them a home instead of rooms," Damian says.

After his military service ended, he took a job as a delivery driver while Trinady completes her master's degree. The family lives in a low-income apartment that's both unsafe and unhealthy. In addition, one of their daughters has been diagnosed with a rare blood disorder, which has meant a lot of medical appointments.

As they look forward to raising their daughters in a safe, healthy, secure environment, they're thankful to the many people who are contributing time, donations, and labor to build their home.

"Thank you," says Damian. "You're doing a good deed. It's for a good cause."

"Changing from being a soldier to being a civilian and working a regular job can be tough, and lots of veterans struggle to find their feet once out of the military," says Trinady. "So helping veterans and their families is so amazing!"



End-of-Year Fundraising Campaigns Target Different Needs

The final months of the year bring an array of fundraising campaigns and opportunities to donate:

Gingerbread Home Build (through Dec. 15): Participants build and decorate a gingerbread house, then seek "votes" in the form of donations. Proceeds benefit the Veterans Build.

Giving Tuesday (Nov. 28): On this international day of giving, we highlight our partner countries.

Colorado Gives Day (Dec. 5): This local day of giving provides an opportunity to focus on our partner families and our work in El Paso County.

End-of-Year Mailed Appeal (Dec. 15): In this letter, we share an in-depth look at one of our partner families.

12 Days of Christmas (Dec. 25-Jan. 5): This is an opportunity for Pikes Peak Habitat to secure items we need for our day-to-day operations.



We don't just build and repair homes – at The Ridge at Sand Creek, we're building a neighborhood. It's a neighborhood where Pikes Peak Habitat homeowners attend each other's ground blessings and home dedications, help landscape each other's yards, and shovel each other's sidewalks. It's a neighborhood where children have the chance to make friends, play outside, walk their dogs, and just be kids. Your donations and support go beyond individual houses and families: With your help, we're building communities.

Global Village

Continued from p. 1



Above left, Global Village participants pose in front of Norma's home. Above right, dancers in Luque community colors of yellow and blue celebrate at the home dedication.

Habitat Paraguay's work goes beyond home construction and repair. Their advocacy efforts focus on land rights and access to personal loans. They help individuals get business permits. The Global Village group also visited a community center that offers job training for women and a local school, where children identify and address problems in their neighborhood. During COVID-19, the affiliate added clean water stations and filtration systems to help with community sanitation and also repaired numerous bathrooms throughout communities.

At the end of the week, the group had the chance to attend Norma's home dedication. Henry stresses that this isn't typical for a Global Village trip "because we're meeting the house wherever it is," but the dedication provided a fun and meaningful close to the experience.

"They started constructing her house in July, and they are done now!" Henry says. "The average construction for them is about six weeks, and they are a powerhouse."

Similarly to a Pikes Peak Habitat dedication, Norma and a board member both spoke. "At the end, they had everyone touch the house and say a word that they wanted for Norma and her family, so that was a special moment," Henry notes.

The celebration also featured dancers dressed in Luque neighborhood colors of yellow and blue, and a woman performed a traditional dance with a *cantaro*, a type of pitcher, on her head. After the dedication, the community held a fair.

Participating in the trip helped Henry prepare to lead Global Village experiences for Pikes Peak Habitat. The program is slowly resuming, and we hope to receive approval for a trip in the coming year.

"It's my goal that we are thoughtful about doing this

program well, and any time we start something new, I think it's important that we take a posture of learning from people who have the expertise in this area," Henry explains. "That's one benefit about this trip; because it was a 25th anniversary, we got to see an affiliate that's really done phenomenal work over 25 years, see where they have been and where they're going. Also, there were lots of people from other affiliates who had been on trips or led them, so it was a great learning opportunity to share expertise. So in that sense, I think it was very practically helpful for giving vision for what we hope to create in the future."

Although we don't yet have exact dates or a specific location for the Pikes Peak Habitat Global Village, an online interest form is available for anyone who would like to receive updates. In addition, we're currently accepting applications for Global Village Subcommittee members who "are passionate about getting things up and running," Henry says. Scan the QR code on this page for more information and links.

"Any time you're able to travel internationally, number one, the world gets smaller, which I think is good," says Henry. "Number two, it's a good reminder that people are coming up with creative solutions to the need for housing all across the world. It's a good reminder that we're not alone in our desire to have that for our own local community, but there's also people that are cheering us on in our work and can bring a lot of encouragement."

She adds, "Also, it's just a really great opportunity to be able to learn about different cultures and to be able to step outside of your comfort zone a little bit, to try something new, to taste food you never have, to do something that is meaningful for someone else."



Left, a woman performs a traditional Paraguayan dance at Norma's home dedication. Scan the QR code (below right) for information about Pikes Peak Habitat's Global Village.



Kayla's Family Anticipates Coming Home

Continued from p. 2

Kayla spent years trying to purchase a home.

"There's a stigma with single parents," she says. "You can say that there should be no stereotypes and no discrimination in the homebuying process, but there is, and it's kind of unspoken."

Being accepted into Pikes Peak Habitat's program has brought her a renewed sense of hope.

"I'm good enough for Habitat, and to me that speaks volumes about the kind of people you're working with, their heart behind their mission," says Kayla. "For me that's impactful. It's a light at the end of the tunnel. It's hope, to have a door open."

Kayla already has strong connections within her new community. She's known Monya – whose home was Pikes Peak Habitat's 3rd Veterans Build – since high school, and she attends the same church as Karmen, the 4th Veterans Build homeowner and her future next-door neighbor.

In addition, "I've gotten to know Judith, to talk with her about her garden," says Kayla, who's excited about starting her own garden in her new backyard. She's already planning where her potatoes and strawberries will grow.

Her daughter is looking forward to the backyard for a different reason.

"We can get a dog!" says Kayla. "She's been asking for a dog for 12 years."

And her son is excited to have a basketball hoop on the driveway.

"He loves basketball; that's his sport," explains Kayla. "He used to be an outside kid, and there's no place to play outside where we've been, so I think he's looking forward to having that ability, that freedom again to just wake up on Saturday morning and he can go outside, and he gets to shoot hoops."



Pikes Peak Habitat volunteers work on the exterior of Kayla's future home.



She adds, "You drive by and see all the kids in the street, and you get excited....It's a neighborhood. It's a community. It's different. We haven't had that before, so it's really cool."

Join Us for Groundbreaking and Home Dedication Nov. 4!

Nov. 4 is a big day for Pikes Peak Habitat! Join us at The Ridge at Sand Creek for two celebrations:

At **9:30 a.m.**, we will hold a groundbreaking for three future homeowner families:

- Janice and her teenage daughter
- Ida, Alex, Lucia, and Ida and Alex's daughter. Their home is the Kum & Go Sponsored Build.



- Gilas and her son, who will move into a recycled home in the Woodmen Vistas community. (A recycled home is a Pikes Peak Habitat house that has returned to our stock. We renovate to meet current construction and energy standards before selling it to a new family.)



At **10:30 a.m.**, we will hold the home dedication for Kayla's family. Their home is the 3rd George Hammond Build – Honoring Tim Trowbridge.

Video Highlights Habitat's Commitment to Safeguarding



Habitat for Humanity is committed to supporting a respectful and ethical workplace, safeguarding the rights of those we serve, and properly stewarding our donors' funds and

resources. In service to that commitment, and in accordance with its foundational mission principles, Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity opposes any form of discrimination, harassment, exploitation, and abuse.

Scan the QR code to watch a 10-minute video that explains the meaning of "safeguarding" and our commitment to safeguarding.





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 80907



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

719.475.7800

Donate to give families a hand up, not a hand out. Your gifts enable Pikes Peak Habitat homes and repairs to be affordable.

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



Follow us!

[f](#) [@pikespeakhabitat](#)



Northeast Location

6250 Tutt Blvd.
Colorado Springs, CO 80923

South Location

411 S. Wahsatch Ave.
Colorado Springs, CO 80903



Shopping

Monday - Saturday
10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Donation Drop Offs

Monday - Saturday
10 a.m.-5 p.m.



Schedule a FREE Donation Pickup

719.667.0841
pikespeakhabitat.org/restore



Follow us!

[f](#) [@pikespeakrestores](#)

PikesPeakHabitat.org

