



coming home

The Newsletter of Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity
Winter 2024

ReStore South Celebrates 20 Years

On January 17, 2004, Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity opened our first ReStore at 411 S. Wahsatch Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80903 – a location it still occupies today. In the past two decades, though, the store has expanded from a small space to encompass the full building, an outdoor sales lot on the south side, and extensive storage areas.

“This little outdoor building, the garage, about twice the size of that is what they started with,” explains Barry Mullane, who has volunteered at the ReStore since it opened. “It was walled off, and there was other stuff in this building. They’ve gone bigger, gone bigger, gone bigger, and then they took over the whole thing! It’s always been really nice to see this grow and to be a part of what it takes to make it happen.”

20⁰⁴
to
24

To thank our loyal customers, the ReStores are holding a 20% sale for 20 days! From Jan. 17 to Feb. 5, take an extra 20% off a single item per purchase. This includes new and purchased product (orange tags) but excludes bulk and bundle orders.

The ReStore was created to serve as a “self-sufficient, sustainable funding source,” Paul Johnson, then Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity executive director, recalled for a *Coming Home* article about the store’s 10th anniversary in 2014.

It’s certainly lived up to that mission. Twenty years after opening its doors, proceeds from that ReStore – as well as the ReStore Northeast, which launched two years ago at 6250 Tutt Blvd., Colorado Springs, CO, 80923, and our new online storefront – have contributed to the construction of **128 new homes** built in partnership with workforce families in El Paso County.

“To know that I’m working for an entity that affects so many people’s lives and to be able to put opportunity on the table for people who would otherwise not have the ability to own their own home gives me the ability to go home at night and sleep well,” says Toby Drury, Pikes Peak Habitat Director of ReStores. “I couldn’t be more thankful to be here.”

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Gingerbread Goodness

This year we held a Gingerbread Village decorating event for church youth groups! Read more on p. 2, and learn about the Gingerbread Home Build fundraiser, which benefits our Veterans Build, on p. 9.



Little Library Strengthens Community

Construction volunteers and the Colorado Springs chapter of the Pi Beta Phi Alumnae Club teamed up to bring a little library to The Ridge at Sand Creek! Read more about this project on p. 4.



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What's Happening on the Build Site

The Ridge at Sand Creek in Colorado Springs

In the first quarter of 2024, we are scheduled to finish two homes:

- 3rd Interfaith Build for Unity in February (Jessica's home)
- Recycled home in Woodmen Vistas in March (Gilas' home)

We plan to finish six more:

- Fund for Humanity in April (Maria's home)
- Fund for Humanity in June (Janice's home)
- Kum & Go Build in June (Ida, Alex, and Lucia's home)
- Fund for Humanity in September (Miranda's home)
- Veterans Build in November (Trinady and Damian's home)
- Apostles Build in December (Bernadette's home)



First Gingerbread Village Event Combines Fun, Festivity, and Fundraising

This holiday season, Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity held our Gingerbread Home Build for the fifth time. For this fun competition, groups decorate a gingerbread home, then raise funds in the form of "votes" for their completed home. Proceeds benefit our Veterans Build home. (Read more about the fundraiser on page 9.)

This year, we decided to try something new: an in-person Gingerbread Village decorating event for local church youth groups at the ReStore Northeast.

"At Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity, we believe that individuals of all ages should be able to put their faith in action and help our organization drive our mission forward in the local community. So our Faith in Action program intentionally creates periodic events throughout the year that are youth-centered, which provide an opportunity for students to get engaged," explains Chloe Henry, Faith in Action program manager. "For this event, as we approached the advent season, we wanted to provide an opportunity for church youth groups to be able to not only participate in a fun Christmas-themed event, but also work on a project that would tangibly make a difference for a family in our community."

Story continued on p. 8



Left, youth from Grace and St. Stephens Episcopal Church and St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church participated in the Gingerbread Village event. Right, Damian, Trinady, and their twin daughters—our 5th Veterans Build family—also decorated a gingerbread home.



Building on Solid Foundations

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



Kris Lewis

We often hear that a new year is a time for new beginnings – and while that can certainly be true, as I reflect on the stories in this issue of *Coming Home*, I'm struck by how we at Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity aren't just starting new initiatives – although we're doing that, too! – but also building, expanding, improving, and innovating on existing programs and projects. It often seems we're exploding with creativity – on our construction site, with our home repair program, through our Faith in Action initiatives, in our business office, and at our ReStores.

The ReStores take center stage in this issue, as we celebrate an exciting milestone: the 20-year anniversary of our flagship ReStore South. While the location remains the same, the store has expanded from a fraction of a building to an entire city block! We've added a second physical location and also launched an online storefront this year. And proceeds from sales have contributed to the construction of 128 homes that Pikes Peak Habitat has built in partnership with El Paso County workforce families. Talk about new beginnings!

We couldn't have done any of this without you, our loyal supporters, donors, customers, and volunteers. You'll meet a few of our volunteers in these pages, and I want to emphasize that we appreciate every person who helps out, every hour they work, every item donated, every dollar spent. This is truly a community effort, and we are so thankful for everyone who has helped our ReStores grow.

We're also grateful for the many people who participated in our Gingerbread Home Build, which benefits our Veterans Build home. This year we added a new component: a Gingerbread Village decorating night, where church youth groups could have fun, get messy, be creative, and meet the family whose home they're helping build!

When that family – Trinady, Damian, and their twin daughters – move into their new home this summer, they'll be steps away from a little library, where they can find free books. This welcome addition to our community resulted from a collaboration between the Pi Beta Phi Alumnae Club, Colorado Springs chapter, and Pikes Peak Habitat volunteers and business partners.

And they'll be living near two families who recently moved into their own homes: Kayla and her children, and Ricardo, Mariela, and their four sons. We rejoiced to celebrate with these families, and we can't wait to welcome Jessica and her son to their new home in February! Jessica is our 3rd Interfaith Build for Unity homeowner, and her home dedication concludes a month that begins with our interfaith dialogue. We hope you'll join us for both of these events, learn more about neighborliness in various faith traditions, and meet some new friends!

With all of this going on, sometimes it's hard to catch our breath! But we're committed to smart growth, to establishing solid foundations that will endure, both for the homes we build and repair, and for the programs and events and relationships that make the physical work possible. I couldn't be more honored to continue building for the future with you.

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Pi Beta Phi Alumnae, Volunteer Collaborate to Create Library for Pikes Peak Habitat Neighborhood



Thanks to a Rotary Club connection and a handy volunteer, the Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity neighborhood at The Ridge at Sand Creek has a little library.

“We were just talking about ideas we could do in the community, and a little library was brought up,” explains Sam Chapman, a member of the Pi Beta Phi Alumnae Club, Colorado Springs chapter.

Pi Beta Phi is a national sorority that emphasizes literacy.

“The organization itself provides books to be put in the hands of children. We have applied for grants five times in the Colorado Springs area, and we have been able to give 3,000 books to different organizations,” says Judy Gebben, an alumnae who also is a retired teacher. “We were kind of at a point where maybe we should try something different, so little libraries came up.”

In addition to her involvement in the sorority alumnae chapter, Chapman also serves as president of the Colorado Springs Rotary Club—and through that organization, she’d met Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity CEO Kris Lewis.

“I knew you were building the community out here that had families, so it seemed like a great connection,” says Chapman. “I reached out to Kris, and the rest is history!”

Alumnae club members committed to decorating the library and keeping it stocked with titles for kids—and adults—in The Ridge at Sand Creek. But they felt a bit overwhelmed at the idea of building the free-standing structure.

That’s where Bruce Latimer, who volunteers on our construction site every week, entered the picture.

“We were at lunch, and Eric [Wells, Pikes Peak Habitat construction superintendent] said, ‘Anybody want to volunteer to make a lending library?’” recalls Latimer. “I was sitting next to him, and I said I’d do it. That was on a Wednesday, and the next Wednesday I brought it in.”

Latimer turned out to be the perfect person for the job. He builds furniture and says “half of my garage” serves as a home workshop. Wells supplied him with plans and marine-grade plywood. Latimer conducted additional research, then purchased hinges and a clasp to make the structure more secure and weatherproof.

Pikes Peak Habitat volunteer Bruce Latimer built the little library (above, before installation and finish) with marine-grade plywood supplied by Pikes Peak Habitat. He researched and purchased weatherproof fixtures himself. Below, he inspects the clasp on the completed library.



Far left, Pi Beta Phi Alumnae Club, Colorado Springs chapter, members (from left) Mary Mardigian, Judy Gebben, and Kim Hollm paint the library silver-blue, one of the sorority’s colors. Left (from left), Sam Chapman, Hollm, and Ashley Olson, chapter president, pose with the library after adding finishing touches in wine, the sorority’s other color.

"I spent a bunch of time trying to pick up nice hardware that would hold up outside," Latimer says. He adds, "I've got a lot of tools, and it's fun to use them!"

Completing the library was truly a collaborative effort. Volunteer Mark Martin added the metal roof and installed the structure. The base was fabricated and donated by Anthony Sweet, who used thick metal rather than wood for more durability. Construction supervisor Gary Blake suggested powder-coating the base, and Platinum Powder Coating donated the labor. Red Man Pours donated the concrete pad. After the library was installed, Pi Beta Phi Alumnae Club members painted and decorated the structure.

"It was wonderful to see how excited Habitat for Humanity was and how they just wanted to jump in the project and offered to provide materials," says Chapman. "I think literacy is so important for kids. It's the cornerstone and foundation for everything. Being able to provide a place where any child and even adults can have a book—you can't go wrong with that!"

On Dec. 20, Gebben and fellow club members Kim Hollm and Mary Mardigian painted the structure.

"I'm excited to see it completed," says Latimer, who stopped by to meet the sorority alumnae and see them put the finishing touches on his creation. "Really what makes it fun is seeing the end product."

The next day, Hollm returned, along with Chapman and Ashley Olson, a kindergarten teacher and president of the Pi Beta Phi Alumnae Club Colorado Springs chapter. Chapman had created stencils with her Cricut, and the trio used these to add drawings of books and slogans—such as the sorority's motto, "Read, Lead, Achieve"—to the structure.

"We had done a lot of literacy projects before COVID, and unfortunately when COVID happened a lot of those programs ceased to exist," explains Olson. "So we were looking for a way to be able to get books into the hands of kiddos, and when Sam mentioned this idea, it just really seemed like it



was something that was feasible and also necessary."

While the little library concept is based on exchange—a visitor leaves one book and takes another—Olson notes that those most in need of books, especially children, often aren't able to contribute. The library in front of the school where she teaches is "completely empty," she says. "So there's definitely a need for people to adopt [the libraries] and make sure they're stocked, because a lot of kids can't donate a book, can't give a book back."

The alumnae club plans to maintain the supply. "We just made a commitment that we will have somebody come by and check it on a regular basis, so we will make sure books are available," says Gebben.

Jessica, Pikes Peak Habitat's 3rd Interfaith Build for Unity future homeowner, was working on her sweat equity while the library received finishing touches—and she says she's excited to have this resource in her new neighborhood.

"My own child likes to read—sometimes—but then there's other times he gets bored with his books," Jessica explains. "So it's nice having a miniature library, so you don't have to travel so far to get to the regular library!"

She also foresees it helping build connections with neighbors. "It's a way we can come together as a community, and it gives us a reason, you know, meet at the mailbox or the library box," she says. "I think it's really awesome!"

Even before its completion, the library was bringing people together—such as alumnae club members and Latimer.

"It's neat when people are excited about something I made!" he says. "That's probably the biggest kick I'm getting out of this."

Both the Pi Beta Phi alumnae and Wells are hoping to add more libraries—in The Ridge at Sand Creek and possibly other Pikes Peak Habitat communities. Wells already has the next location chosen on Bidwell Drive.

"We're very excited!" says Hollm. "And we're game for more—more little libraries in communities. Bring 'em on!"

The little library is located by the walkway that runs between Bidwell Drive and Babcock Road in The Ridge at Sand Creek. Although the Pi Beta Phi Alumnae Club, Colorado Springs chapter, is maintaining inventory, anyone is welcome to contribute books by leaving them in the library.

ReStore South Celebrates 20 Years

Story continued from p. 1

“Every piece of merchandise that you pick up in the store affects at minimum three lives,” says Drury. “The donor clears clutter from their homes, which lets them breathe easy. The customer gets quality merchandise at a far reduced price that allows their limited budget to go further, and all the proceeds that come out of these stores assist someone in getting into a home. And that doesn’t say anything about the people in between!”

Those people include staff and longtime volunteers such as Mullane, Suzanne Ballard, and Mary Banner. For Ballard, who has volunteered at the ReStore for 17 years, the human touch is a highlight.

“The people are all pretty nice and warm. They give you that warm, fuzzy feeling of being part of a family, which I didn’t have for a long time!” she says. She recalls how the community of ReStore volunteers and staff supported her through a bad car accident and the loss of several relatives. “They’ve been here for that,” she says. “It’s like an extra family.”

Personal interactions are important to Mullane, too. He loves seeing customers find a hard-to-locate item and leave the store with a smile on their face. “There was a guy today who’s been looking for a part for a month and a half,” he says. “He had a picture, and I went back, found him the part, and it’s holding up a big project, but now he gets it done this weekend!”

He adds, “You never know what you’re going to see, what comes across the loading dock! We get it out, and it sells, and it goes to such a great thing. There’s a win-win at every angle.”

The ReStores don’t just provide a venue to sell usable materials – although that’s an important part of their mission. They also serve as centers for recycling metal, paint, porcelain, and textiles. In 2023, they kept 2,579 tons of material out of landfills.

And that’s a major motivation for Banner, who has been involved with the ReStore since its opening.

“I am very passionate about recycling and reusing,” she explains. “It was the way I was brought up as a child; my mother did it always, and I do, too. I believe in the purpose of what they’re trying to do here.”

Drury, whose previous experience includes working for big-box retailers, loves that his job benefits workforce families instead of corporations. And he appreciates staff and volunteers who share the same vision.

“All of the people that we have currently in our ReStore are interested in serving the mission to not only help our customers and donors that come to the ReStores themselves,” says Drury, “but they’re also very interested in helping the community build homes to make it affordable for people to have a good place to live.”

None of what the ReStores have accomplished over the past two decades would be possible without our customers, donors, and volunteers – and we’re so grateful!

“Thank you!” Drury says. “Thank you for being a part of the Habitat process, whether it be donating something to us, purchasing something from us, volunteering with us, or just spreading the word about what Pikes Peak Habitat does in our community.”



Then and now: The look of the ReStore truck has changed through the years, from 2004 (left) to 2017 (center) to today.

ReStore South Loves Our Volunteers!

Mary Banner

"I'm a miniaturist, and my husband worked with [first ReStore manager] John Veteto when they started it, and so we thought it would be nice, whenever they made enough to pay for a house, I'd build a little house.

We stopped when my husband retired....They've built more houses since then, but then they also expanded a lot!"

The miniature homes Banner created (a sampling are pictured below) are on display in glass cases behind the counter at the ReStore South. Check them out next time you're in the store!



Barry Mullane

"I've always been a person going to all the ReStores around the country. My relatives would get a kick out of it when I'd say, 'Is there a ReStore here in town?' and I'd go find it, and we'd fix whatever their deal was. I've always been interested in Habitat and what they do, and this has always been a very good opportunity to watch this store grow."

Suzanne Ballard



"I was working with my brother-in-law as a real estate photographer, and we were talking about something to do to give back to the community.

I went out and took photos...of the first house that the ReStore totally sponsored.

We all wrote our names on the framing inside."



From left, Chef Brother Luck, Jenny Allman, Geri Woessner, and Matthew Sparks organized tile at the ReStore South.

Local Restaurateur and Staff Help Out

This fall, Chef Brother Luck and several of his employees volunteered at the ReStore South.

"For the past few years, we've been doing Sober Week at the restaurants," explains Matthew Sparks, director of operations. "It's really just a week to reevaluate how we live the restaurant life." The 2023 activities included a volunteer shift at the ReStore!

Luck, Sparks, catering manager Jenny Allman, and cook Geri Woessner organized tile to make space for new product. "This type of work matches a lot with what our jobs look like anyway, so it works out well!" says Woessner.

"Beyond volunteering, we also understand the need to support this," says Luck. "I mean, we've outfitted two restaurants with product from here! So that's a huge piece in itself. If you're going to spend your dollars, utilize the organizations that are giving back."

The group also learned more about Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity's work in building affordable workforce homes and repairing homes for current homeowners, especially seniors, veterans, and others who are cost-burdened.

"As leaders and people of the community, this gives us a better understanding about the pulse of our community," explains Luck. "To actually see it first-hand and see the full circle, it just gives you a better foundation...so when we do speak to leaders and representatives and senators and the people that dine in our restaurants, we can speak to something that we're educated on."

Revisit 20 Years of ReStore South History Online!

"We are Re-using, Re-cycling, and Re-selling building materials and home improvement supplies in good, useable condition. Not only will our ReStore help divert many tons of materials away from our local landfills, but we will also provide local residents with a DISCOUNT home improvement store!" – John Veteto, first ReStore manager, in *Coming Home*, fall 2003



Gingerbread Village: Fun, Festivity, Fundraising

Continued from p. 2

The inaugural event brought together youth from two local churches: Grace and St. Stephens Episcopal, and St. Francis of Assisi Catholic. A representative from Thrivent Financial also participated. And because proceeds from this year's Gingerbread Home Build benefit our 5th Veterans Build, our veteran family – Damian, Trinady, and their twin 2-year-old daughters – joined in the fun, so teenagers had a chance to meet the people being impacted by their decorating and fundraising efforts.

“Decorating the gingerbread home was lots of fun, especially with our family and our girls, who thoroughly enjoyed eating all the icing and the candy off our home!” says Trinady. “It means a lot that these youth participated in order to help us with raising money towards our home.”

The event was a success, with participants expressing their enjoyment. “The kids had a lot of fun!” says Henry. “It was a joy to look around and see youth groups get excited about working on a project together as a team.”

At the end of the evening, each team made a brief presentation about their design. Judges awarded prizes for such categories as Best Teamwork, Most Creative, Best Christmas Attire, and Best Gingerbread House Made by Those Two Years Old and Under.

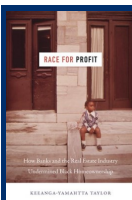
“As an Apostles Build subcommittee, we wanted to provide an opportunity to teach youth that they can make a difference in their community and share the love of Christ with others through their actions,” explains Henry. “It was so fun to hear about the creativity and ingenuity that all the groups put into their design!”

Trinady says their family really enjoyed being part of the event. “This was our first year building a gingerbread house, and although the girls ate most of it, it was a fun thing to do as a family!” she notes.

When she and Damian move into their new home, “We are looking forward to starting and continuing many traditions, including baking as a family in our new kitchen every year for the holidays!” she says. “We hope now to be able to invite family over to stay for the holidays and not have to worry about being in a cramped apartment.”

And she doesn't rule out the possibility that more gingerbread homes are in her family's future.

“We would like to say thank you to all those who participated in the Gingerbread Build, as well as those who...donated,” she concludes. “This means so much to our family, and it is great that so many people are willing to help Habitat for Humanity and our home build. If it were not for all the participants and donations, we would not be where we are today and going through this process.”



Read with us!

This month, we're reading Pulitzer Prize finalist *Race for Profit: How Banks and the Real Estate Industry Undermined Black Homeownership* by Keeanga-Yamahatta Taylor. Check out our blog (pikespeakhabitat.org/blog) for questions, thoughts, and to share your comments!



The Adams-Hammond team created this year's winning entry, pictured above. "We of course made good use of the Dremel tool again after learning how useful it was last year!" says Sam Adams. "We had fun creating a creche with cinnamon bears!"

Gingerbread Home Build Celebrates Fifth Year

Five years ago, Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity launched a new fundraiser: the Gingerbread Home Build, which supports our annual Veterans Build.

The concept is simple: Teams sign up to participate. A gingerbread home kit is included in the registration fee, and groups can purchase upgrades that include extra candy and icing. After decorating their home, each team posts photos of their creation online and seeks votes in the form of donations. Whoever raises the most money wins the competition.

This year's winner was the Adams-Hammond team: Sam Adams, sons Matt and Alex, sister-in-law Karen, and George Hammond, Adams' father-in-law and Pikes Peak Habitat's longest-serving volunteer.

"We went in a different direction and built a church by adding to the standard kit," explains Adams. "Matt created a glass shop in the kitchen and spent the entire day experimenting and producing stained glass windows from Jolly Ranchers that Alex installed."

But he notes, "The real win is the house being built!"

Habitat on the Hill Highlights Advocacy

Habitat on the Hill is Habitat for Humanity's premiere legislative conference, which brings more than 400 staff and board members, homeowners, and other leaders to Washington, D.C. This year, the conference takes place Feb. 6-8 and focuses on the theme "Reaching new heights, together."

Several Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity representatives will participate. Karla Probert, assistant to the CEO and affiliate advocacy ambassador, is presenting a poster about our 2023 Mayoral Candidate Forum on Affordable Homeownership.

"Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity was specifically requested to participate in this event to share the success of our Mayoral Forum in the category of advocacy strategy," says Probert. "I will be on hand to present our poster and answer any questions. As a presenter, I was awarded a scholarship to attend the conference."

Board member Tim Trowbridge, who also serves on the Habitat for Humanity International U.S. Policy Committee of the U.S. Council and the Habitat for Humanity Colorado Advocacy Committee, will join Probert and Sarah Buchen, Pikes Peak Habitat volunteer manager, at Habitat on the Hill. Buchen, who is part of Leadership Pikes Peaks' Signature Program for nonprofit leaders, will attend the conference for the first time.

"I want to learn how Habitat is able to make an impact on a state and national level, even if I belong to a local affiliate," she explains. "Advocacy is an important component to my position, because I am public-facing. I should be able to educate the public on issues and topics related to affordable homeownership that impact the community in which we all live."



Left, Karmen, Pikes Peak Habitat's 4th Veterans Build homeowner, moved into her new home—partially constructed with proceeds from last year's Gingerbread Home Build!—in July. She and her sons celebrated the 2023 holiday season with their annual visit to Santa.

Kayla's Family and Ricardo, Mariela, and Sons Celebrate Their New Homes



It's always a joyful day at Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity when we hand El Paso County workforce families the keys to the affordable new homes they've helped build through their sweat equity! This fall, we celebrated with two families who got to come home in time for the holidays.

Kayla's Family: 3rd George Hammond Build—Honoring Tim Trowbridge

The home where Kayla is now living with her two teenage children, following their home dedication Nov. 4, was constructed as our 3rd George Hammond Build – Honoring Tim Trowbridge. (See more about both on p. 9!)

Kayla's son looks forward to having a basketball hoop on the driveway, while her daughter has requested a dog. And Kayla is excited about providing her children with a safe place to live and being able to have a garden. She'll also serve as a panelist for our interfaith dialogue Feb. 4. (See p. 11.)



Left, fellow Pikes Peak Habitat homeowners Ricardo and Mariela greet Kayla at her home dedication Nov. 4.

Ricardo and Mariela's Family: 2023 Apostles Build

Cold weather didn't stop well-wishers from joining Mariela, Ricardo, and their four sons to dedicate their home, our 2023 Apostles Build, on Dec. 9. Volunteers from local churches and Christian organizations helped build the home.

Hot tamales cooked by the family warmed participants after the ceremony, which featured handmade gifts from several



From top: Sarah Buchen, Pikes Peak Habitat volunteer manager, presents Kayla with the keys to her new home. Kayla and her children prepare to cut the ribbon, then pose in their new kitchen. Kayla, center, stands with George Hammond (l) and Tim Trowbridge.

church crafting groups and volunteers. The U.S. Air Force Academy Gospel Choir also performed.

After living in crowded conditions for the past several years, Ricardo and Mariela look forward to having space for their family to spend time together. They're excited for shared meals and family game nights. And their boys now have room for sports equipment, school supplies, books, and toys!



From top: Ricardo, Mariela, and their four sons prepare to cut the ribbon, then warm up in their new kitchen. The youngest boys enjoy the family Christmas tree. Their home was our 2023 Apostles Build.

Interfaith Dialogue and Home Dedication Spotlight

Bridgebuilding in Our Community

Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity is committed to building bridges between people of all faiths and no faith. We hope you'll join us for two events in February that highlight interfaith cooperation.

Interfaith Dialogue

First, on Sunday, Feb. 4, we'll celebrate the 2024 United Nations World Interfaith Harmony Week with "Who Is Your Neighbor?", our third interfaith dialogue focused on affordable homeownership.

"It is our hope that through this event we can demonstrate mutual respect for one another, dispelling misconceptions that we may have of one another or our diverse beliefs to work together toward the common good," says Chloe Henry, Faith in Action program manager.

A five-member panel will discuss neighborliness. Participants are Dick Conn, former CEO of Partners in Housing; Kamel Elwazeir from the Islamic Society of Colorado Springs; Pikes Peak Habitat homeowner Kayla; and future homeowners Gilas and Janice.

in a unique, facilitated interfaith dialogue discussion. Snacks and refreshments will be provided. The dialogue, which takes place from 4-6 p.m. at UCCS' Berger Hall, is free and open to the public, but advance registration is required (see QR code).

3rd Interfaith Build for Unity Home Dedication

On Saturday, Feb. 24, at 10:30 a.m. we'll welcome 3rd Interfaith Build for Unity homeowner Jessica and her son to their new home in The Ridge at Sand Creek.

The celebration, which is free and open to the public, will feature representatives from various faith traditions and communities, who worked alongside each other to help build the home.

"We find that our interfaith Build for Unity is a great opportunity for dialogue to be able to happen and for some of those misconceptions about different faith traditions to hopefully dissipate," says Henry.



Left, members of the Native American Women's Association lead participants in a round dance at the 2023 Interfaith Build for Unity home dedication. Center, Jessica (l) and Chloe Henry speak at the 3rd IBU kickoff event in June. Right, Jessica and her son look forward to having multi-room Nerf battles in their new home.



Scan the QR code for a link to sign up for the interfaith dialogue!

Following their discussion, Steve Posey, Colorado Springs chief housing officer, will share strategies from the mayor's office to address the local housing crisis and also provide ways for faith communities to become involved.

The event will conclude with an opportunity to participate

Being part of the IBU has been a positive experience for Jessica, who looks forward to giving her son a home free of rodents, holes in the walls, and electrical hazards – and with space to have Nerf wars.

"It's for such a good reason, and that's not just for me," she says. "We're all coming together in this instance. Everything's put aside. Even though we're learning from one another, all of our opinions and beliefs and what we think we know are all put aside just so we can make safe, affordable housing."



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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!

    @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



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