



# coming home

The Newsletter of Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity  
Fall 2024

## Apostles Build Participants Share Their Experiences

Each year, El Paso County church congregations join Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity for the Apostles Build, constructing a home in partnership with a local workforce family. This fall, we're putting the final touches on the 2024 Apostles Build, where Bernadette – a childcare worker originally from Fountain – will live with her three children. (See the story about her new roof on page 7.) The home dedication is scheduled for Dec. 14 at 10:30 a.m. – the day after one of her children's birthdays!

"My experience as the Apostles Build future homeowner has been consistently outstanding, thanks to the extensive support surrounding me because of Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity," says Bernadette. "My interactions with different church congregations on my future home have been overwhelmingly positive, characterized by friendly demeanor. Their willingness to devote time and effort to helping others is truly admirable."

One of those churches is First Lutheran. Cheryl Mahon, coordinator of lay ministries, became involved with Pikes Peak Habitat when she worked for Thrivent and organized Diva Parties for women on the construction site. She has continued her involvement, now organizing volunteer groups from the church.

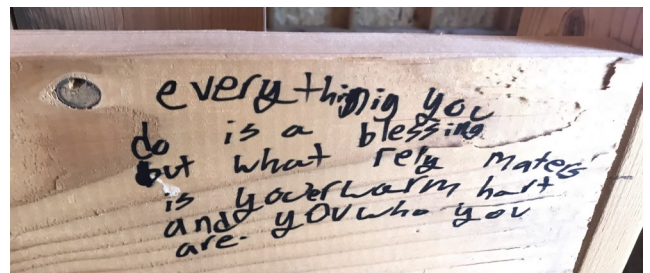
"What's really nice is that when we don't have 10 people to fill the spot, other churches fill the holes," she says. "Then we meet people from other churches!"

Working alongside other congregations is part of the appeal for Peak City Church, too, says Chelsea Walker, discipleship director. "That was cool to see how [other churches] do things and learn from them, but also just build relationships and connections for the future," she explains.

"The Apostles Build was something that I wasn't familiar with before I started working with Pikes Peak Habitat," she adds. "I love that it is building a home for someone in the community. That was just very aligned with our mission of meeting people where they're at and then finding a way to functionally help them."



*Above, Cheryl Mahon and Al Hassebrock from First Lutheran Church often volunteer on the Apostles Build. Below, one of Bernadette's children wrote on a stud in their future home, "Everything you do is a blessing but what really matters [really matters] is your warm hart and you who you are."*



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*See Apostles Build on p. 6*

# What's Happening on the Build Site

## The Ridge at Sand Creek in Colorado Springs

### So far in 2024, we have finished:

- Jessica's 2-bedroom home (the 3rd Interfaith Build for Unity, February)
- Gilas' 2-bedroom home (recycled through the Fund for Humanity, March)
- Maria's 3-bedroom home (Fund for Humanity, April)
- Janice's 2-bedroom home (Fund for Humanity, July)
- Ida, Alex, and Lucia's 3-bedroom home (Maverik Build, July)
- Miranda's 3-bedroom home (Fund for Humanity, September)

### We are scheduled to finish:

- Damian and Trinady's 3-bedroom home (Veterans Build, November)
- Bernadette's 3-bedroom home (2024 Apostles Build, December)



## Registration Opens for Annual Gingerbread Build Competition to Benefit Veteran Family

Registration for Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity's 2024 Gingerbread Home Build is now open! This event raises funds to help build an affordable home for Willie and Barbara, our 6th Veterans Build family.

Participants sign up online, with a registration deadline of Nov. 19. Businesses, organizations, families, and other groups within El Paso County are encouraged to participate.

In late November, those who signed up receive a gingerbread home kit from Pikes Peak Habitat. They also get a link to a fundraising page, where they can upload photos as they decorate their gingerbread homes. The entry that raises the most "votes" in the

form of donations wins the competition, a plaque, and recognition at the Veterans Build ground blessing in January 2025.

Willie is a U.S. Army veteran who was stationed at Fort Carson during his service and also is the son of a Korean War veteran. Barbara's father served in Vietnam. Both also have siblings who are veterans.

Between them, Willie and Barbara are the parents of eight children (four apiece!) and 29 grandchildren. They look forward to having space to host family when they move into their Pikes Peak Habitat home.

"We look at our blessings ahead, and nothing can stop us!" says Willie. "We have a goal, and we can see it."



*Left, Barbara and Willie are our 6th Veterans Build family. Right, scan the QR code to register for the Gingerbread Home Build by Nov. 19!*



They're excited to decorate their own gingerbread home and also to see the many creative entries from other individuals, families, and organizations!

# Looking Forward to 2025 and Beyond

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



*Kris Lewis*

Fall season is in full swing, and if you drive through the Pikes Peak Habitat neighborhood at The Ridge at Sand Creek, you'll see the signs: Harvest and Halloween decorations adorn homes, leaves are changing, sunflowers proliferate, and joyful children ride bikes and skateboards through the streets after school and on weekends.

The decorations, the gardens, and most importantly those carefree kids are just outward signs of the transformation that homeownership brings families in our program. In these pages, you'll meet some of them, including our most recent homeowners. You'll also hear from corporate and church partners – generous community members who contribute their time, talents, and funds to changing lives.

You'll also learn about new initiatives at our affiliate. The planned giving program enables individuals to leave a legacy supporting affordable homeownership at no cost now. And our book club provides a format for discussion about a range of topics touching on our work – from housing policy to life in our tithe partner countries, issues facing veterans, and ways we can all contribute to building a stronger, more engaged, more civil community. As we launch these initiatives, we're excited to plan for the future, for continued growth, for more ways to share our message and our mission so we can impact more lives.

Fall is also the time of year when we release our annual Year in Review, which highlights the accomplishments you – our donors, our volunteers, and our supporters – helped us achieve in fiscal year 2024. Thanks to you, we completed construction on five homes and recycled another. (We originally built this home more than a decade ago, and after it was returned to us, we renovated it to sell to another El Paso County workforce family.) We finished 77 home repair projects focused on health, safety, and accessibility. Our ReStores saved nearly 3,000 tons of items from landfills, thanks to sales and their metal, paint, porcelain, and textile recycling programs. And they generated more than \$1 million to continue building affordable homes here in El Paso County.

As we look ahead to 2025 (and beyond!) we're excited to continue building – our programs, homes, communities, and ability to transform lives. We're so glad you're on this journey with us.

*Scan the QR code to see the FY 2024 Year in Review.*



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## Coming Home

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Monique Bos



women building hope  
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2024

november 7-9

*join us!*

# Affordable Homeownership Moves from Dream to Reality for More El Paso County Families



*Above, Tonya shares remarks about her new home at the ground blessing July 13. Below, she, her four children, and her grandson stand on the site of their future home.*



*Above, from left, Lucia, Sofia, Alex, and Ida rejoice as they prepare to cut the ribbon on their home July 13. Below, they pose with Maverik District Supervisor Chris Burton.*



Over the past few months, six families have celebrated milestones in their homeownership journeys with Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity.

On July 13, we blessed ground for the five-bedroom home – our first in The Ridge at Sand Creek – where Tonya will live with her four children and her grandson.

Then we crossed the street to welcome Janice and her daughter Matty to their new home.

After that, we celebrated the dedication for our Maverik Build, home of Ida and Alex, their daughter Sofia, and Ida’s aunt Lucia. Maverik District Supervisor Chris Burton also attended the event.

After the family was accepted into the homeownership program, Sofia shared that she looked forward to getting a puppy when they moved into their new home! She did – and the puppy joined her at our next set of celebrations Sept. 21.

First, we broke ground for Glenda’s and Tamara’s new homes, which will stand next door to each other.

Then we celebrated Miranda’s home dedication, with many of her new – and future – neighbors present for the festivities.

Five of these six homes are Fund for Humanity Builds, supported by sources that include Pikes Peak Habitat mortgage payments as well as proceeds from the ReStores.

Our next celebration is Nov. 9 at 10:30 a.m., when we dedicate the 5th Veterans Build home for U.S. Army veteran Damian, his wife Trinady, and their children. Please join us!



*Above, Matty (left) and Janice prepare to cut the ribbon on their new home July 13. Below, they stand on the driveway with some of the volunteers and construction staff who helped build the home.*



*Above, Miranda embraces her children inside their new home after the dedication Sept. 21. Below, she speaks with new next-door neighbor Ida.*



# Planned Giving Launches at Pikes Peak Habitat

By Abigail Hernandez

While planned, deferred, and legacy giving options have always been available at Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity, I recently was hired as our first full-time staff member dedicated to planned giving.

I graduated from Colorado College in 2022, earning my bachelor's degree in psychology with dual minors in education and linguistics. For the past two years, I participated in El Pomar Foundation's Fellowship program, and I currently serve on the Board of Directors for CASA of the Pikes Peak Region. My hope is to continue to make an impact on my community through philanthropic endeavors.

I am excited about my new role as the planned giving officer. I will work to strategize, implement, and maintain the planned giving program to promote future affordable homeownership opportunities in El Paso County. Planned gifts allow generous partners like you to make meaningful gifts you may have never thought possible. A little planning expands your opportunity to help Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity build a world where everyone has a safe and affordable place to call home.

Some popular planned gifts include bequests through wills or trusts, qualified charitable contributions, and beneficiary designations. Planned giving offers an opportunity to create a lasting legacy with Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity, ensuring your impact continues to make a difference for generations to come.

If you want to chat more about how to leave a legacy with us, contact me at 719.475.7800 ext. 114.



*Scan the QR code to learn more about planned giving or set up a meeting with Abigail.*



## Read with Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity



## Book Club Offers Forum for Dialogue

Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity is launching a reading discussion group this fall.

Our book club will meet the second Thursday of every month from 7-8:30 p.m. via Zoom. The inaugural discussion focuses on *Learning to Disagree: The Surprising Path to Navigating Differences with Empathy and Respect* by John Inazu – an Air Academy High School alumnus! Inazu is also a U.S. Air Force veteran who was working in the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001. He now serves as a professor of law at Washington University in St. Louis, a Trustee of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, and a Senior Fellow with Interfaith America.

“The book club is intended to provide multiple points of entry to Pikes Peak Habitat’s work, from looking at issues related to affordable housing in the U.S., to learning about Pikes Peak Habitat’s tithe partner countries, to examining challenges faced by our veterans,” says Monique Bos, communications manager. “I’m thrilled to start with a title by a writer who grew up here in El Paso County and is a military veteran. He offers strategies to help us remain civil and engaged with our fellow community members, even when we can’t agree on issues.”

She notes that the goal of book club discussions is to understand other perspectives and experiences, not necessarily to reach agreement.

Next up is *The Women* by Kristin Hannah Nov. 14, in honor of Veterans Day and Pikes Peak Habitat’s 5th Veterans Build home dedication, which takes place Nov. 9. On Dec. 12, the discussion will focus on *Our Better Angels: Seven Simple Virtues That Will Change Your Life and the World* by Habitat for Humanity CEO Jonathan Reckford.

*E-mail [Monique@PikesPeakHabitat.org](mailto:Monique@PikesPeakHabitat.org) for the Zoom link and a conversation starter!*

# Apostles Build Participants Share Their Experiences

## *Continued from cover*

First Lutheran volunteer Al Hassebrock says spending time on the construction site has helped him not just meet people from other churches but also get acquainted with folks from his own congregation.

“Because the church is so large, you meet people of the church that you wouldn’t meet otherwise,” he says.

Mahon agrees that volunteering can be a great way to get to know others. “Depending upon what activity you’re doing and if you’re doing something alongside someone else, you can kind of share stories and backgrounds.”

She notes that having a professional construction crew on-site means even people who have never worked in construction before are still welcome and can learn new skills.

“I think once people are on-site and they see what it’s all about – I think people are a little afraid, especially women, of ‘I don’t know how to build a house; what could I possibly do to help?’ – and they do teach you,” Mahon says. “What was fun for me, over the years, was that I learned to do things I would never have thought I would ever do! I hung doors. I know how to run a chop saw.”

Hassebrock agrees. “You get a better sense of what it takes to make a house,” he notes. “It’s good exercise, too!”

And Walker says she appreciates how well-organized Pikes Peak Habitat’s construction site is.

“I loved...the ease and flexibility of opportunities, and knowing that the groups that I had set up were going to be multigenerational, and they had multiple ability levels, and I knew that you guys could support all of those different ones,” she says. “They knew exactly where to go. They knew what to expect, which I think

is huge in volunteer coordination, and it means a lot to me as a coordinator because I don’t want to just send people in blind somewhere.”

And volunteers often have the chance to work alongside future homeowners.

“I have witnessed the willingness of the congregations to partner together and their commitment to helping build affordable housing,” says Bernadette. “The dedication of each congregation to helping others is sensational. Their individual communities collectively deepen the Pikes Peak Habitat community, creating a memorable experience.”

So far, nine El Paso County churches have sent volunteer groups to work on the 2024 Apostles Build, many of them on multiple dates. Spots are still available – and Walker encourages other congregations to become involved.

“It’s our commandment to go out and serve and help people,” she says. “We have seen volunteer growth and depth by getting outside the four walls, and seeing that God is not just here. He’s everywhere. So I would say, just take the next step, and it doesn’t have to be you’re sending 200 people. It can be three people or whatever it is, and y’all take care of it.”

And at the end of the process, church groups have the chance to celebrate with the homeowner at the dedication ceremony – so the volunteers can see the result of their labor on workforce families who have struggled with the high cost of living.

“With them doing their sweat equity and with the donations and how it’s funded, it’s a mortgage they can afford to pay. They couldn’t get an apartment that size for that price,” notes Mahon. “To see when they get their keys and they cut their ribbon, that’s just goose bumps! You wish you could do it for a lot more, a lot faster.”



*Left, Chelsea Walker of Peak City Church discusses her involvement with the Apostles Build. Right, future homeowner Bernadette and her children celebrate at their ground blessing in February. Their home dedication is scheduled for Dec. 14.*



*Scan the QR code to learn more about the Apostles Build!*

## Companies Donate Roofs for Faith Builds



***Above left and right, roofing crews work on Bernadette's home on Sept. 23. Above center, future Apostles Build homeowner Bernadette, left, speaks to Tonya Robedeau from Old World Roofing. Bernadette baked cookies and her children wrote thank-you cards for Old World Roofing and GAF.***

On two successive Mondays in September, roofing crews were hard at work at The Ridge at Sand Creek, installing roofs for Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity's two faith builds – the Apostles Build and 4th Interfaith Build for Unity (IBU) homes.

GAF donated the materials through a partnership with Habitat for Humanity International, while local company Old World Roofing – who also handles insulation for our new homes – donated the labor, thanks to a partnership between the Colorado Roofing Association and Habitat for Humanity of Colorado.

“This is something that is really important to me, as well as to our company,” says Tonya Robedeau, who works in human resources and sales for Old World Roofing. “We try to give back to our community in all different aspects, and so we're really appreciative to be able to work on this house, as well as the one next door, and be part of the Habitat projects.”

Bernadette, the Apostles Build future homeowner (see cover story), stopped by during her lunch break to deliver cookies she baked and thank-you cards her children created for Old World Roofing and GAF.

“We appreciate the generosity of GAF and Old World Roofing in donating the materials and labor for our roof, ensuring our safety and security from the forces of nature,” says Bernadette. “Under this roof, we will create lasting memories and cherish the peace of mind that comes with knowing we are protected and secure, a gift to my children and myself that will never be forgotten.”

Her children also expressed thanks for the new roof and can't wait to see it in person.

“The roof is a great shelter to us to protect us from having hail or rain and from it coming into our house,” says her 10-year-old son, Jakob. “It's a great thing to have, since a roof is some of the best protection you can ever have.”

Daughter Anna, age 8, agrees. “I'm thankful for my house to have a roof so we're warm, comfy, and everything else. We're very thankful for the roof and everything you do.”

And Emma, age 6, says, “I love my roof!”

Isxel, the IBU future homeowner, also expressed her appreciation for the companies that donated supplies and labor for her roof, slated for installation on Sept. 30. She arranged to take the morning off work so she could meet the crew and thank them in person.

“I am so grateful to God and all the people involved in having the dream of my house that I would like to attend,” she says.

In addition to being eventual next-door neighbors and faith build partner families, Bernadette and Isxel have something else in common: Both are educators. Bernadette is a childcare teacher, while Isxel serves as a special education paraprofessional.

“For myself personally, these two houses are very special,” says Robedeau. “My daughter-in-law is an educator early on in her career, and she is a para for special education. And so being able to give back to some of our educators is a huge thing to us as well.”



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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



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