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DONATE TODAY

so we can help
more veterans
like Gerry!
Scan this code
to make your
donation



building hope



It's nice to have people care about you

Gerry's mom was an immigrant from Germany. Gerry, a Navy Vet, proudly served his country during the Korean War for four years as a Seaman. Serving in the Navy was a way he could give back to the country who welcomed her. After the Navy, he served as a firefighter for over 25 years in his community.

Even though he became aware that his house needed repairs, he never dreamed of asking for help for himself. Instead, he shut his son and

daughters out of parts of his house so they couldn't see how bad things were getting. By the time he allowed them in the repairs exceeded their abilities. The repairs were so extensive, they were over whelmed and wondering how they could help him. That's when they found Habitat.

The bathroom floor was rotted, and the toilet balanced delicately and rocked over a joist.

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Gerry's bathroom before grant work completed



From our Executive Director



Someone I know says her religion is to "Love like crazy!". Truly she is the epitome of Christian faith in how she lives, but does not define herself as such. One thing we can all agree on—love is at the core of all

religions. Loving beyond all measure is the goal of how we are to live and act in the world. We are to love our neighbor; show our love through our care and assistance. We are to go that extra mile for others—to alleviate their poverty, stress, sorrow or hardship.

That is what Habitat for Humanity is about—we love like crazy through Housing! We believe that if you have a stable, affordable, decent house you own— you and your family will do better in life. You will be do better financially. You may enjoy better health. You will have something you could leave your family. You will have a place to sell and have some money for your later years. You will have something to

show for it, as they say. What a beautiful thing to help someone make that transition.

Do you know that at least 1 in 8 Michigan households spend more than 50% of their total income on rent? Sometimes families choose houses or apartments with lower rents thinking they can afford them better, but then find the utilities are astronomical because the places they rent are not insulated. Whether they choose the houses/apartments with high or low rent, they lose. What we need is housing that is simple, decent AND affordable.

Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity builds new or rehabs and repairs housing to make them simple, decent, affordable, accessible, safe and updated. We sell homes (mostly now through a bank or credit union) where families with a low to modest income will not pay any more than 30% of their total household income for their mortgage, taxes and insurance. Buying either a new or fully rehabbed home is a relief to families who will have a place of their own for their future. We also repair homes for homeowners whose circumstances have changed and can pay their

mortgages, but are lower-income and cannot keep up on the repairs.

As I think about our readers, I know you are about love. I know this, because I know you care about people - about the people in your community. I know that whether you are a Christian or not, you are about love.

First of all, I thank you for the ways you have contributed to making our local Habitat the place it is today. Second, I invite you to make a financial contribution, so we together can continue to extend love to families in need through shelter improvements. At this writing, we are actively preparing about 25 families for homeownership and working on serving about 40 families with home repairs before the end of June. To do this we need your help.

Together, Loving like crazy through housing,

Carmen J. Mora
Executive Director

Celebrating 35 Years!

In 2022, Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity celebrates 35 years of partnering with the community and families by offering a hand up in building strength, stability, and self-reliance through shelter. We have a number of events planned to celebrate our many accomplishments. As our logo states we have much to celebrate: and more to build!

Saginaw Habitat for Humanity was incorporated in March of 1987. Ten community members stepped up to serve acknowledging that affordable housing is a critical need that must be addressed. We are grateful to Roy Atkinson, D. Gunnar Carlson, Rev. Gary Dawes, Rev. Bob Emrich, Rev. Jennie Farmer, Rev. Nick Hall Jr., Anita Hill, Elmer Lange, Rev. Frances S. Schwannecke and Leola Wilson who responded to put God's love into action by building and selling homes to low-income families.

Saginaw Habitat was entirely run by volunteers until 1996 and had built 21 houses during this time! Herb Spence Jr. retired early from his



company, Spence Brothers, and stepped in to lead Habitat as its first official volunteer Executive Director until 2000. His son, Herb Spence III is involved in honor of his father today. While Herb, Jr. served, he established the partnership of the building trades programs with area schools.

51 houses have been completed by students in building trades programs: Delta College - 18, Carrollton High School -14, Saginaw Career Complex (SCC) -17 and Bridgeport High School -2. This work continues today,

as students from Saginaw Career Complex (SCC) are working on a rehab this year.

In March of 1993, Shiawassee County advocates: David Burdick, Kori Shook, Rick McGeehan, Jeff McIntyre, Amber Kennicott, Tim Thompson and Brian White stood up for affordable housing incorporating Shiawassee County Habitat for Humanity which then went on to build 12 houses.

In July 2014, the Saginaw and Shiawassee county Habitats merged and officially changed their name to Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity.

Some Stats

- 196 homes built or rehabbed serving 228 families (some homes were resold)
- 535 owner-occupied homes repaired through home repair program
- Over 763 families representing over 1907 individuals helped



I believe in community

Susan, an Army veteran, spent six years in service to her country. Susan is an Employment Consultant, serving as a job coach for individuals with disabilities. She loves her job!

Susan first learned of Habitat by going to a ReStore when she lived in South Dakota. She learned to look for what she needed at a Habitat ReStore first for the projects she was doing. It saves her money as a homeowner. When she was at a community event in Owosso she picked up a brochure about Habitat. She learned about Veteran grants through the brochure and decided to apply for a grant.

Through the grant program, Susan received a new furnace, water heater, windows, insulation, back and front doors as well as a storm door for her 99-year-old home. She is so excited for all of these wonderful things because they will be making a huge difference in her Consumers Energy bill this winter! She is grateful for the grant and all it is providing her.

Susan did her sweat equity in the Saginaw ReStore and had a great experience. She loves shopping there.

She is spreading the word in her neighborhood about the benefits of Habitat and the ReStore.

For Susan, it is all about community and building community! She practices what she preaches. Her message to veterans: "It is an excellent opportunity for veterans and you should apply."



After grant work.

Habitat for Humanity® ReStore®



Donate goods to our Habitat ReStore

We accept small and large donations of new or gently used furniture, appliances, housewares, building materials and more. The money raised from the sale of the items helps build decent and affordable places for families to call home where they achieve the strength, stability and independence to build a better future.

Need to donate stuff?

Remodeling, cleaning, down-sizing or just getting organized? Whatever your project, don't let the items you no longer need end up in your local landfill.

Our Saginaw and Owosso ReStores divert thousands of tons from landfills each year, accepting hard-to-dispose-of items. In many cases, our free pickup service is provided for large items.

Shop. Donate. Volunteer.

ReStore Owosso

1494 N. M-52
Owosso, MI 48867
989-720-1494
Facebook: @owossohabitatrestore

Store Hours:

Wednesday – Friday: 11 am – 5 pm
Saturday: 10 am – 2 pm

ReStore Saginaw

315 W. Holland Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48602
989-754-9435
Facebook: @Saginaw Habitat ReStore

Store Hours:

Tuesday – Friday – 10 am – 5 pm



Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity

315 W. Holland Ave.

Saginaw, MI 48602

sshfh.org

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Want to Make the Holidays More Meaningful?

Help fill our tool trailer!

Instead of a scarf or tie this year, why not honor someone you love with a tool contribution to fill our Habitat tool trailer? Your loved one will receive a beautiful certificate to open by mail or email (your choice) letting them know you have donated in their honor. Your tool donation will build or repair the homes of families seeking safe and affordable homes from Habitat.

Wondering about the type of tools we need? Look no further:

- Cordless 20 V everything – drills, circular saws, compound miter saws, jobsite table saw with stand, reciprocating saw (Sawzall), power tool combo sets, siding table, 20V batteries
 - Folding utility knives, Drywall T-square, scrapers, screw drivers flat and phillips, wrenches, hammers, drill bits etc.
1. Make a cash gift today and we will put it together with the gift of others toward the purchase of tools. Write TOOL on the memo line.
 2. Go to our Amazon Wish List, choose a tool, check out and have it shipped directly to us.
https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/IHLDQRG25E2M/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex
 3. Purchase a tool of your choosing at a local store and drop it off at our office. See above for our needs.
 4. Purchase a gift card at Home Depot or Lowe's, mail it to us or drop it off, and we will purchase a tool on your behalf.

You can also find this on our website at [sshfh.org/donate/tools and equipment](https://sshfh.org/donate/tools-and-equipment)



It's nice to have people care Continued

There was water leaking into the basement from the tub/shower, the toilet and from the copper pipes themselves that had worn through and sprung leaks much like a water fountain when one takes a drink.

With the assistance of a grant from The Home Depot Foundation through Habitat for Humanity International, we were able to help Gerry with a bathroom he can use at his advanced age of 88. He has a taller ADA toilet, a low-step walk-in shower with doors (Gerry paid for the upgrade of the doors), new flooring, new drywall, new vanity and replacement of copper pipes with PVC to stop the leaking in the basement.

Gerry said, "It is nice to know that in a world of people where everyone is only concerned about themselves, there are people who are concerned about you." He is glad he doesn't have to worry about his safety when getting in and out of the tub anymore or about the rotting floor and how it would get repaired. "It is nice to have people care about you."



When asked what advice he would give others he said, "Don't be too proud, if you need help, you need help."

Gerry's son, Steve, got the ball rolling by



contacting Habitat to see if we could help. His children are very proud of their dad for finally accepting help. They are grateful that they can now assist him with other more manageable repairs.

Looking ahead

Freeland Lights – December 1-31 – We are just a few days away from this amazing display of Christmas lights which delights the young and old alike! Set to music this display will run the month of December, every evening from 5:30 pm – 10:00 pm with extended weekend hours. Freeland Lights will also serve as a spot to recycle your old Christmas lights. Boxes will be available for your drop off.

This display is a gift to the community through the generosity and hard work of Gary and Laura Shepard and their children. Gary is the technical genius who choreographs and programs the display each year. Drive to Tittabawassee Township Park, tune to the station in your car and watch the show from your car. It's the perfect

Covid outing!! Gary and Laura spend their money and time to provide this amazing gift to the community. In return they ask for your donation which is given to Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity and the CAN Council of Mid-Michigan.

May Fundraising Event – Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 21, 2022 or Monday, May 23, 2022. We will celebrate our 35 years of accomplishments. The event will have a Habitat home tour, a luncheon and a silent auction. More details to come...

Giving Tools Day – Tuesday, November 30th. See back page for ways you can participate!



Building New Homes in Shiawassee County AGAIN!!!

An exciting chapter began this February when we purchased land on Monroe and Saginaw Street in Owosso. The land will support the construction of four new homes for low to moderate-income families. **A total of \$200,000 must be raised to break ground by June 1st, 2022.** House #1 will be an energy-efficient 1230 sq. ft., three-bedroom, one-bath ranch home with an attached garage. All funds raised in Shiawassee County stay to serve Shiawassee County. Affordable housing is truly the work of the community coming together. We are seeking donations of all sizes, both financial and in-kind gifts. Reduced costs in a furnace, a free furnace or free installation are examples of in-kind gifts. Basically, things we would have to

pay for to build the house that are provided in-kind. All donors are welcome. No donation is too large or too small. We are grateful and honored that you would choose Habitat to further your interest in serving your community.

Interested donors should contact Rick Merling at 989.720.1494 or rickmerling@sshfh.org.

We are also looking for families who are currently renting or living with family, but want to become homeowners. Families must have stable low to moderate-income (the amount is determined by the family size). The source of your income must be verifiable such as employment, government assistance such as SSI, SSDI, State Disability,

Social Security or Veterans Benefit, Pension, self-employment, etc. We do not discriminate on income types, except when income is unverifiable, such as unreported/untaxed, under the table income. Your credit does not have to be stellar. We have a housing counselor who will help the family improve their credit in order to qualify for mortgage financing.

Families preparing for home purchase will contribute "sweat equity" hours and will work alongside volunteers to help build their home.

Individuals interested in becoming a Habitat Homeowner should contact Evelyn Moten at 989.753.5200 or evelynmoten@sshfh.org.

