

building hope

God called me to Habitat

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Henry Reyna
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Gwen's home needed critical repairs to ensure that she would be able to live in her home for a long time. Some of the repairs needed could endanger her health if not addressed.

"It was God's blessing that sent the Habitat ladies to my house to do an assessment. They smelled gas while doing their work. They urged me to call Consumer Energy. I took their advice and called; Consumers came and said I had three leaks! The Habitat ladies saved my life!"

Gwen's home needed basement waterproofing. To repair the basement's serious water problem, 8 Wall Anchors were installed on the North side of the basement wall, as well as 124' of Drain Eze and Drain Tubing to waterproof the basement walls. She also received wall, attic and rim joist insulation, a power vented water heater, exterior front and back doors, as well as storm doors.

These improvements have made Gwen's home more energy efficient and will reduce her heating bills.

Gwen now has a feeling of assurance that her home is safe and that there are no more leaks! "God is good to me. Habitat came to my house when I needed help and I made the decision to partner with Habitat to get the help I needed. God is good".



Wall Anchors to secure basement walls



Gwen's new furnace



Gwen's waterproofing in process

DONATE TODAY

So, together we can continue making an impact on families like Gwen's! Scan this code to make your donation or go to sshfh.org and click on the Donate Today link.



From our Executive Director

How can one thank God for 35 years of blessing?



As I reflect on 35 years, I think of our founders who answered a call to respond to the housing needs they saw in Saginaw. They heard of something called Habitat for Humanity happening

in the southern states. They found out about it and fell in love with the vision of what could happen, if they just came together to bring this message of hope. But they did more. They had grit and resolve to become founders of Saginaw Habitat for Humanity in 1987.

That mighty group of 10 board members, who signed their names to the articles of incorporation, not only signed and took on a huge responsibility to create an organization from zero, they also rolled up their sleeves figuratively and literally— and— went on to teach generations of volunteers how to build new homes and how to rehab homes to improve

housing for families with limited income and assets. In the 1980's, this was a prophetic move. Most families with limited incomes would not have qualified for mortgages through banks and credit unions.

Today, I say, "Thank You" to our founders. Some of you have gone home to meet our generous God. You look upon us with joy at what we have overcome and become over time. Others of you, who are living, may not be with Habitat on a daily basis, but we know you are serving our community to bring about goodness within it, because it is who you are. Your tireless work lives on today. With your wisdom and example, we continue to build homes, communities and hope. For your grit and determination, we say "Thank you for helping us become Habitat for Humanity."

Herb Spence, Jr. was not one of our founders, but came shortly after. He joined the board a little more than a year after the organization was formed in November of 1988. He only stepped down from the board to fulfill a deeper need and commitment. Herb Spence, Jr. retired early from

Spence Brothers and became our first ever Executive Director, a role for which he volunteered full-time from 1991-1996. It was what our organization needed to build momentum. For the call he answered, we say, "Thank you for helping us become Habitat for Humanity."

Loving and generous God, we thank You for always being present to us, guiding our path and protecting our organization. When things have become difficult or muddy, You have always shown us the way. Through the people we meet, those who come forth to serve as volunteers, donors and sponsors your direction becomes clear. For calling us to serve You when you did, we say "Thank you for calling and shaping us to become Habitat for Humanity".

Partnering for Success

With a grateful heart,

Carmen Mora

Habitat Receives Largest Donation in Affiliate History

Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity announced it has received a donation of 28.79 acres of land from David Friedman and Stan Finsilver. The combined value marks the largest one-time donation ever received by the Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity. The land is comprised of two parcels, the first (13.82 acres) located off Bay Road and the second (14.97 acres) located off Trautner Road in Saginaw, Michigan.

Property owners David Friedman, Co-founder, Executive Managing Director, President & CEO of Friedman Real Estate and Stan Finsilver, retired Co-founder of Friedman Real Estate entered into an agreement to donate the land to Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity, permanently securing the sites for the non-profit organization. Friedman and Finsilver had owned the land since the 1990s. "Understanding that the biggest

impediment to constructing affordable housing is the amount of capital needed to acquire land, we could not think of a better way to give back and support a community that has supported Friedman Real Estate throughout the years," said David Friedman.

Carmen Mora, Executive Director of Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity, said, "We are grateful for the magnitude of this donation and what it means for the future of our program. We are most appreciative of Mr. Friedman and Mr. Finsilver's recognition of the need to continue building affordable homes. Their generous donation will benefit those in need of improved housing in our area for the foreseeable future. A donation of real estate may provide a location for our next build or provide an asset that can be sold for cash to fund our next land purchase," Mora continued.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Ann Szymanowski, Development Director, Henry Reyna, Community Engagement and ReStore Manager, Carmen Mora, Executive Director and from Friedman Realty are David Friedman, Co-Founder, Executive Managing Director, President and CEO, John Paul Wolfe, Senior Manager, Acquisitions & Underwriting, and Jared Friedman, Senior Managing Director.

Mark Your Calendars for these Upcoming Events

Please join us **June 3 through June 10** as we work to improve a neighborhood. We will be completing two rehabs, light repairs, painting and landscaping at seven homes, as well as preparing a for the installation of a mural at the Habitat offices. If you are interested in volunteering by yourself or with a group, please contact Ann Szymanowski at 989-753-5200 ext 207.

Come, Paint Our Mural!! Calling all past volunteers, Habitat homeowners, home repair families, board members, sponsors, donors!!! We need you to help paint a mural that will hang on the East Side of our building in Saginaw, off of N. Hamilton St. and W. Holland Ave. We want those who have been a part of our history to paint our history and help us capture the love and dedication that have made affordable housing, housing counseling and home repairs possible.

Watch our Facebook page—**@HabitatSaginaw** for more information on dates, times and location for being a part of this experience. We are excited to have mural artist John Martinez working with us on this project.

Save the date for our mural reveal! Tuesday, June 21st at 5:30 pm (rain date is Thursday, June 23rd at 5:30 pm)



Thank You! Shepard Family and Tittabawassee Township!



Gary and Laura Shepard, and Carmen Mora, Executive Director

A huge thank you to the Shepards, Tittabawassee Township and all of you who supported this year's Freeland Lights in December! Your generosity meant a donation of \$5,772.00 for Habitat! We are grateful to Gary and Laura Shepard and children for their dedication to provide this great Holiday experience for our community. Thank you for sharing the proceeds with us to improve shelter in Saginaw County. Make sure to mark you calendar for this coming December 1st to 31st!! Plan a night or two to see and experience this beautiful display that is set to music!!!

Owosso Build Update

Plans are progressing for our first of six new builds over the next three years. The plot of land in Owosso on Monroe and Saginaw Streets is the location of the first four houses. Currently, the land is being surveyed and platted. We have a family with and for whom we are building the first house and several additional families in the pipeline for subsequent homes. Stay tuned for more updates. Watch the Facebook pages, **@OwossoHabitatReStore** and **@HabitatSaginaw**, for additional information on how you can help change the lives families in Shiawasee.

Habitat for Humanity is a handUP concept, not a hand-out! Families must qualify for a mortgage from a bank, credit union or the USDA, take classes to prepare for homeownership and contribute sweat equity hours which is a way to pay-it-forward, as we work to serve additional families.

The homes we build are Universal Design homes which means families can make the transition, when needed, from how they are doing physically now to some day needing a home that will accommodate a family member whose physical needs have changed and who need Handicap accessibility. The homes are built with 4' hallways, all doors 36" wide, 5' turn-arounds in the bathroom, kitchen and of course, the living room and bedrooms, a first floor laundry AND they are built to be extremely energy-efficient.

If you know of individuals or families who could qualify, please have them reach out to us by calling the number and emails appearing in this newsletter. If the family's credit isn't ready, we will assist with Housing Counseling to improve their use of credit, so they could purchase a home from Habitat.



Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity

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sshfh.org

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Celebrate 35 years with us

Date: Monday, October 3rd

Time: doors open at 11:30,
Lunch and Program from noon – 1:00

Place: SVRC Marketplace Ballroom

Cost: no charge, but donations are encouraged.

We are in the process of securing sponsorships to help us continue the work of affordable housing in our Saginaw County communities. Sponsorships: \$1,000 (5 are available), \$2,000 (5 are available); \$3,500 (3 are available) and \$5,000 (3 available).

We are also looking for items for our silent auction: upcycled furniture items, trips, hand made one of a kind items. For more information or to donate items please contact Ann Szymanowski at 989-753-5200 ext 207 or via email at annszymanowski@sshfh.org