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DONATE TODAY

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



FALL 2022

building hope

Easing our worries, Lifting our burden



Rachel, Aurelio and their children: Aurelio II, Diego, Ignacio, Lorenzo, Martha, and Eleonora

Aurelio, a Navy Veteran, his wife Rachel, an Air Force Veteran and their six children are a busy family! Rachel was friends with Aurelio's niece and she introduced Rachel to Aurelio. He was serving five years of Navy service (four years active and one in the reserves). After going to Delta College, Rachel joined the Air Force where she served six years as an aerospace EMT. She was deployed and treated wounded soldiers. Upon arriving home after her service, Aurelio proposed at the airport! Married for seventeen years, they have six beautiful children ranging from 17 years old to 3 years old!

Aurelio and Rachel decided to apply to our Home Repair Program after a cousin who was served by our program told them about their experience. They have an older, 3-bedroom home built in 1889 with a foundation that had never been repaired. While home construction is not terribly different in some ways, the technology of keeping foundations dry has certainly evolved over time. A quick read of their basement walls with a moisture meter showed the walls were over 80% wet. Having their basement waterproofed meant no more leaks or seepage and peace of mind. And more importantly, it meant they could build a couple of bedrooms in the basement so the older boys can have their own rooms. As you can imagine, this is a big burden off their shoulders, since it would allow them to have the right amount of room for their growing children. "Knowing their foundation is secure has eased some worries", said Rachel.

We were also able to help Rachel and Aurelio's family with a new energy-efficient furnace and water heater and additional attic insulation to help bring down their utility bills.

Aurelio has been employed at Meijer for 26 years and Rachel works as a Breastfeeding Specialist for Great Lakes Bay Health Center. They enjoy camping, biking and gardening and own six chickens and four baby chicks.

From our Executive Director



'To be loved' is everyone's deepest desire. We understand love in a personal way; yet love, more importantly, has a social dimension—that is to love community. Loving as part of society means

that we do right; we act justly; we lift each other up—we work toward good for everyone's sake. In Habitat's case, it means we build better, we repair more, we serve without holding back.

We love because we have been loved. 1 John 4 says "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God..." Love is not a feeling. Love is an active verb, it is something we do. When we love our community, we dare to build a Beloved Community—one in which everyone is valued, where everyone has a proper place to sleep and call home.

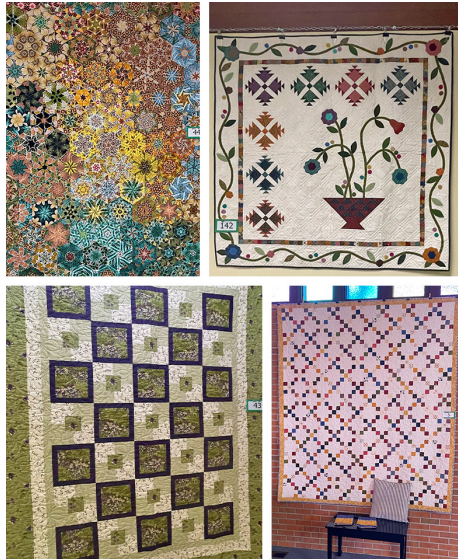
In this Season of Love, we are moved to do something for others. Maybe this Christmas it means making a donation, so we can do more of this good work... maybe it means volunteering to build after the new year.

We are in an affordable housing crisis everywhere in our country. Rental housing has skyrocketed, prices of homes on the market are too high for families with a modest income. The crisis affects the families we serve most. Habitat is one of the solutions.

We cannot do the work alone. Building a Beloved community is the work of many who dare to come together to make love an active verb.

2022 Quilt Show

Our thanks to Our Saviour Lutheran Church on Hemmeter Road in Saginaw for hosting the Quilt Auction to benefit Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity. Over \$15,000 was generated this year. In 2022 we celebrated the 20th annual Quilt Auction with over \$234,000 being raised to support Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity over time. We are appreciative of the quilters who generously donate their beautiful works of art and to Jane Werner and Linda Grindahl who have chaired this event for 20 years! They are truly angels who walk among us!



Owosso Build Update

Things are happening in preparation for a spring build! Mike Berthume, the Shiawassee Construction Manager is in charge of getting things organized and leading us, hands-on, during the build. We are so excited to begin building affordable housing again in Shiawassee County. The build is in the City of Owosso at 701 S. Park. Please donate, join us and continue to follow our Owosso ReStore Facebook page (Facebook.com/owossohabitatrestore) for updates!



This initiative encourages donors to give where you live! We are proud to partner with other non-profits in Shiawassee County and use our collective voices to raise funds and promote volunteerism in Shiawassee County. To participate and support Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity please visit the following link on Tuesday, November 29th <http://raiseUPshiawassee.org> and click on the Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity link. Donations made through #raiseUp will go directly to us and will stay in Shiawassee County to help families in the Homeownership and Home Repair programs.

Save March 9th for a luncheon

As you know we made the difficult decision to postpone our 35th Anniversary Lunch on Monday, October 3rd.

You are invited Thursday, March 9th to a lunch time event. Additional details will be forthcoming. The lunch will be free and donations will be encouraged. The event will also feature a silent auction.

We look forward to celebrating our past but more importantly sharing where we are going! We have so many good things to share with you.



A Mural on our building

As a way to celebrate our 35th Anniversary and give back to the community we decided to put up a mural on the East side of our building! Working with artist John Martinez and his ARTClub Hub, we designed a beautiful mural depicting what Habitat represents and even put some familiar faces on the wall! John created the design and transferred it onto 32 pieces of marine plywood creating an enormous paint by number measuring 64 foot wide and 16 foot tall.

We held a huge paint party in May to get the panels painted, after which John's team completed the detail work. We were delighted to reveal the mural to the community on June 21st.

We are grateful to all donors who made the mural possible: Spence Brothers, MACC (Michigan Arts and Culture Council), Downtown Development Authority, Dow Great Lakes Bay Invitational, Saginaw Sees the Light Fund, Caravan Facilities Management, Lake Huron Credit Union, Mary Stephens Family, Valspar Paint, G & W Railroad, Sheriff's Department and St. John Paul II Parish.

If you have not driven by this is a must see!

Another way to help Habitat

Are you required to make a mandatory distribution from your IRA account each year and burdened by the associated taxes? Many people feel the direct transfer of funds from an IRA is a great way to help family make it a part of their legacy by donating to a nonprofit.

Charitable **IRA ROLLOVER**

If you have an IRA and are 70 ½ or older you may transfer up to \$100,000 per year and up to \$200,000 per married couple. Your gift must be transferred directly from your IRA to Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity to be considered a charitable tax deduction, so it doesn't create taxable income for you. The transfer counts towards your annual required minimum distribution from your IRA.

For more information call Ann Szymanowski at 989-753-5200 x. 207 or email annszymanowski@sshfh.org for a sample letter

Freeland Lights

Freeland Lights – December 1-31:

Christmas lights delight young and old alike! Set to music this active display runs from December 1st to 31st every evening from 5:30pm–10pm.

Drive to Hayes Park (formerly known as Tittabawassee Township Park) located at 9200 Midland Rd, Freeland, MI 48623,

tune to the station in your car and watch the show.

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.

Freeland Lights also serves as a spot to recycle your old Christmas lights. Boxes are available for your drop off.

It's the perfect Christmas outing! Please make a donation as you exit to benefit both Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity and the CAN Council of Mid-Michigan





Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity
315 W. Holland Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48602
sshfh.org

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Give a bit of your time. Share a bit of your gifts.

We are currently seeking volunteers for the following:

Company Team Building: Is an employee engagement opportunity that can help build stronger camaraderie, while providing employees with a unique way to give back to their community. Please contact **Ann Szymanowski at annszymanowski@sshfh.org** to sign up.

Groups: is your church, service or social group looking to do something together to make a difference in the community. Dates are available year-round! Construction and non construction opportunities available. Please contact **Ann Szymanowski at annszymanowski@sshfh.org** to sign up. We can set up both full and half day work sessions. No experience is necessary.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of our organization! Please consider joining our team.

Saginaw Tuesday/Thursday Crew: We are seeking individuals to volunteer on any of the 4 rehabs and 1 new build in Saginaw this year. Please contact **Greg McKenna at gregmckenna@sshfh.org** to begin volunteering a few hours a week, half days or full days.

ReStore: Our ReStores in Saginaw and Owosso need you to volunteer. Volunteers will help clean and prepare merchandise for the sales floor, clean and organize the sales floor, greet guests and work on special projects. To volunteer in Owosso please call the **ReStore at 989-720-1494**. To volunteer in Saginaw please call the **ReStore at 989-754-9435**.



Mark your calendar: Neighborhood Revitalization dates

Saginaw: Thursday, June 8 to Saturday, June 10th and Wednesday, June 14th to Saturday, June 17th—7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. every day. Location to be determined.

We welcome individuals, churches, business that want to help us repair and paint homes. Please email **Ann Szymanowski at annszymanowski@sshfh.org**, or call Ann at **989-753-5200 ext 207**.

