



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

For 30 years Habitat for Humanity of Otsego County has been following our mission “seeking to put God's love into action, bringing people together to build homes, communities and hope.”

This August the meaning of the mission was brought home to me in a very real way. In August, as board President, I had the honor of signing a sales contract with the latest family purchasing a home built in partnership with Habitat. After two years of hoping, working and saving, they were so excited to take this big step in owning a home of their very own.

Colleen and the Conforti children participated in the groundbreaking for their home on May 17, 2018. Over the last 14 months, Colleen Dorsey-Conforti and Brad Conforti and their family and friends worked with Habitat volunteers to build the house from the ground up. The family has put in over 500 hours of sweat equity over the last two years working on their own and other Habitat houses.

They have helped from building the walls to painting them, installing doors and windows and cabinets, putting down flooring, and bringing lunches to the Saturday volunteers. They worked with the building committee to plan such details as the color of the siding and the flooring. Brad has used his construction skills to add special touches throughout the house. While working together, we have gotten to know Brad and Colleen as they became members of the Habitat family. We look forward with them to closing on the house. Signing the papers at the closing is another very touching milestone in a Habitat family's journey that I am overjoyed to participate in. When they leave the lawyer's office, key in hand, they will scurry off to move their family into their very own fresh, cozy home.

The McFarland Meadows community is growing. The Confortis will have a neighbor next summer as ground was broken in May 2019 for the second house in the neighborhood (see page 3).

It is wonderful to be part of this endeavor with so many dedicated volunteers and partner families. House by house we are building a better world - a world where everyone has a decent place to live. Come join in this exciting, rewarding organization.

While we continue to move forward partnering with new families and building more homes, we invite you to take a look back at the past 30 years. We will be hosting an anniversary celebration for all of our volunteers and friends. Please join us on Sunday, September 15 at 2 p.m. at the Elm Park Methodist Church's fellowship hall. Elm Park is located on Chestnut Street in Oneonta, NY. We will have light refreshments and will be honoring some of our most dedicated volunteers during this special celebration. I hope you can join us!

—  
Mary Ann Dowdell, HFHOC Board President



Above: Brad Conforti and his daughter at the build site.



Top Right: Mary Ann breaks ground with Colleen Dorsey-Conforti and her two children.

Bottom Right:  
The first house is all done at Lot #1 at McFarland Meadows!



**\$3,500+ RAISED DURING BASEBALL HOF INDUCTION**

Annual parking fundraiser was a home run!

Each year during the National Baseball Hall of Fame induction weekend, volunteer Emory Herman donates his property in Cooperstown, NY for a fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity of Otsego County.

A group of energetic volunteers goes to his house the day of the induction ceremony and helps area visitors find an answer to the parking shortage, while also supporting a good cause.



*Our volunteers were full of energy and letting people know their parking fee was going to a worthy cause!*



*Bill O'Dea, Emory Herman, and John Rankin were the core of the parking crew.*



*The lot was full and in the end we raised over \$3,500 for Habitat for Humanity of Otsego County!*

**VOLUNTEER UPDATE**

Thank you to lunch providers!

**Our volunteers are amazing!**

Another huge thank you to our volunteers who help at the job site, serve on the board, serve on committees, and help with lunches. We are giving a special shout-out to folks who helped with lunches at the job-site recently.

Don't forget, we can arrange for groups to help if your workplace or organization is looking for a way to give back to the local community. We are always looking for others to join us!

Are you interested in bringing lunch to the work site? Call Marjorie Pietrafacc at 607-432-1385 or Mary Bruegener at 607-432-2234, or email at Pietramm@oneonta.edu.

*thank you!*

A huge thank you to the following individuals or groups who provided lunches at the work site on Saturdays within the past few months. If we missed your group, please accept our apologies.

- Colleen Webb
- Mt. Vision Methodist Church—Joy Gray
- Fran Reed
- Social Action Team of the Unitarian Universalist Society—Carol Malz
- Milford Corner Store—Laurie
- SODEXO Dining Services/SUNY Oneonta and Human Ecology Department
- First United Methodist Church-Oneonta, Flora Beth Cunningham
- Elm Park Methodist Church—Maggie Winne
- First Presbyterian Church-Carolyn Palm
- Barbara Dorsey
- Cathy Parisi
- Stewart's Convenience Store, Oneonta
- Otego United Methodist Church—Barbara Johnson Butler



## BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

McFarland Meadows starts to expand!

Lot number one at McFarland Meadows is almost complete. With only minor finishing touches left, the house is nearly ready for the Conforti family to move-in. Thank you to all of the volunteers and partner families for their hard work!

We have begun work on lot number two and are just starting to get a glimpse of what a great community McFarland Meadows has the potential to be.

The Oneonta Job Corps Cement Masons poured the footings, foundation and the cellar floor on lot 2. It only takes a day to pour the concrete for each of those things, but it takes many days to build and/or assemble the concrete forms to hold the concrete which is a big part of the learning process for the students. It's a win-win situation. Thank you to Job Corps!

The felt paper is on the roof, so the interior is protected from rain from the top. We are currently working on the exterior sides, preparing to install the insulation of the outside prior to installing windows and doors to keep the rain from coming in the windows

## SUSQUEHANNA BALLOON FESTIVAL

Come see us in Neahwa Park in Oneonta!

We will have a tent and table at the 11th annual **Susquehanna Balloon Festival, August 30 & 31, 2019. Hours are Friday, August 30 from 5 p.m. - 9 pm., and Saturday, August 31 from 3 p.m. - 9 p.m.**

We will have information for people, groups, and businesses looking for volunteer opportunities as well as information for potential partner families.

Have you been thinking about getting more involved with Habitat? Come see us at the Balloon Festival to get some info on volunteering and learn how you could assist with committee work, joining the board, or helping at the job site.



## HASP UPDATE

HFHOC supports families with mobility needs

Habitat for Humanity of Otsego County's small project initiative, our Home Accessibility and Safety Program (HASP), is now accepting new applications for the construction of wheelchair and access ramps.

Clients must be Otsego County residents, meet standard HFHOC partner income requirements, and be able to offer modest cost-share and on-site support to work crews. For tenants and renters, written permission of the property owner is required before final project approval.

For more information and pre-application forms, contact Steve Londner ([slondner@gmail.com](mailto:slondner@gmail.com)) or call our Oneonta HFHOC office at 607-432-7874 and leave a message).



Examples of simple residential projects (left) as well as larger commercial-code compliant projects (right) we can do!

## GROUND BREAKING AT LOT #2

Grant family starts new journey



Casey Grant and her two kids dug the ceremonial first shovel at lot #2 at McFarland Meadows in May 2019.



## HABITAT HAPPENINGS

SUMMER/FALL 2019

### YOU'RE INVITED!

30th Anniversary Celebration to be held September 15, 2019

2019 marks the 30th year that Habitat for Humanity of Otsego County has been supporting families in our communities. That is cause for a celebration!

Please join us for a reception on Sunday, September 15, 2019 from 2 - 4 p.m. at Elm Park Methodist Church on Chestnut Street in Oneonta. We will have light refreshments and be taking a look back at our 30 years of supporting families, building homes, and transforming communities. We will also be honoring several volunteers who deserve recognition and praise for their dedication and positive impact to our organization over the years.

We hope to see you there!

### 30th Anniversary Celebration!

*Sunday, September 15, 2019*

*2 p.m. - 4 p.m.*

*Elm Park Methodist Church, Oneonta*

