



Habitat
for Humanity®
of Otsego County

HABITAT HAPPENINGS

607-432-7874

OUR SEASONAL NEWSLETTER

403-B Chestnut Street, Oneonta, NY 13820

HabitatOtsego.org

BUILDING SIMPLE, DECENT HOMES SINCE 1989

FALL 2022

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's time for a newsletter update on your friendly, neighborhood Habitat (apologies to Spider-man).

Building season started last Spring and continues full bore into the Fall season. We will work until mid-December when many of the volunteers become busy with the holidays. Halloween doesn't count as such a holiday so we're out there, hammers in hand. If you drive by on NY route 205, you may notice our fifth house going up nicely. It has the white foam exterior walls, a roof, and now windows and doors so it actually looks like a house!

Like many of you, we are also following the war in Ukraine with dismay at how many people are being driven from their homes. This year our Board of Directors voted to make available to Ukrainian refugees a house we have finished without a partner family to buy it right now. We're working with the Otsego Refugee Resettlement Coalition to provide housing for a family of refugees for a year. After all, our vision is "a world where everyone has a decent place to live." It's only one family but that family will have good housing this winter.

In other happy news, two of our partner families, headed by Lois Owens-Newell and Linda Jackman-Robbins paid off their mortgage and I was privileged to be able to present them with their deed and discharge papers. More satisfied customers! If you know someone who needs a house, they could be like Lois and Linda, a successful homeowner.

You may have heard that there is a housing shortage in the U.S. and there is. Housing is getting priced out of the range of many regular folks, partly because the cost of building supplies keeps rising. But with

a Habitat house, the mortgage payments won't be more than 30% of their paychecks, no matter how much we spend to build it.

Earlier this year we held an application period for potential homeowners. By law we could not leave the period open all the time so we closed it and chose three new partner families. Our partners will all get opportunities to buy one of our houses at a price they can afford.

We still need to build those houses and for that we thank the many people who are volunteering with Habitat. In addition to climbing into the rafters at the building site, we need volunteers to serve on our Board of Directors. If you are interested either way, call us at (607) 432-7874 or email us at HabitatOtsego@gmail.com. And, by the way, we feel inflation as much as you do when we buy materials and hire heavy machinery to build those houses. Please go to www.HabitatOtsego.com and click the "Donate" link or send us a check with the enclosed envelope. Thank you!

—

Jerry Blechman, HFHOC Board President

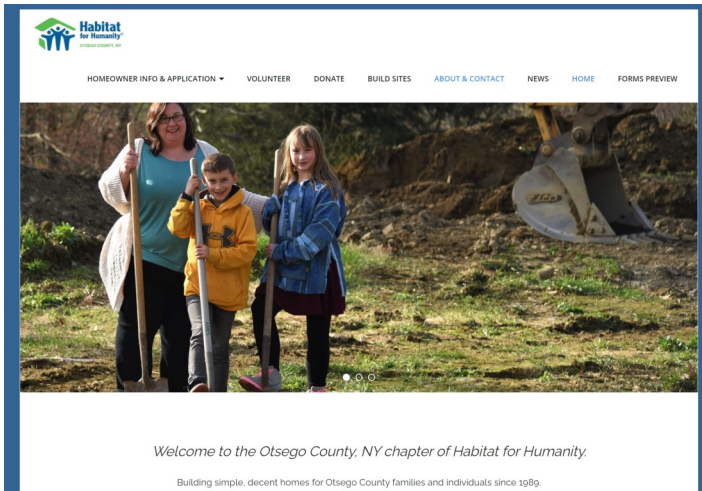


Linda Jackman-Robbins accepts her deed and mortgage discharge papers from Jerry in August 2022

WEBSITE UPDATES

HabitatOtsego.org

We've been hard at work updating the content on our website to be more user-friendly. Browse **HabitatOtsego.org** to see the many opportunities to volunteer, donate, or find more information about the homeowner partnership process.



HFHOC IN THE NEWS

Local news outlets tell our story!

The local media in Oneonta, Otsego County, as well as Utica, NY have recently covered stories about our chapter of Habitat. WKTV News Channel 2 out of Utica came to the job site back in the spring to interview volunteers including Board President Jerry Blechman and Building Committee Chair Bruce Downie. The Daily Star visited the job site later in the summer and spoke with Building Site Supervisor Tom Collier. Both stories covered volunteer opportunities as well as information for interested homeowner partners. Visit the "news" section of our website to view these stories and others.



MEET A BOARD MEMBER

Fran Reed

Fran Reed is our Assistant Treasurer and has the important job of working to service our mortgages. She works with partner families to ensure their accounts are accurate and up to date and is a member of the executive and finance committees on the board. Let's get to know her!

When did you get involved with Habitat Otsego?

I first got involved when I volunteered on a build site in Delaware County in the early 1990s. After I retired and moved to Oneonta, I had the opportunity to become involved once again.

Why did you get involved?

I believe the mission of Habitat and the work it does globally to assist families in achieving the dream of owning their home, a dream that too often seems

elusive and unachievable. I also feel strongly that we are our brother's keeper and should give of ourselves whatever we are able to be that keeper as much as possible.

What do you love about volunteering with Habitat Otsego?

One thing that is very dear to my heart is watching a family as they volunteer with Habitat volunteers in building their home and the heartfelt joy as they move into that home.

Interested in volunteering? Email our Volunteer Committee Chair, Marge Pietraface, at marjorie.pietraface@oneonta.edu.

BUILDING UPDATE

House 5 at McFarland Meadows Takes Shape



We put the finishing touches on house four and started house number five at our plot of land on McFarland Meadows in Oneonta. Thanks to Parker Excavating, Komenda Property Management, Precision Concrete Pumping and Otsego Ready Mix for their help in getting our foundation set and the insulated concrete forms filled in. We had lots of great new volunteers this year as well! Thanks to all who donated their money and time to help this year. Special shout-out to, NYSEG AVANGRID, Christ Church in Cooperstown, Brothers Four and St. Mary's Church in Oneonta. The walls are framed and sheetrock and siding should be installed by the end of October. The house will be winterized in time for the finishing work inside to begin in the spring.

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Return Service Requested



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ROCKEFELLER CENTER TREE LUMBER

Special Piece of Oneonta History Lives On

The lumber from the 2020 Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree that was donated to us by Tishman Speyer has been made into beautiful window sills



that will be installed in the next few houses. These photos are from the house on lot number four at McFarland Meadows in Oneonta. What a special piece of Oneonta history for our Habitat partner homeowners!

HASP RAMP

Accessible Entrance for Local Resident

Volunteer Tom Rowe built a beautiful ramp for Otsego County resident Debbie Janitz. Our Home Accessibility & Safety Project (HASP) can help anyone in the county with making their home more accessible or safe for those with special needs. Know someone who could use our help? Give us a call at 607-432-7874 or email habitatotsego@gmail.com.

