

Good Morning,

I'm sorry for leaving this until the last day.

I have been considering "Why Habitat for Humanity?"

The short and easy answer is that we need the money. Our organization has taken a one-two punch in 2019 and 2020. First needing to move from the gifted space we were in for over 10 years and then, when we had almost gotten back into the black, COVID19 shut down our ReStore. Our ReStore is actually a mission in itself, but it is also our biggest fundraiser.

Our ReStore is open again, and making money, but it has not generated enough funds yet to fill the gap. We are in a holding pattern, and our construction activities are effectively paused until "normal" returns. We are waiting for it to be safe to engage our older volunteers on a construction site, and for the price and availability of construction materials to even out, as well as being financially able to fund the build. There are many things slowing us down and in the meantime the routine bills continue to come in.

Habitat has built 43 homes in Barry County since 1989, the most recent one was completed in October 2019. It's not a phenomenal number, but each of those homes blessed a family deeply by providing a path to affordable home ownership, and allowing things like a child to invite friend over, for the rest of their growing up years. Being a Habitat homeowner means you hold an interest free mortgage on your house. (It isn't a free home, that is frequently misunderstood.) In Barry County it has meant an average mortgage payment of well under \$600 a month with property taxes and home insurance escrow amounts included in that payment. Also, since 2007 our homes have been built to Energy Star standards. They are truly a quality, sustainable, and affordable home.

2020 was also set to be the launch of our home repair program (postponed due to Covid19) many other Habitat Affiliates have modeled that critical home repairs help keep families in their homes, under better circumstances, without greatly impacting the affiliate's ability to still build new homes due to different streams of funding. We felt we were ready to begin that service, originally planning to do 3-5 critical home repairs in 2020 and our next new build in 2021. Right now we don't know when house 44 will be able to be built, or when "normal will return", and our repair program can begin.

Your support could make sure we are making progress towards that day.

Thank you,

Also, how do I register to attend the event?

Cindy Preston

Executive Director,

Habitat for Humanity Barry County