

Unlock 6 Homes for 6 Families

Spring into action and make a lasting impact with Habitat EJC!

At this very moment, four new Habitat houses are being built – two in Irondale and two in Port Townsend. Future Habitat homeowners are building their homes alongside a terrific team of volunteers, while Habitat staff are putting the finishing touches on two recycled Habitat homes and repairing homes in Quilcene and Brinnon. They all need your help to do this work successfully.

Each Habitat house is a testament to the power of community and compassion. But they're more than just structures – they are foundations of hope for six partner families steadfastly working toward their brighter futures. Tyra, Kate, and Santiago just finished the journey to becoming Habitat homeowners – you can read their stories on the next page. But their homes couldn't have been built without generosity like yours to bridge the gap between their affordable mortgage and the cost to build a decent home.

Be an important part of the action: make a springtime gift to Habitat EJC today!

This month, your gift carries even more weight. Thanks to Rick and Debbie Zajicek, every dollar you donate before June 1 will be matched, up to \$25,000!

Join us in building homes, communities, and hope. Together, we can turn dreams into reality and transform lives for generations to come. Donate today and be a part of something truly remarkable.



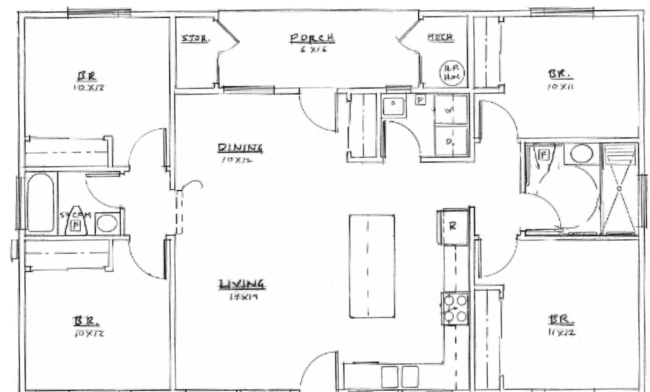
Building to Scale in Irondale

Habitat is pleased to announce the construction of two new homes in Irondale.

These homes will be nestled next to each other in a quiet, mature neighborhood, with four other Habitat houses a walk away. We are excited to transform these sites into two four bedroom homes for families in our program.

Habitat has partnered with Guy Hupy, a local designer for home plans that decrease construction material costs and maximize space for these homes. The homes have been designed without hallways, and with their slabs extending underneath the home's storage areas.

Learn more and get involved in our Irondale build, contact the Habitat Office at 360.379.2827 or info@habitatejc.org.



Floor plan rendering for a 4-bedroom home without halls.

A letter from the Executive Director

I don't think it's possible to be unmoved by a Habitat home dedication.

You may think you are attending because you are curious what a Habitat house looks like, or because you want to see what your donation helped build, or because your neighbor invited you to tag along. But once you get there, something happens.

You notice the four-year old who has pulled off his shoes to take advantage of the still damp dirt in his new yard. You watch the ten-year old grabbing a friend's hand, pulling her off to see her new bedroom. You listen as the children's mom describes what it means for their family to be able to stay in the community, where she grew up and returned to teach other people's children. And the rightness, the magnitude, of the moment settles in. Deeply. This family of five will share its love and joy with their new neighbors and offer their many talents to the community. Now they can spend their days and years secure, knowing that housing is something they don't need to worry about any longer.



Habitat's mission includes "building homes" – it is very deliberate that it doesn't say "building houses." Yes, we do build houses. People need a house. But more important is building homes. A home includes the people. It includes dreams and aspirations, disappointments and hopes.

At Habitat, we recognize that. It's why a celebration such as the dedication of a new home is about a lot more than marking the completion of construction. **It marks a milestone in the life of a family, the day they can at last lay down the burden of figuring out where to find a decent and affordable place to call home.**

In other words, Habitat milestone events are celebrations. I hope you will join us this summer as we celebrate more milestones in the lives of local families, when we break ground on our next new neighborhood in Port Townsend.

In partnership,
Jamie Maciejewski

Contribute to Habitat EJC

Affordable homeownership changes lives – generationally, physically, academically, and financially. When families open the door to a safe, decent, affordable home, they're also opening the door to a life full of strength, stability, and self-reliance.

There are many ways you can support Habitat EJC in addition to one-time gifts. Together, let's build a brighter, more promising future for residents in East Jefferson County. Please contact give@habitatejc.org, or visit our website www.habitatejc.org for details.



Give Monthly: Build a foundation of consistent support that lasts all year long by making a commitment to a monthly recurring donation.

Honor Someone: Honor your family, friends, and loved ones by making a "Gift from the Heart" donation to Habitat for Humanity. Your generous tax-deductible gift will help families in need of a safe, affordable place to call home.

Workplace Giving: Many companies match donations made by employees, retirees, employees' spouses, even your volunteer hours. Check with your HR department or contact Habitat EJC.

Planned Giving: A planned gift is a philanthropic gift from your will, living trust, retirement plan, or other estate assets. A legacy gift can allow you to maintain assets during your lifetime and often provide tax advantages.

Welcome Home Kate & Santiago

New Homeowners Kate and Santiago have had quite the journey to homeownership. **Kate grew up in Quilcene and moved to Argentina** as a young adult. There she fell in love with Santiago. When Kate and Santi moved back to the United States, they brought a family with them: Ivo, Lucia, and Lorenzo! Moving back to the Peninsula, Kate and Santiago worried they might not be able to afford a home for their family.



They were grateful when they found Habitat. After a lot of work on the jobsites and in the Habitat Store, the family had a House Dedication Ceremony on Friday, April fifth. Kate's fifth grade teacher attended and watched as she received her house keys. This is even more significant because Kate is a teacher now at Swan School, in Port Townsend.

Congratulations Kate, Santi, and family! We are so happy for you and your new home.

Welcome Home Tyra

Tyra is a long time member of the Port Townsend Community with a bright and cheery attitude. She worked hard for her home, even enlisting her sister to come and work beside her while completing sweat equity.

On Friday, March 29th, Tyra received the keys to her Habitat home. **Even though she has finished her required number of sweat equity hours, Tyra still volunteers regularly at the Habitat Store and office.**



We are incredibly pleased to have Tyra as a continuing part of our volunteer family. She is elated to own her own home and looking forward to having her grandchildren visit her in it!

Congratulations Tyra! Thank you for all the joy and hard work you bring to Habitat.

25 Years of Impact

Enjoy these fun facts and highlights from our 2023-24 Impact Report!



Almost 6,000 people have contributed to Habitat since 1998 and it will take the help of over 400 volunteers for Habitat to meet its goals this year.

All kinds of skills are needed from construction, to land assessment, to office help and beyond.



We have pounded 720,000+ nails since 1998 and we aim to pound another 55,000 this coming year.

That's why we need help. If you lend an arm, we'll supply the hammer!



Last year, we received \$2,785,639 in donations!

We need to raise \$3,500,000 to achieve our immediate goals in 2024 and set the stage for future home-building.



Welcome Care-A-Vanners

We're thrilled to extend our warmest greetings to the seven groups of dedicated Care-a-vanner volunteers joining us here at Habitat for Humanity of East Jefferson County in 2024.

The Habitat RV Care-a-vanner program, offered by Habitat for Humanity International, is a fantastic way to combine a love of RV travel with a desire to give back. Traveling to various Habitat construction sites across the United States and Canada, they work alongside local Habitat affiliates, staff, and other volunteers assisting with framing, roofing, painting, landscaping, and more, while staying at the construction site or nearby campgrounds.



Volunteers make a meaningful difference in the lives of others by providing their time, skills, spirit of camaraderie, and compassion to help build homes for families facing housing insecurity, while experiencing different parts of the country.

We invite you to join us in greeting these intrepid travelers in true Port Townsend style, with a Welcome Potluck!

Care-A-Vanners love to explore new places and meet people who share the vision of a world where everyone has a decent place to live, especially the families that will be living in the houses once they are completed. For Welcome Potluck details, please email info@habitatejc.org or call 360-379-2827.

Habitat also extends our heartfelt gratitude to the Port Townsend Elks Club for their invaluable assistance in arranging camping accommodation for our traveling volunteers. Their generosity and support ensure that the Care-a-vanners will have a comfortable and welcoming place to rest after their days of service.

Together, with the support of partners like the Port Townsend Elks Club and local volunteers, we can continue to make a tangible difference in the lives of families throughout East Jefferson County.

If you meet a Care-a-vanner around town, please thank them for choosing to spend their time and talents with us.

Photo credits for this newsletter issue: Tom Christopher, Jay Syverson, Dan Depew, Mae Wolfe, and Habitat EJC staff.

Spring Cleaning

Five Spring Maintenance Tips for Homeowners

- 1. Inspect Your Roof:** Winter weather can take a toll on your roof, inspect it for any signs of damage such as missing or damaged shingles, cracked caulking around vents, or damaged flashing. Addressing issues early can prevent leaks and further damage.
- 2. Clean Gutters and Downspouts:** Clear out debris, leaves, and twigs from gutters and downspouts to ensure proper drainage and avoid water damage to your roof, siding, and foundation.
- 3. Service Your HVAC System:** Schedule a professional HVAC inspection and service to ensure your heating and cooling system is working efficiently. Replace air filters, clean vents and ducts professionally to improve indoor air quality.
- 4. Inspect and Seal Windows and Doors:** Check for gaps or cracks around windows and doors. Seal gaps with weatherstripping or caulk to improve energy efficiency and lower heating and cooling costs.
- 5. Check Outdoor Plumbing:** Inspect outdoor faucets, hoses, and irrigation systems for leaks or damage. Make any necessary repairs or replacements to prevent water waste and potential water damage.

Upcoming Events

- Women Build** May 30 - June 1
Care-a-vanner Potluck June 4
First Fed Spirit Day June 5
Store Art Sale June 6 - 8
Astound Group Build June 26
Care-a-vanner Potluck July 9
Summer Pride Build July 27
Women Build August 22 - 24

For event details, please visit habitatejc.org, call 360-379-2827 or email info@habitatejc.org.

To **schedule a Group Build** for your business, friends, or family, please email volunteer@habitatejc.org.

See you soon!

Habitat Store Annex

Have you heard about the new Store Annex?

The Annex is a new offshoot of the Habitat Store, located behind the Habitat building, just across Thomas Street, at 2009 4th Street.

In the Annex, you will find an ever-changing and reasonably priced selection of furniture, appliances, and larger items, as well as a growing tool area and a variety of interesting lamps.

We have a dedicated staff member in the Annex every Friday from 11 am to 4 pm, along with a rotating cast of volunteers, available to assist you with your purchases.

Whether you're looking for that perfect couch to complete your living room or a statement piece to elevate your space, the Store has something for everyone.

Thank you for supporting Habitat EJC as we continue to expand and enhance our offerings to serve you better. We can't wait to see you at our Store Annex!

Store Annex Hours: Friday, 11 am to 4 pm

Shop the Store

Spring Cleaning? Donate to the Habitat Store!

Now open on Mondays, our Habitat for Humanity Store is always accepting donations, and we can even pick up large items!

Your donations of furniture and household items help build affordable homes in our community.

Store Hours: Monday - Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm
2001 W Sims Way, Port Townsend, WA 98368
Phone: (360) 385-9653
Email: store@habitatejc.org

