



**Habitat**  
for Humanity®  
of East Jefferson County

June 2026

eNews

## Celebrating Cliff Street Cottages, Community, and the Impact of House Sponsorships



### Cliff Street Cottages - a Photo Story

#### A New Beginning

In October 2024, Habitat for Humanity of East Jefferson County broke ground on its first cottage-style neighborhood, a six-home community designed to bring neighbors close, while giving each family a place of their own.



## Breaking Ground

At the groundbreaking, the future was already visible.

Families selected for the homes stood alongside sponsors, staff, donors, and volunteers. What started as plans and drawings became something tangible, shared by everyone gathered that day.

**Collage above.** Photos from the Cliff Street Cottages groundbreaking. Bottom right photo: future homeowners David and Marlen.

**Top collage.** Top photo: the completed Cliff Street Cottages.

Bottom right: at the 73rd home dedication, Jenny is receiving her keys from Todd Hutton, board president and member of the Truck Guys & Gals, house sponsors for her home. Also receiving their keys that day were Derrick (read about the house sponsors in the article below), and Derik and Alisa.

Bottom center: the 76th home dedication, celebrating new homeowners Samantha and Steven, and Karen.

Bottom left: at the 75th home dedication, David and Marlen receive the keys to their new home from house sponsor Beth Weaver.

---



## The Neighborhood Takes Shape

Slowly, Cliff Street Cottages came together.

Frames rose. Walls went up. Rooflines took form.

Step by step, the site transformed into a neighborhood, six homes taking shape, each one tied to a family's future.

---



## Building Together

In the months that followed, Cliff Street Cottages became a center of activity.

Volunteers showed up week after week, building not just homes, but a neighborhood. The site hosted Pride Builds, Women Build, and group builds from across the community, each one contributing to something larger than any single day's work.

**Collage above:** clockwise from top left: Care-A-Vanners; October 2025 Pride Build; July 2025 Women Build; Kitsap Bank group build.

---



## Marking Milestones and Moments

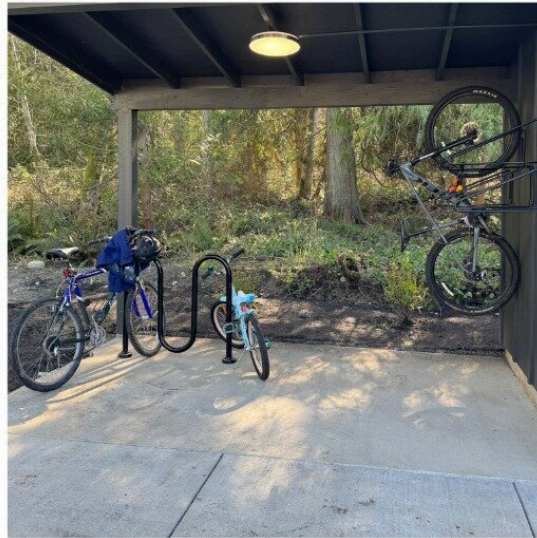
Along the way, the work was marked by moments of reflection and celebration.

Prayers were written inside walls before they were closed. Home dedications brought people together to recognize what had been built and what it meant. These moments were a special opportunity to connect homebuyers with the house sponsors: Beth Weaver, Bill and Ann Testerman, Truck Guys and Gals, Anonymous & David Harrah, Cross Charitable Foundation & Chelcie and Kathy Liu.

Cliff Street Cottages was also the site of Habitat's 75th home dedication, a major milestone for the organization.

Between these milestones were the moments that made the site feel alive: a birthday build, a retirement celebration, and the everyday connections that turned a construction site into something more.

**Collage above:** clockwise from top left: at the Prayers in the Walls ceremony, a heartfelt wish for the new homeowners; Derik and Alisa receive their new keys from Carol Gonnella, Cross Charitable Foundation; the 'birthday' build for homeowner Jenny (seated on the left), by friends and family; at the 75th home dedication, the friends and family of homeowners David and Marlen prepared a special meal for the community.



## What It Becomes

Cliff Street Cottages is more than a collection of houses.

It reflects what happens when people come together with a shared purpose, contributing time, resources, and care to create something lasting.

What began as a vacant site is now a neighborhood, shaped by many hands.

For the families who live there, it is something even more.

It is home.

---

## A Single Day's Wage: A Lifetime of Lessons

### **How a Tennessee tornado shaped a life of giving**

On the evening of March 5, 1955, eleven-year-old Bill Testerman watched his home disappear.

He had been polishing his shoes and watching television when his father rushed in, shouting for everyone to run to the basement. Moments later, the storm passed, and the family emerged to find their house had been reduced to almost nothing.

With his home suddenly gone, the future felt uncertain. But what followed stayed with Bill for the rest of his life.

At the printing plant where his father worked, 250 employees each gave one full day's wages to help their family rebuild. Neighbors and extended family stepped in as well, and the Testermans were able to move into a rebuilt home just months later.

**Bill was only eleven, but the lesson stayed with him: when people come together in a spirit of generosity, lives are changed for the better.**

Bill's new perspective shaped everything that followed.

He went on to serve in the military, join the Peace Corps with his wife, Ann, and build a long career as a veterinarian. He continues to volunteer in Port Townsend, providing care for animals belonging to people experiencing homelessness.

For Bill, service is simply how he lives.

That same perspective led Bill and Ann to Habitat for Humanity of East Jefferson County.

They began supporting Habitat in 2021 and, in 2025, deepened that commitment by becoming house sponsors, helping make it possible for another family to build a stable foundation.

Bill knows from experience how a single act of generosity can shape the course of a life.

More than sixty years after receiving that support himself, he and Ann are now creating that same opportunity others.

That's how generosity works.

It carries forward.

Bill and Ann Testerman are living proof.

We're grateful to be part of that story.

## House Sponsorship Opportunities

If you'd like to be part of the story and help a family establish a stable foundation, visit our website at [House Sponsorship](#) to learn more.



Photos, left to right: Ann Testerman presenting Derrick the keys to his new home while Bill and their daughter Shelly Randall look on; Derrick in his new home, with family members and Bill and Ann Testerman.

---

## Apply for Homeownership

**[We are accepting applications](#) for homes in Port Townsend and Port Hadlock**

Wondering if you qualify? Curious about the [Habitat Extended Program](#)? Visit [Buy a Home](#) or reach out to our team to learn more, [info@habitatejc.org](mailto:info@habitatejc.org).

Please share with family, friends and coworkers!



We're taking applications!

# SECURE YOUR PLACE

Landes Terrace  
in Port Townsend

Mason Street  
Neighborhood  
in Port Hadlock



[Apply Today](#)

[habitatejc.org/homes](http://habitatejc.org/homes)

## Get Involved



Every gift helps a family build a foundation.

[DONATE](#)



We're building homes, communities, and hope.

[VOLUNTEER](#)



A good deal for you, our community, and the environment.

[SHOP THE STORE](#)

## Special Volunteer Call Out: Construction Volunteers

Our homes that are under construction need more people from our volunteer community to sign up for shifts this summer, and we hope you'll spread the word to

others too!

Are you a construction volunteer who hasn't given time for a while, or a registered volunteer in another capacity who might like to give construction a try? The shifts are [right here!](#)

Are you a friend, neighbor, relative or co-worker of someone who might like to register as a volunteer? Send them [here](#) to apply!

If you'd like to help build but can't make a regular commitment, check out the [Pride Build](#), [Women Build](#), and [Community Build](#) opportunities.

---

## Correction

In the April eNews, a photo caption of Landes Terrace incorrectly named StuiioSTL as the architect for the site. Terrapin Architecture is the architect for Landes Terrace. StudioSTL provided the artistic renderings, as seen on our [website](#) and the newsletter. Our sincere apologies to Terrapin Architecture.

---

## We'd Love to Hear from You!



Please get in touch; we're here to answer any questions and are always happy to help.

(360) 379-2827

[info@habitatejc.org](mailto:info@habitatejc.org)

Phone: 360-379-2827  
Email: [info@habitatejc.org](mailto:info@habitatejc.org)  
Mail: PO Box 658 Port Townsend, WA 98368



Email sent to [EMAIL]

You are receiving this because you have subscribed to Habitat for Humanity of East Jefferson County.

[Unsubscribe](#)

Powered by  giveeffect