



AMARILLO HABITAT

Spring '20 Newsletter

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

The Challenge After the “Challenge”

Annually, Amarillo Habitat for Humanity (AHFH) participates in Collegiate Challenge, an alternative spring break program created by Habitat for Humanity International over 25 years ago. Prior to the coronavirus outbreak, AHFH hosted three different schools over the course of two weeks: Widener University (Chester, PA), Moravian College (Bethlehem, PA) and Blackburn College (Carlinville, IL).

In just 8 days of volunteering, thirty students used their spring breaks to texture walls in the Hel Family home, used a tractor to move debris from a construction site, cut wood and built three new walls on the Duron Family home, moved merchandise at the ReStore, and built connections with their classmates and Amarillo-area volunteers. Total hours exceeded 650 between the two groups and much progress was made.

Halfway through the second week, staff at AHFH received word that all further Collegiate Challenge groups were

anceled due to the coronavirus pandemic, causing a shift in the course of action. The students on site were allowed to complete projects they were working on before going home and it seemed as though they worked twice as hard to assist staff after the announcement.

Following the groups’ departure, the AHFH staff faced a new kind of challenge: continuing the mission without volunteers until the pandemic clears. The construction staff has been hard at work on the jobsite with minimal people; administrative staff is now working from home; and the ReStore has closed physical doors, but now conducting online operations to continue sales. As the AHFH staff treks forward with this temporary normal, the focus and priority still lay with the families. The challenges are there, but we will strive to continue building homes, communities and hope in Amarillo through this time and after.

113

AMARILLO HABITAT HOMES BUILT

587

2019 VOLUNTEERS

5,185

2019 VOLUNTEER HOURS

VOLUNTEER UPDATE

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, volunteerism has been suspended until further notice. We hope to resume normal volunteer opportunities soon!

To volunteer, contact:
Ashlie Zinolli
Community Relations Director
806-383-3456

Donate Today

The importance of a safe, secure, affordable home has never been more apparent. During these times, we are finding ourselves in our homes more often. For the families in our program, waiting for their forever home, things look different. Broken windows, leaking toilets, and rotting wood keep them from providing a safe home for their children. Deciding whether to buy groceries or pay high rent becomes their focus as they are faced with less work and possibly even layoffs. Despite these hardships, our families have a common dream: the hope a Habitat home brings. We are still building and with your support, we will continue to build homes. Every donation helps us make this hope a reality for these families. Will you join us in providing the promise of a home?



“When these are the choices you face, you can’t win. As the economic shocks from this crisis ripple out, these same families will be hardest hit.” -Jonathan Reckford, Habitat for Humanity International CEO



The times are ever-changing! Amarillo Habitat now has two virtual ways to contribute to affordable housing in the community! Effective now, you can give online using PayPal or using your Venmo account. Scan the QR code to view our webpage on how to donate or visit amarillohabitat.org/give. Even \$10 helps purchase a light fixture for a family’s home!



Volunteer Shout Out



Tony Northcutt was plugged into volunteering with Amarillo Habitat in October 2019 by joining his coworkers from Premier Trucking on the jobsite. Since then, Tony has logged more than 115 hours in less than six months by coming in on his days off and working alongside our Collegiate Challenge teams and Construction Staff. “Tony is an amazing volunteer and has quickly become one of our leaders on the site,” says William Larkin, Construction Supervisor. “His skill and eagerness to help the community has made him invaluable to Habitat’s mission. We are very grateful to have Tony working with us on these homes!”

Tony has enjoyed his time volunteering with Amarillo Habitat. “There is such a pride in homeownership,” he says. “It’s a great and special feeling to know I can lend a helping hand and be a part of that for these families and Habitat’s mission. Very rewarding!” From the Amarillo Habitat staff and families, thank you, Tony!

Family Spotlight

As a single father many years ago, it was Shawn Vandiver’s dream “to provide a healthy, comfortable home” for his son. A difficult past and a connection at Amarillo Habitat led Shawn to apply for the opportunity to build his own home. In 2014, Shawn became a Habitat homeowner, fulfilling his dream. “I just know that I’ll be forever grateful for Habitat,” he says. “Every time I walk into my house, I get overwhelmed with gratitude.” In the time since purchasing his home, Shawn has switched career paths, got married, and has watched his son grow up in a stable environment. “I love my little home,” Shawn continues. “It’s so warm and so cozy. I know what it’s like to not have a place to lay my head... I owe it all to Habitat for Humanity.” Shawn has expressed interest in continuing his volunteerism by working on the homes of future Habitat families to pass on the same blessing he received: becoming a homeowner.

One of Shawn’s favorite quotes: “Gratitude lifts our eyes off the things we lack so we might see the blessings we possess.” - Max Lucado.

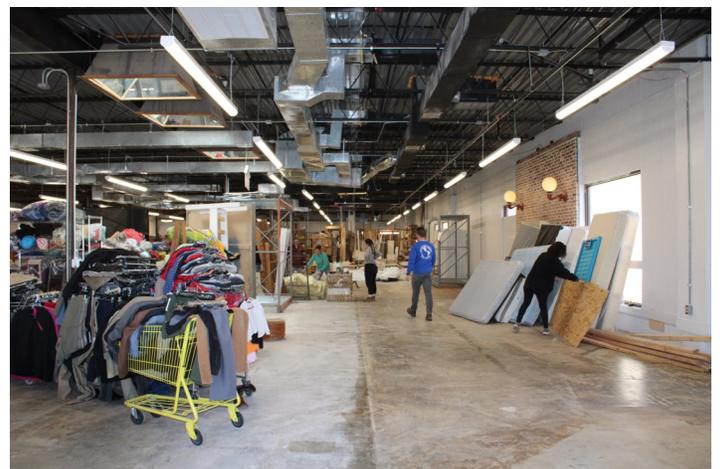


A Word From the ReStore

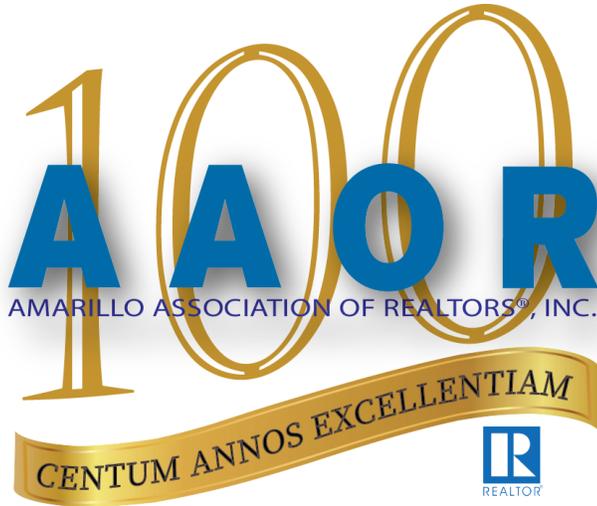
Despite the changes COVID-19 has brought to the world and to Amarillo, we have been blessed with supportive community members who have continued to purchase new and gently used items from our new online version of the ReStore! This new avenue has allowed us to practice social-distancing while still being able to bring in funds to further our mission of building homes, communities and hope in Amarillo. Our staff have all been working diligently to be in touch with interested customers, posting new items regularly, creating online payment options and a no contact pick up to ensure we are keeping in line with CDC recommendations and keeping our fellow Amarillo citizens and staff members safe and healthy. Visit the Amarillo Habitat for Humanity ReStore Facebook page to shop online and set up no-contact pick up or call us at 806-383-3456 for more details!



The walls came tumbling down! Thanks to our construction team and the hard work of numerous volunteers, we have brought down the dividing wall and expanded the ReStore an additional 3,000 square feet! Though we still have some work to do, we were able to move merchandise around the store to provide more walking space and allow us to continue accepting larger donations. We are so pleased with this outcome and are ready for the finishing touches and new restrooms to be completed to continue to serve our community.



Donor Spotlight



Amarillo Association of Realtors (AAoR) is celebrating their 100th anniversary by providing a home for a family in Amarillo! The AAoR has generously donated \$50,000 for our 116th home, the first in a new neighborhood. "The Amarillo Association of Realtors is honored to have the opportunity to give back to our community," says Mitzi Wade, Amarillo Association of REALTORS chairman of the board. "Partnering with Habitat for Humanity to build a new home is the perfect way for us to celebrate our 100th Anniversary,." Amarillo Habitat for Humanity's 116th home will be built on 21st street, just off Arthur and will be home to the Noo Family. Groundbreaking on this new neighborhood and home is scheduled for later this year.

Letter from our ED

Dear friends of Amarillo Habitat,

As I write this, I am thinking of the whirlwind we have all experienced the past few weeks. It is clear that the way we move forward has changed and the potential impact of the COVID-19 must be at the forefront of our minds.

Amarillo Habitat for Humanity has taken measures to protect our staff and stakeholders through increased cleaning regimens, practicing social distancing, and changes to our services:

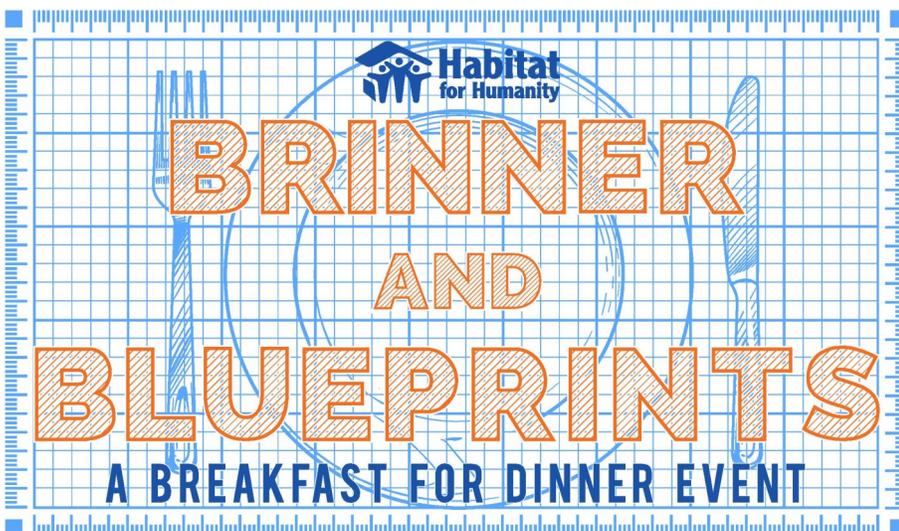
- Our Habitat Partner Family activities such as classes and volunteering have been canceled through April with possibility of extension. We are currently working on ways to provide class content to families virtually.
- Our construction job site is currently closed to volunteers but work is still being done by our construction staff. We hope volunteerism will resume soon.
- Our ReStore, located at 2626 Paramount, has closed its physical doors to the public; however, we have begun selling online only via our Amarillo Habitat ReStore Facebook page by implementing contactless payment and pick up options. We have been blessed that we are still able to serve our community in this capacity.

We are trying to balance the health and safety of our Habitat family and friends, the much-needed services, and the financial wellbeing of our organization, just as you are. My comfort is that we have a common goal and are actively working toward a safe, normal tomorrow.

See you on the job site,

Alason Moorhead
Executive Director

Hanging Out with Amarillo Habitat for Humanity



After months of planning and much anticipation, Amarillo Habitat for Humanity had to make the difficult decision to postpone our Brinner & Blueprints Event, previously scheduled for April 2, 2020. All sponsorships, table and ticket reservations will automatically be applied to the rescheduled event. We will share updates on the new date as soon as we can. We want to thank all the donors, sponsors and volunteer committee members who have worked so hard on this event and we can't wait to celebrate with you all.