

# habitat insider

October 2023

## World Habitat Day Recap

Habitat Choptank celebrated World Habitat Day on October 2nd with a build day and a block party in the Hill District in Easton!

Board and staff members spent World Habitat Day by building on one of our construction sites on South Locust Street, located in Easton's historic Hill District. This neighborhood currently has 4 new Habitat houses under construction as well as an historic home renovation in progress.

After spending the morning and afternoon on the construction site, Habitat Choptank hosted a block party in the neighborhood to celebrate World Habitat Day. The affiliate provided food, drinks, and information. Pickering Creek provided information about native plants and hosted a plant giveaway, and the Multicultural Center provided information about their services.

Are you interested in lending a hand on our construction sites? Click this button to become a volunteer!

[Volunteer](#)



*Staff from Habitat Choptank, Pickering Creek, and the Multicultural Center gather for a group photo.*



*(From left to right) John Puposzar, Critical Home Repair Manager; JoAnn Hansen, Chief Executive Officer, and Jim Thomas, Construction Project Manager work on a construction site on South Locust Street.*

## Hard Hats & High Heels-- Tickets are on Sale Now!

Tickets are on sale now for our second annual Hard Hats & High Heels! Don't miss this signature fundraising event on November 18th at 6pm at the Waterfowl Building in Easton!

It promises to be a fun evening of cocktails, heavy hors d'oeuvres, silent auction - and dancing! - all while supporting the building of homes, community, and hope in Dorchester and Talbot Counties. So mark your calendars!

Click this button to purchase tickets or a table for Hard Hats & High Heels!



**HARD HATS**  
*& High Heels*

**Purchase Tickets  
for Hard Hats and  
High Heels**

## New Hires: Meet Amanda

Habitat Choptank welcomes Amanda Fenstermaker to the team as a Grants Administrator!

Amanda started her career as an AmeriCorps volunteer with a Habitat affiliate in Prattville, Alabama in 2004. She spent her year of service with Habitat for Humanity and AmeriCorps by working in Volunteer Development and Family Services. A Dorchester County native, she returned to the area after her year of service and spent the majority of her professional career with Dorchester County Tourism, where she led the efforts to secure funding for the IRONMAN Maryland triathlon and assisted in the opening of the Harriet Tubman State Park and Visitor Center. As Habitat Choptank's Grants Administrator, Amanda writes grants and will manage grant reporting for the affiliate.

Amanda has two daughters and one son, aged 12, 10, and 8 years old. She and her family live on their family farm outside of Vienna, MD. They enjoy being outside, working with their chickens, and working in their garden.



## New Hires: Meet Tre'Shawn

Habitat Choptank welcomes Tre'Shawn Wheeler to the team as our Family Services Coordinator!

Tre'Shawn is an Eastern Shore girl who was born and raised in Cambridge, MD. She graduated from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore in 2017 with a B.S in Marketing. As Habitat Choptank's Family Services Coordinator, Tre'Shawn helps homeowners in Dorchester and Talbot County area with home repairs by walking them through the paperwork side of the repairs. Tre'Shawn also handles the intake process for the homebuyer program. She enjoys working with Habitat for Humanity Choptank because they help the community with their future, whether it's building a home or repairing it.

Tre'Shawn recently got married and is currently living in Talbot County with her husband and their pup! She looks forward to seeing what Habitat has in store next for the community!



## New Hires: Meet Michael

Habitat Choptank welcomes Michael Jenkins to the ReStore team!

Michael is the Assistant Warehouse Manager of the Habitat Choptank ReStore. His daily responsibilities include maintaining the warehouse, taking in and processing donations, managing volunteers, and maintaining warehouse safety. His favorite parts of the job are working with the volunteers and being part of a team that works towards Habitat Choptank's goals.

Michael plays guitar and bass, and he likes to draw and attend local events like comic-con, taco festivals, and concerts.



## An Interview with Homebuyer Coach Cindy Lilley

Cindy Lilley has volunteered with Habitat Choptank as a homebuyer coach since 2005!

In this interview, Cindy shares her experience as a homebuyer coach and encourages volunteers to consider serving as a homebuyer coach!

### **Why did you decide to become a homebuyer coach?**

I retired from 30 years of teaching and moved to Easton so I was looking for volunteer opportunities that connected with people. I observed the Homebuyer Selection and Partnership committees to see what Habitat was about and then decided to try coaching and have been coaching since 2005!

### **What are your favorite parts about volunteering as a coach?**

Working 1:1 with homebuyer partner families and coaching them through the Habitat process to purchase a home. I have so much respect for the people that enter the Habitat program. They work the sweat equity, attend required education sessions, save their money and more, all while working one or two jobs and raising their children. I also enjoy the camaraderie of all the coaches we experience at our monthly meetings.

### **How have you grown or what have you learned through volunteering as a coach?**

I have learned that people who have never owned a home or been able to buy a home can accomplish home ownership with commitment and hard work. I also have learned that Habitat builds very high quality energy efficient homes. I'm impressed with the multiple organizations that work cooperatively with Habitat to provide support and resources to our homebuyers. Our education program brings in speakers from a wide variety of other nonprofits to share information on their services.



*Cindy Lilley with homebuyer Amy at the Senior Resource Fair.*

### **Why should volunteers consider becoming homebuyer coaches?**

People should consider becoming coaches if they think they will like mentoring an adult who is eager and committed to buying a home for their family. Habitat provides very clear guidelines and support for coaches. Coaches track sweat equity and education hours required to purchase a home and sometimes work along side the person they are coaching. Coaches all have individual styles of coaching so there is lots of flexibility in this type of volunteering.

Are you interested in being a homebuyer coach like Cindy? Click this button to get started!

[Become a Coach](#)

## Homebuyer Highlights

### Tashina's Home Dedication

Tashina moved into her home on October 20th!

Tashina and her two daughters joined the Wells Street neighborhood in Cambridge. During their home dedication, their pastor discussed II Samuel 6:11-15 and the Lord's blessing over the household of Obed-Edom. He also shared a heartfelt prayer for Tashina's family and their new home.

You can make homeownership possible for families like Tashina's! When you join the Carpenter's Club, you can have a hand in every house we build without swinging a hammer! Click on this button to learn more about the Carpenter's Club.



*Tashina (left) and her daughters take their first family photo in front of their new home.*

[Carpenter's Club](#)

## ReStore Corner

### The Christmas Shop is now open!

It's the most wonderful time of the year at the ReStore! Visit the ReStore's new Christmas shop to find great deals on holiday decorations, seasonal items, and more! Pose for a picture at their Christmas shop photo spot to get into the holiday spirit!

### Visit the ReStore to purchase a pair of handmade earrings!\*

These house earrings will remind you that your purchase at the ReStore helps families in your community have a safe and affordable home. The chandelier earrings are made with repurposed materials available at the ReStore.

You can be the first to know about the ReStore's special promotions! Sign up for the ReStore's mailing list to learn more about sales, online auctions, and more!

\*Earrings are available for a limited time, while supplies lasts.



## Mailing List



## upcoming events

### Home Dedication 109

Join us for Hannah's Home Dedication on Saturday, November 4 at 12 Prospect Ave in Easton! The home dedication program will begin at 9:00 am.

### Hard Hats & High Heels

Our 2nd annual Hard Hats and High Heels event will take place on Saturday, November 18 at the Waterfowl Building in Easton from 6:00 to 9:00 pm! This event will be a fun evening of cocktails, heavy hors d'oeuvres, silent auction, and dancing! Mark your calendars for an event that supports the building of homes, community, and hope in Talbot and Dorchester Counties!

[Purchase tickets here!](#)

## connect with us

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Habitat for Humanity Choptank | 29349 W. Maple Ave, Suite 3 , Trappe, MD 21673

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