



Blue Water
Habitat
for Humanity®



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Habitat Happenings

Dear Habitat Friends,

Here we are in 2023. Every year we all look back and say how did it go so fast, where does the time go? I didn't get everything I wanted accomplished. I didn't spend enough time with family, and friends. I didn't do that fun thing I wanted to. So, if the past years have become the "I Didn't Years", let us change that TOGETHER. How about if we commit to each other that the list of important things isn't a list in our heads but an actual refrigerator list that we leave in plain sight. Then we tackle that list, we schedule time to make things happen and as we make them happen, we check it off the list. If we make it through the list we simply repeat the ones that gave us the most joy and add new things to the list if we complete it.

In case we need permission, "Give yourself joy, do not wait or require others to fulfill that for you". My belief is that the moment you feel happiness, you share it in all you say and do. If you are happy, there is no doubt your happiness will permeate any room and your life will enrich others. You want to help others, give to others and reward others.

There is no selfishness in taking care of yourself so that you can nurture and take care of others. Let this be the year of "I Do". Give back to yourself so you can keep giving to others. Let there be no regret and for every happiness you give and allow yourself, share with someone else and pay it forward. I guarantee if you do, 2023 will be year that changes your life, while you help to change the world.



New Year's Blessings,

Ernest

Inside this issue

Hooray.....	2
Supporting	2
Restore	3
Homeownership	4

Hip, Hip Hooray!

The new year has begun, and we look forward to all of its possibilities. But before we move too far away from 2022, we wanted to reflect on some important accolades and highlight a few individuals. In the late fall we at Blue Water Habitat for Humanity hosted our annual Harvest Appreciation Dinner and Awards Ceremony. In conjunction, Habitat for Humanity of Michigan does their recognition within the same time frame.

We want to congratulate and thank the following individuals who were recognized first at the state level, Habitat for Humanity of Michigan:

Tina Sager – Homeowner of the Year
Wynne Achatz – Volunteer of the Year
Kramer Commercial Reality – Corporate Partner
Ernest C. Werth-Toward – Special Tribute Volunteer of the Year



(Each were recognized for their awards at Blue Water Habitat for Humanity and presented with certificates as well as their names on the respective plaques that will remain on display at Blue Water Habitat for Humanity)

Several others were recognized for their contributions at our local affiliate. Thank you to the following individuals, businesses and organizations for their kindness:

Brian Leslie – Ivan Smith Construction Volunteer Award
Schroeder Masonry – Richard Collins Construction Business Award
Ted Mertens – The John (Jack) W. Peacock Award
Terry Wright – The Rev. Mark P. Thomas Founders Award
First Presbyterian Church Port Huron – Faith Partner of the Year Award
Ruth Habalewsky – Marilyn Foster and Pat Moses Family Services Award
Mary (MJ) Johnson – Barbara Ernsberger Achievement Award
Doug Weaver – Al Buchholz ReStore Volunteer of the Year Award
Pine Grove Acquisition LLC – Gift In Kind Partner of the Year
Kramer Commercial Reality, Gerry and Mino Kramer – Rex Burgess Community Partner Award
Mary Ready – Foundation Builder of the Year
Catherine Houghton – Hope Builder of the Year



Our sincerest gratitude to these incredible people and their service to our mission!

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Answering A Call

Blue Water Habitat for Humanity is currently working on build plans and volunteer opportunities for 2023. How can you, your business or organization get involved with projects? Contact us today at 810-985-9080 ext. 206.

January-March: In addition to working on construction projects, volunteers and volunteer groups are invited to participate in hospitality projects, fundraising events and on committees. The Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Port Huron utilizes volunteers in a number of ways.

Call 810-364-6919 to volunteer at the ReStore!

To see a list of volunteer opportunities visit: www.bwhabitat.org



Please Share this Information

You, our avid volunteers and supporters are the key to our advocacy. That being said we are hoping you will share this article or the entire newsletter with your personal outreach community. Of course, some suggested arenas include: your church, your work, your friends, your social media contacts.



The information is announcing our next Homeowner Informational Meeting. I'm going to include some details as well to help you explain to others how this works and why it's so important. The actual date of the meeting will be on January 26th, 2023, at 5:30 PM at the YMCA.

The meeting is designed to help participants have a better understanding of how the journey of becoming a future homeowner works with Blue water Habitat for Humanity. During the meeting we introduce the participants to Habitat as a whole and steps that they will take during the process. This approach is to help the participants feel more comfortable with the process while getting questions answered in real time.

We will be serving snacks and refreshments; childcare will be provided to registered participants. We will limit the presentation time to 1 hour. Participants will then have the opportunity to schedule an individual appointment to begin the application process.

We hope you will all share this as an invitation. For more information or to register for the event please contact Kara at 810-985-9080 ext. 200 or kara@bwhabitat.org.



We are also currently accepting applicants for our Home Repair Program and Veteran Repair Corps Program. To learn more about these programs please reach out to Kara at 810-985-9080 ext. 200 or kara@bwhabitat.org.

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