



homes
communities
hope
you



Northern Ocean
Habitat
for Humanity®

2020
annual
report

message

from the executive directors



Kristine Novakowski

Executive Director | 2020 - present

Dear Habitat Friends,

As I was reflecting on this past year, I knew I had to ask our former Executive Director to share her thoughts as she was our leader the majority of this time. Her passion for our mission is unparalleled. The fruit of her work will be the stories told by the families with renewed hope for generations to come.

This past year was one of transition and change. In January 2020, I worked alongside Suzan as NOHFH Board President. I was filled with optimism and anticipation for the coming year as we were preparing for our 20th anniversary and planning our 20th home build. I could never have predicted the turn of events that followed. This indeed is a challenging time for everyone across the globe, and our mission to help those families in need has grown tremendously here in our own back yard. What a blessing it is to be part of this organization that, rather than reeling from the pandemic crisis, has the capacity and know-how to respond to it in earnest at the local level in communities across the planet. I was also humbled and honored to be chosen NOHFH Executive Director at a time when our community needed us most. I am continuously inspired by the work we are able to accomplish despite Covid-related limitations and restrictions.

Truly, it is our ReStore employees and volunteers that have been the true frontline warriors. Through them, this crisis fostered creativity. Their dedication to getting back to work safely has been the most inspiring to me. It is because of them that our ReStore re-opened in June and continues to be a thriving financial resource for our home repair program so that we can continue to provide critical and urgent repairs. As difficult as this time is for all of us, the difficulty must seem insurmountable for those who lack a stable and well-built house; the physical foundation for a stable and healthy family home.

As we move forward in 2021, our mission remains steadfast: to bring people together to build homes, communities, and HOPE. With God's grace we will continue to grow in this mission. The lessons we learned in 2020 will be our footing for our future efforts and aspirations. We are grateful to you for being part of this journey with us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kristine Novakowski'.

Kristine Novakowski
Executive Director, Northern Ocean Habitat for Humanity

This indeed is a challenging time for everyone across the globe, and our mission to help those families in need has grown tremendously here in our own back yard.

message

from the executive directors



Suzan Fichtner

Former Executive Director | 2009-2020

Dear Habitat Friends,

As we reflect on 2020 and the tremendous challenges we have had battling Covid-19 and the social and civil unrest, we are comforted knowing that Northern Ocean Habitat for Humanity is a beacon of hope for our neighbors that struggle every day to put food on their tables and clothes on their backs. They live in homes that have leaky roofs and windows where the wind blows chilling their bodies and straining their soul. Often they are faced with putting tarps on their roofs and plastic on their windows as their utility bills rise and their health suffers. Fortunately through our Critical Home Repair Program, Northern Ocean Habitat for Humanity has continued to replace windows and repair roofs which enables our neighbors to concentrate on keeping their families safe and healthy especially this year as Covid-19 lurks in our midst.

Our Aging in Place Program continues to be a life-changer for our senior neighbors. Many low income seniors live in small houses that have undersized doorways that will not accommodate walkers and wheelchairs. Additionally there are many trip hazards in the homes including but not limited to uneven flooring, old rugs, bathtubs that are too high to step over and bathrooms without grab bars. Our fabulous construction team under the leadership of Bob Conway assesses the homes providing each senior with a Scope of Work that tailors the repairs to the individual's needs. Additionally, a holistic assessment is completed by a social worker ensuring that the homeowner is safe and healthy. As we close the project, Northern Ocean Habitat has once again transformed a home but more importantly a person's life.

The true magic of our mission starts with our ReStore. As I reflect on this year, it is apparent that the staff and volunteers of the ReStore are truly unsung heroes. With a determination to meet the needs of our community and a true dedication to the mission, they continue to weather the challenges of the pandemic with one goal in mind; be a hope builder!

We all know that Covid-19 has taught us many things. We no longer take our health, our families, friends or neighbors for granted. We take the time to make a phone call, write a letter, tell people that we love them even though we can't hug them. We also have a newfound appreciation for our homes. As we bunkered down in our homes, we found that our homes provided us with the ability to nest and rest from all the craziness that was spinning around us. Our homes are our sanctuary. As Habitat for Humanity we are blessed to be building and repairing homes for our neighbors. We are truly beacons of hope!

In closing, I wish to thank you for sharing your time, talents, and heart with Northern Ocean Habitat for Humanity. Walking with you these past eleven years has been some of the best years of my life and I am forever grateful for the time we had together... and always remember we are the home builders and the hope builders and together we shall overcome!

Peace & gratitude,

Suzan Fichtner

Former Executive Director, Northern Ocean Habitat for Humanity



We no longer take our health, our families, friends or neighbors for granted. Our homes are our sanctuary.

homes

reflecting

on our past homeowner



Gloria Walling
19th partner homeowner



“

There is always something to be thankful for. Every year I am thankful for my two beautiful daughters and that I have survived this year financially. I'm thankful for Habitat (my new found family) for believing in me when I didn't believe in myself. I am thankful because this year and forever... we will have a place to call home.

gloria's story

Life hasn't always been easy for Gloria. Despite the importance of Gloria's job as a home health aide, this position does not pay a living wage especially here in New Jersey. With rent payments as high as \$1200-\$1800, many tenants pay over 50% of their wages in rent leaving them struggling to afford food, clothing, insurance, and daycare. As a result, Gloria and her two daughters, Monroe and Asiana, were forced to live in a one-bedroom apartment in a crime infested area.

Sharing a bedroom with Monroe while Asiana slept on the couch in the living room, Gloria dreamt of homeownership. Gloria's dream came true when she was selected by Northern Ocean Habitat for Humanity as their 19th partner homeowner. As a hand up (not a hand out), Gloria was able to purchase her Habitat home with an interest-free mortgage. This was truly remarkable for Gloria and her family. Not only would the girls have their own bedrooms but they would also have an area to do their homework, have friends and family visit, and even host for the holidays.

Land for 19th (Gloria's home) and 20th home builds were donated by the Theodore Karras Estate. Groundbreaking for the 20th home build will be in Spring 2021.

preparing

for our next home build

274 Grand Central Parkway, Bayville

our
20th
home
build



communities

aging in place

meet ermida

Eighty-seven-year old, Ermida is a widow, living independently in Jackson. Her home needed several ceiling repairs due to water damage from a leaky roof. It also needed a new floor in the kitchen and foyer due to tears which created trip hazards. In addition, the bathroom sink needed replacement as well as other minor repairs. These critical repairs were made to her home by Northern Ocean Habitat for Humanity volunteers.



meet patty

At the beginning of 2020, Northern Ocean Habitat for Humanity went out to Patty's home to help replace the front and back door. The front door was falling off its hinges and the back was improperly fitted, which caused cold air to regularly flow into her home. Patty and her small dog often took refuge in the bedroom with a space heater.

Since receiving our help, Patty continues to help others as well by cooking and baking for her neighbors and even giving 100 hours of volunteer service to our ReStore.



People have no idea that when things go bad, they are not alone...

Habitat is not a charity; it's a pay it forward.

critical home repairs aging in place



Critical home repairs help low-income homeowners who may be affected by age, disability, or family circumstances and struggle to maintain the integrity of their homes.

Repairs are focused on health and safety, making the necessary improvements and modifications to keep seniors in their homes with dignity.

48 critical home repairs completed



communities

a brush with kindness our work with 21 Plus and the The Arc

Through the Brush with Kindness program, Northern Ocean Habitat for Humanity continued its partnership with 21 Plus and The ARC of Ocean County to help maintain their group homes. This year we completed three projects with the help of students from Donovan Catholic and Manchester High School. Residents and volunteers had a great time working

to clean and paint their shed, weed, clear brush, plant flowers and create a beautiful butterfly garden!

Northern Ocean Habitat's partnership with 21 Plus and the ARC builds on relationships established with other social service agencies to maintain their group homes and revitalize their neighborhoods.



Manchester High School volunteers



Thank you to our volunteers for helping us re-open our doors in June and creating a safe shopping experience for our community!



Our ReStore serves the community by keeping items out of landfills and recycling household items. ReStore sells new and gently used furniture, appliances, and household items that were donated which benefits the community and the environment by providing lower cost items for sale and keeping items out of landfills. Our ReStore has a positive environmental impact by encouraging "reduce, reuse, and recycle."

1,511
volunteers

6,600
volunteer
hours

This year, donations to our ReStore have kept over 10,200 tons of materials out of landfills.



hope

With your support, Northern Ocean Habitat for Humanity is ready to stand alongside families and not just stand, but build. Build security and stability. Build back the economy. Reconnect communities. Create hope.



Back (left to right): Chef Daniel Stern, Chef Kristol Bryant, Chef Jennifer Carroll, Nannette McKendrick - Executive Assistant to Jim Golini, Former NOHFH Executive Director Suzan Fichtner, Katiria Rodriguez - Habitat Homeowner, Ferguson Associate Lisa Davis, and Ferguson Lakewood Showroom Manager Valerie Saylor
Front: Jim Golini, Ferguson District Vice President - Northeast

hearts for habitat fundraiser with our partner, Ferguson



Celebrity chef live cooking demonstrations

The first Hearts for Habitat Celebrity Chef Event was on February 13, 2020 at Ferguson's Lakewood, NJ Showroom. All proceeds went directly toward Northern Ocean Habitat for Humanity. The event featured three nationally recognized chefs for an extraordinary evening with live cooking demonstrations in the working showroom kitchens, music, a silent auction, and raffle.

Jim Golini, District Vice President-Northeast of Ferguson and Nannette McKendrick, Executive Assistant to Jim Golini were instrumental in creating Hearts of Habitat fundraiser. In addition to the fundraiser, Ferguson also provides items needed for home repairs and new home builds.

thank you to our supporters

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
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| Beasley Media Group | Ocean First Foundation |
| BlueClaws Charities | Partner Engineering & Science, Inc. |
| Brick Presbyterian Church | Playa Bowls |
| Central Ocean Rotary Club | River Pointe Men's Club |
| Citta Foundation | Silver Ridge Park Association |
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| The Magno Foundation | |

community grants

Toms River Township Office of Community Development
Community Development Block Grant

Brick Township Office of Community Development
Community Development Block Grant

Ocean County Office of Community Development
Community Development Block Grant

Ocean County Office of Senior Services
Area Plan Contract Grant

Special thank you to all of our individual donors for your support this past year. Your support enabled us to continue our mission during the pandemic.



you

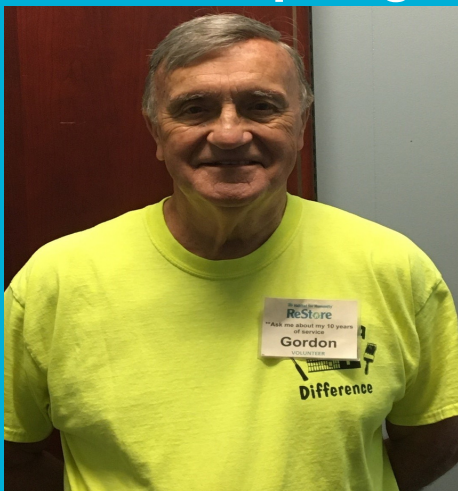
Because of the help from people like you, whole neighborhoods improve and completely transform. Through this transformation, families achieve the strength, stability and independence they need to build a better life.



Northern Ocean Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope, believing that all people deserve a simple, decent place to live and have something to contribute in building homes and helping our communities. A healthy, stable home improves the quality of life, both for the family and the community.



volunteer spotlight



After retiring from a career as a land surveyor, Gordon Donnelly began volunteering at Habitat for Humanity constructing a playground in Trenton. Next, he began helping with landscaping homes and soon after found himself one of the main fixtures of Northern Ocean Habitat for Humanity where he volunteers every day. As a lifetime volunteer, he has given 1,710 hours of his time lending a hand to meet the many needs of the ReStore. Gordon is such an important part of our Habitat family.

“I'm proud to be a part of the Habitat family.”

annual walk to build



2019

Together, we can help families achieve the strength, stability and independence they need to build a better life.

visit our website to learn more about our programs and events

donate items or shop at our Restore and those proceeds will help invest in the next home build

attend an event to spread awareness and support our organization

partner with us by hosting your own fundraiser or sponsoring an event

like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter and Instagram to stay up-to-date with our latest news, photos, and videos

For more ways to get involved, email programservices@nohfh.com or call 732-818-9500 x 101.

northernoceanhabitat.org