



Northern Ocean
Habitat
for Humanity®

2021 annual report



**welcome
home**



message from the executive director

Dear Friends of Habitat,

I love this organization because of the compassionate people we meet and have worked alongside over the years. Everyone plays a different role depending on their skills and abilities, which are integral in supporting our shared mission. We are truly blessed to have a community so involved in helping their neighbors, and together we all create an impact more significant than the construction or restoration of a house. **We are not just building houses; we are building homes.** We build friendships, partnerships, stability, security, independence, empowerment, and neighborhoods.



What does home mean to you?

Home means family, love, safety, and freedom. Home is built with the love of family. You are surrounded by family, friends, and neighbors that will always be there for you at home. Home is a safe place to fall, get back up, and succeed—the freedom to dream and where dreams are made. Home will always hold a special place in my heart.



When families first move into their Habitat home, they tell us that home means stability and room for their family to grow. Home is a place for families to create and build traditions and memories for generations to come. Our volunteers and donors make it possible to build and improve a place for our Habitat families to call home. When we work together, Habitat homeowners achieve the independence they need to build a better life for themselves and their families.

This past year, we hit several milestones in our building and repair programs, broke records with our ReStore, welcomed back many of our volunteers, and saw an increase in engagement with our social media platforms. This allowed us to get back to total capacity, which was needed. Together, we build strength, stability, and self-reliance through shelter in our communities and neighborhoods.

Homes are where the start is. We build together a home where families grow up, ensure our neighbors live in healthy homes, and that seniors can age in place in their homes with pride and dignity. This would not be possible without the continued support of all of you.



Sincerely,

Kristine Novakowski

Executive Director, Northern Ocean Habitat for Humanity

the impact of **you**

149
volunteers

13,402
volunteer hours

**year
overview**

20th
home
built

54
home
repairs

the impact of **home**



new build program



raising the walls

Chap Construction and the Northern Ocean Habitat staff came together over the summer to raise the walls of our 20th home. Thanks to Woodhaven Lumber's valiant efforts of getting the supplies on time during the wood shortage, the 20th home was pacing right on schedule. Chap and Habitat crews worked hard during those hot days framing our next home! Kona Ice and 95.9 WRAT kept cool vibes going during construction. **Thank you, Chap Construction and Woodhaven Lumber!**





nicole's story

In December, Nicole, our 20th partner homeowner, moved into her home with her two children, CJ and Scarlett, just in time to celebrate the holidays and for CJ to celebrate his 10th birthday. The house was instantly filled with new memories.



During the home dedication, the children immediately ran around their house and were ecstatic to see their very own rooms for the first time. They spent Christmas making homemade ornaments for their tree and exchanging gifts in their new living room.



Nicole, a Bayville native, is back in her hometown in her new Habitat home. Nicole's children now attend the same school district she went to when she was growing up. This home was very special to Northern Ocean Habitat as this home marked a milestone being the 20th home.



repair programs



**Since its
inception,
our repair
programs
have
provided
ADA
modifications
and critical
home repairs
to homes in
northern
Ocean
County.**

Housing Plus Aging in Place client, Manchester resident

neighborhood revitalization program

**Housing Plus Aging in Place
Veteran Repair
Weatherization**

**Brush with Kindness
Disaster Relief
Home Preservation**

300+ homes

Evelyn and Robert

300th home repair



Brick Mayor John Ducey and Ferguson staff members Mike Carrera, Ryan Horahan, and Nannette McKendrick visited the home at the start of the project. Teams from several organizations and companies came together on this home repair. Habitat and the community worked together to help this Brick couple age with dignity in their home.

This Brick couple was referred by Senior Services to Habitat for a ramp installation to get out of their home more independently. This home project referral marked Habitat's milestone, with the repair project being the 300th repair.

Senior Services has been providing transportation for the couple. They have been married and have lived in their home for over 50 years. Evelyn was diagnosed with dementia earlier this year, and Robert cannot see and has difficulty walking.



Pictured: Brick Mayor John Ducey, Evelyn & Robert and members of Ferguson



New ramp installed by Habitat and Ocean County Vocational Technical School

Ocean County Vocational Technical School joined Northern Ocean Habitat to build the ramp. Other repairs to Evelyn and Robert's home included repairing the living room ceiling and making ADA modifications to the bathroom. Adam Ricany, a local Brick electrical contractor, donated materials and services for this repair. Ferguson, a longstanding partner of Northern Habitat, donated plumbing materials for the repairs, including their bathroom, where they had a brand-new shower installed.



veteran repair program



Volunteers from Donovan Catholic and Congressman Andy Kim went out to work on a Vietnam Veteran's home. Don, a 72-year-old veteran homeowner, needed critical home repairs and ADA modifications. The windows on his house were bolted shut to keep them from falling off. Volunteers and staff worked alongside Don to replace each window of his home. Don, who loves the outdoors, was finally able to open his windows and enjoy the fresh air coming into the house.

1.5 times

Ocean County has a high veteran population at 1.5 times the rate of NJ.



20%

Of the Housing Plus, Aging in Place program we serve are senior veterans.



your purchase builds the story of home

The ReStore is a nonprofit retail center where new and gently used home furnishings are sold at discounted prices. Sales of donated items help Northern Ocean Habitat partner with families to build, rehabilitate, and repair safe and affordable homes in the local Ocean County community.

facebook group highlights



11,000+
members

419,000+
post views



join our
group

Join our Facebook group to see the latest inventory and order by phone or message

665
tons of material
diverted from the landfill

2,800
number of sales transactions
per month

volunteer highlight



Joanne and Frank are two of Northern Ocean Habitat for Humanity's most exemplary volunteers committed to giving back to their community! Frank owned a beach store in Lavallette for over 30 years. He has been consecutively volunteering three days a week for five years. Frank is a happy-go-lucky man who never fails to

put smiles on people's faces. Joanne owned a travel agency and found our organization through her church bulletin in 2015 and has been with us ever since. She's skilled in ReStore and is an essential asset to our team. **We are thrilled to have them as part of our Habitat family!**



events

**Building Homes
from the Heart™**

special build events

building homes from the heart

WJRZ 100.1 partnered with Northern Ocean Habitat for the 3rd annual **Building Homes from the Heart**, a two-day build event in the ReStore parking lot in October. The event helped to raise funds for our 21st home build in Manchester.



OCVTS, California Coolers, RWJ Barnabas, and Crossroads Realty all came out to help frame our 21st home!



women build week



Northern Ocean Habitat's Women Build Week was in the first week of May. **First Commerce Bank, Ferguson, RJW Barnabas, AllCounty Exteriors, Good Friend Electric, and Kearny Bank** came out during the week to help repair and improve the 21 Plus and the Arc of Ocean County group homes.

events



walk to build

The 5th annual Walk to Build was held on a beautiful sunny September morning on the Lavallette Boardwalk, where we welcomed over 200 walk participants. Our 20th Homeowner Nicole and her children kick-started the event and walked along with the build teams. Toms River High School North's Walk Club helped set up the event. Georgian Court University and Donovan Catholic students also joined the walk, supporting our mission to build homes, communities, and hope.



Food. Love. Home.



This fundraising cooking event series started as an interactive, virtual event during the pandemic. In February, registered guests tuned in to the live webinar with Chef Ralph Colasurdo from Mulberry Street for a fun quarantine date night, making a surf and turf dish along with him. It was such a hit that the cooking series continued. In the spring, Chef Covas invited us to her home (virtually) for three farm-to-table courses, all under an hour with lots of great cooking tips and plenty of laughs.



In November, the final Food. Love. Home. event for the year was the first in-person cooking event hosted by JBJ Soul Kitchen in Toms River. Proceeds from the event benefited both organizations' missions of providing food and shelter. The guests enjoyed a three-course soulful, fall-themed menu cooked by Chef Rob Wood.



dream to build *gala*

events

The 2021 Dream to Build Gala honored Ferguson as the Outstanding Corporate Sponsor of the year. The award highlighted the people instrumental in the partnership: Jim Golini, Ken Resuta, and Nannette McKendrick. Our former executive director, Suzan Fichtner, was honored with the Groundbreaker Award as the first executive director of Northern Ocean Habitat for Humanity. In her honor, a scholarship fund given to qualifying Donovan Catholic students was renamed the Suzan Fichtner Christian Leadership Award. Arnie and Sonja Oftedal, long-time volunteers, were awarded the Outstanding Volunteer Award.



thank you to our supporters

Special Recognition

Marilyn Clark
Dave and Nan Daly
Michele and Elizabeth Gorcey

Individuals

Steven & Pamela Adamo
Deborah Allgair
David & Cathy Applegate
Sharon Asay
Gurpreet Aulakh
Michael Bageac
Michele Barattuci
Sharon Barker
Annaliese Baum
Jamie Baylis
Mary Bennett
Bronson Boquel
Angela Broward
Joseph & Leslie Browne
Neil Bryant
Eileen Buono
Robert Caswell
Thomas Chant
Rob Ciliento
Edith Clayton
Carol Cofone
Vincent & Ellen Coletti
Joseph & Joan Convery
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Richard Felice
Elizabeth France
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Virginia Moe
Bonnie & Jeremiah Nezlick
Barbara Miles
Allen Nichols
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David & Claudia Nilsen
Tom & Kristine Novakowski
Deborah Nowakowski
Lucinda Nylen

Arnold & Sonja Oftedal
Stanley Omland
William & Eva Orlowski
Linda Palmer
Douglas Padron
Nicholas & Pat Pandolfo
Laura Wagner Paolillo
Michele Pardes
Kathleen Peliotis
Sheila Porcelli
Joan Rausch
Dick Read
Ken Resuta
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Kevin Zuccala

thank you to our supporters

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Karen Frate
Diane Czerwinski
Cristina Keresztes
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Jim and Carol Fay Donors
Colleen Fay

Community / Government Grants

Ocean County Office of Senior Services
Berkeley Township
Manchester Township
Brick Township Community Development Block Grant
Ocean County Community Development Block Grant
Toms River Township Community Development Block Grant

*In-kind (materials and labor)



“Since being in our home, I have watched my children flourish and grow tremendously given the stability and security our home has afforded us.”

Woodhouse Family

Together, we can transform the lives of families.

volunteer at our ReStore, build, or repair projects as a group or individually

donate to help fund our next build or repair project or donate items to our ReStore

attend a fundraising event to spread awareness and support our organization

ReStore
1214 Route 37 East, Toms River, NJ 08753

Administration and Construction Office
1620 Route 37 East, Toms River, NJ 08753

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