

# Habitat Happenings

spring 2023



**On the cover:**  
Sierra and her family admire their new home in Cleveland's Buckeye-Woodhill neighborhood.



Greater Cleveland  
**Habitat**  
for Humanity®

## Inside this issue

- 2022 by the numbers
- Walk/Run/Mosey returns to Edgewater
- 2023 Faith Build heads west!



# Dear Habitat Community,

What a place! My first six months at Habitat have been a whirlwind. I like to joke how I finally work for a place where the “elevator speech” fits into an elevator. To say it another way, our mission is quite simple, and our vision remains to create “a world where everyone has a decent place to live.” Now who wouldn't want to go along with that!?

The mission and vision may be simple but how we go about accomplishing them can be complex. Habitat for Humanity is simultaneously a construction company, a mortgage company, a retail operation with three stores, and an office. We build over 20 houses per year, employ nearly 70 people, and have hundreds of volunteers. I am blessed to be surrounded by incredible people (including a diligent board of trustees) who help in every facet I mentioned and more. The “more” is amazing to watch as well.

Staff and volunteers seek and realize opportunities to be creative in solving challenges and accomplishing our mission, from the woodshop to our finance office. What a pleasant surprise! I was somewhat concerned that such a big organization would be more “corporate” than I was accustomed to. This fear was swiftly quashed when my first mortgage signing took place and the entire office stopped to celebrate a partner family's accomplishment and construction staff was then waiting at the home to welcome them. It is clear to me that our staff understands our mission well and keeps it in sight even if they aren't working directly with families or swinging hammers on a house. I've sought to hire “mission-driven” people throughout my career, and it is clear to me

that Habitat's staff fits the bill.

It might be easy for a role like this one to fall into an “ivory tower” mentality. I would simply say that my previous experiences working with youth in a camping environment, with emergency assistance and food insecurity, in city government, and with families at West Side Catholic Center all inform my daily actions. Cleveland rivals any city in the country in poverty rate and one of our greatest problems is family homelessness.

Habitat's stature, planning, track record and reach leave it uniquely well-positioned to make the greatest possible impact on Cleveland's greatest challenge. I cannot wait to see all that this incredible team can accomplish. You are a part of that team too and I am so thankful for your support.

I've witnessed countless memorable things thus far and I cannot wait to create more incredible memories. Perhaps the most memorable thus far was seeing a young girl so excited to show off her new bedroom, furnished by Humble Design (another great local organization) for the first time. If ANYONE ever doubts our impact and why we do what we do, you need only attend any Habitat ribbon cutting event. A house made into a home before our very eyes.

Thank you for all of your past support of Habitat! I hope that we can continue, together, to accomplish our shared mission, and realize a lofty vision of a decent place to live for all!

John Litten  
President/CEO

# Habitat news

## Construction on five ranch-style homes to begin on W. 128th Street

It is planned to kick off with the installation of sewers and needed infrastructure.

The home-building process will begin in May and our plan is to complete the work this year.



## Union-built home purchased by deserving family

Sierra and her family stand proudly on the front porch of their new home, built through a partnership between Cleveland Habitat and the Construction Employers Association. It was Habitat's first home built by an all-union laborforce, representing multiple firms.

## Mike Seliga joins Cleveland Habitat as Director of Construction



He brings 25 years of experience in the construction industry. He has an extensive background beginning with his skills as a craftsman most recently as a project manager in residential and commercial construction. His passion for home building and our cause brought him to Cleveland Habitat and he looks forward to many years of service to the Greater Cleveland community.

## Habitat Snapshots



1. Representatives from Swagelok and Cleveland Habitat President and CEO John Litten at a kickoff event in October 2022.
2. A young girl was overjoyed to show off her new room prior to a dedication by The City Mission and Habitat. Humble Design furnished the entire home, including the girl's room.
3. Groundbreaking at the W. 128th Street construction site where Cleveland Habitat is building five new homes.



# State of the affiliate

**2022**

**by the numbers**

**27**

homes completed

**\$2.69m**

ReStore sales

**\$611**

Average monthly mortgage payment

**\$109,063**

Average home sale price (new build/rehab)

**\$58,500**

Average home sale price (townhome)

**993**

Volunteers

**42,377**

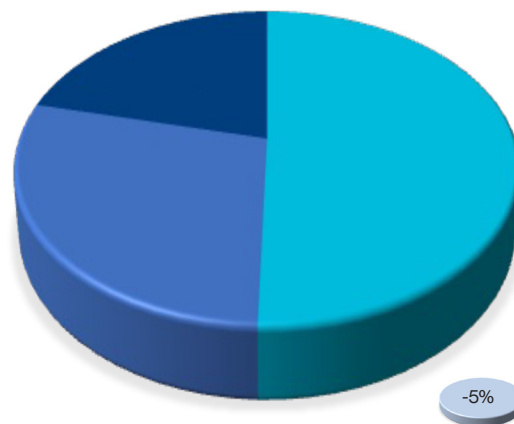
Hours of work

Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity had a tremendous year in 2022, especially in terms of home-building.

Our hard-working construction staff and dedicated volunteers completed a record 27 homes.

With fewer than 20 homes to go, we are on pace to achieve our goal of completing construction and rehabilitations on 100 homes in the Buckeye neighborhood by the end of the year!

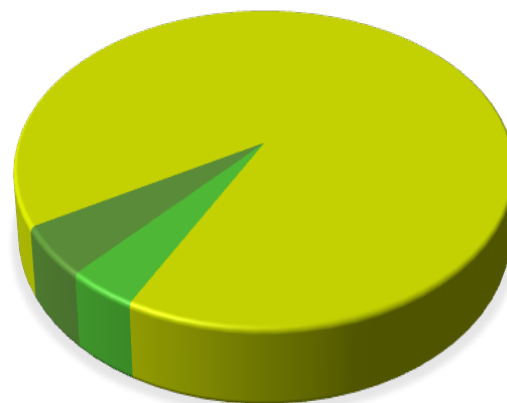
Revenue: **\$9,032,127**



- Philanthropic **\$4,807,595**
- ReStore Sales **\$2,690,459**
- Home Sales **\$2,024,000**
- Other **(\$489,927)**

\*Cleveland Habitat saw a 5% unrealized loss on investments in 2022.

Expenses: **\$7,689,516**



- Program **\$7,000,801**
- Fundraising **\$306,402**
- Administration **\$382,313**

Net Assets: **\$13,019,354**

*NOTE: These are unofficial numbers recorded prior to the completion of our 2022 audit. Official audited numbers will be published on our website later this spring.*



You've probably already heard that we're bringing our annual Walk/Run/Mosey fundraiser back to Cleveland's Edgewater Park this year. If not, you have now!

Below are some frequently asked questions (and answers) about everyone's favorite family-friendly, donut-friendly and dog-friendly event with the word "mosey" in the name...

**When is it happening? Saturday, July 8th.**

That was easy. Let's do some more!

**Why do we Walk/Run/Mosey? To support our mission.**

We believe everyone deserves a safe, decent and affordable place to call home. Proceeds from this year's event will build and rehab homes in Cleveland's Buckeye-Woodhill neighborhood.

**Is there a schedule? Yes! See below.**

**8:00am** — Check-in/Registration opens

**9:45am** — T-shirt Decorating Contest

**10:00am** — Official step-off time

Enjoy games, activities, refreshments and t-shirt decorating all day!

**Do I need to register? Yes, please. This helps us plan.**

If you forget to register ahead of time and would still like to walk, run or mosey with us, meet us at the park at 8am and we can help you out.

**What if I'm not competitive and get lost easily? No problem!**

This is a non-competitive, non-timed event. The routes will be well-marked with guides, flags and signs. You may choose either the 5K or the 1-mile fun walk. This event is intended to be super inclusive and supportive so just have fun and enjoy a donut (or three)!

**Want to register or sponsor?**

Visit [cleHABITATwalk.org](http://cleHABITATwalk.org) by scanning here:





# Donations Needed!



# ReStore

discount home improvement store



Do you have items you no longer need or want? Perhaps you should donate them to the ReStore! You'll be supporting our mission at Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity to help families in Cuyahoga and Lorain Counties. Schedule a free pickup at [clevelandhabitat.org/pickup](http://clevelandhabitat.org/pickup).

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## Calling all Do-It-Yourselfers and crafters!

Check out our new Pinterest page! Whether you're turning a piano into a bar or taking on some basic home repair work, we have plenty of tools and materials you may find handy. Our page contains plenty of home repair tips, home remodeling ideas and crafting tricks.

**15 HOME REPAIRS**  
*Everyone*  
**SHOULD KNOW HOW TO DO**



*A Beginner's Guide to*  
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Above are examples of helpful tips you'll find on Habitat's Pinterest page.

Follow our page at [Pinterest.com/CLEHabitat](https://www.pinterest.com/CLEHabitat)



# Seeds of kindness continue to bloom

How two volunteers laid roots of good will that continue to spread years later

Some of the magic of Habitat is that you can routinely see how small acts of kindness cause swells of goodness elsewhere.

In the 90's, Pastor John and Mary Evans, having hearts for service, decided to lead a Habitat church committee. They were going to build a house.

For over two decades, Mary and John fundraised to sponsor more than 20 homes and created a volunteer construction team that has built more houses than they can count. John once said that he didn't know how to build a house, but he knew how to find people who did. And he did!



The team that John and Mary helped form still works three days a week. There are wonderful women who drop off brownies to the crew, and Lois and Bob who organize a regular Wednesday Lunch, and a volunteer leader of the team, Ron Kear, who would gladly work any day.

You would think that John and Mary's legacy would be this team, formed with a loving ethos. But it's even more.

In the past two years, two different volunteers who worked on the Lutheran/Kear construction team have fully sponsored homes. The seeds that John and Mary planted are blooming. And this generosity so freely given by these two volunteers plants more seeds.

Ken sponsored a home in 2022 in memory of his wife, Caryl. This house was built on Hulda Avenue and was purchased by a beautiful family of five.

This year, a past Habitat volunteer who has lived out of state for over two years was moved to sponsor a home in honor of Kear and the Lutheran team. This house is on Shale Avenue and will be a home for a mother and two children. God is good.

## 2023 Faith Build is heading west!

Fifteen churches so far have joined the 2023 Faith Build—prayers, service and funding to build one of five new houses on W. 128th Street.

We also are holding two Spruce-Up Days—where as many as 75 volunteers will help with modest exterior home repairs for existing residents. The Faith Build began in 2015, bringing faith organizations together to help uplift the work of affordable housing. This year marks the 14th house and 14th family the program will serve.

If you would like to learn more about the Faith Build or join the 2023 movement, email Kimberly Pride at [Kpride@clevelandhabitat.org](mailto:Kpride@clevelandhabitat.org).

### Thank you to this year's participating churches!

Brecksville United Methodist  
St. Joseph Church, Strongsville  
St. Mary of the Falls  
St. Mary's Parish, Berea  
Strongsville United Methodist  
The Church of the Covenant  
Old Stone Church  
St. Mark Parish, Cleveland

Lord of Life Lutheran Church  
Lakewood United Methodist/Heat  
and Frost Insulators Local 3  
Cathedral of St. John The Evangelist  
St. Paul's Episcopal, Cleveland Hts.  
Church of the Gesu  
First Lutheran Church of Strongsville  
Church of the Western Reserve



Learn more by scanning this QR code or visit our website at [www.clevelandhabitat.org/faith](http://www.clevelandhabitat.org/faith)





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# Thank you!

## 2022 Donors

### Neighborhood Revitalizer

**\$150,000+**



**The Lozick Family Foundation**

### Home Builder

**\$80,000+**



**Saint Luke's Foundation**

**ROCKET Community Fund**

**The Catherine L. & Edward A. Lozick Foundation**

### Foundation Builder

**\$40,000+**

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### Cornerstone Builder

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The Huntington Foundation  
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### Team Builder

**\$2,500+**

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St. Mary of the Falls  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Cleveland Heights  
The Avis E. Singleton Lappin Fund  
The Church of The Covenant  
The Eaton Charitable Fund  
The NRP Group  
The O'Neill Brothers Foundation  
The Sherwin-Williams Company  
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### Get your moseying shoes ready!

The 2023 Walk/Run/Mosey will return to Edgewater Park on Saturday, July 8th! Please join us once again for our annual family-friendly, donut-friendly, dog-friendly fundraiser! Create your team today!

[cleHABITATwalk.org](http://cleHABITATwalk.org)



# WE ARE HIRING!



Scan this QR code or use this url to learn more:  
[clevelandhabitat.org/who-we-are/employment](http://clevelandhabitat.org/who-we-are/employment)

We currently are looking for a Faith Relations & Events Manager, an AmeriCorps Construction Crew Leader, and multiple Volunteer Receptionists. Learn more by following the link above!



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