## **Letter from Executive Director**



#### **S**ince joining Habitat in

January, I've learned a great deal about this incredible organization and how I can help this affiliate thrive. I'm proud to serve this community and I look forward to meeting all of our hardworking volunteers and generous supporters.

Some highlights from the past 6 months: attending the National Habitat for Humanity conference in Atlanta, Georgia and learning about innovative ways to better serve our partner families, advocating for affordable housing during Habitat at the Capitol in Salem, Oregon, and building a wheelchair-accessible ramp for a young boy with cerebral palsy.

I look forward to the Bomar family's home dedication on Aug. 24th in Mt. Angel. Hope to see you all there!

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns you have. I can be reached at kjohnsen@nwvhabitat.org or by calling 503-845-2205.

In partnership,

Kari Johnsen Executive Director

# ReStore

Total sales: \$587,996

Customer purchases: More than 25,000

Tons diverted from landfill: 1 100

Total volunteer hours: More than 3.800





In June, our construction crew built a wheelchair accessible ramp for an 11-year-old boy with cerebral palsy. Jeremy watched from the front lawn of his Oregon City home as the crew measured and cut boards for the project. His bright blue eyes filled with excitement.

"I'm overwhelmed with gratitude," said his mother, Monigue Ford. "This is going to be a game changer for Jeremy. It will make his community accessible to him."

While the crew finished the ramp, Jeremy was in the hospital for a bilateral hip reconstruction surgery.

This project was in partnership with Clackamas County Health, Housing & Human Services.

#### 2018-19 Board of Directors

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Kari Johnsen **Executive Director** 

**Stephanie Stoneking** Program & Event Manager

**Steve Braman** Business Manager

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**ReStore Director** 

Ben Wilt **Construction Manager** 

Donations are greatly

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online at

PO Box 852 Mt. Angel, OR 97362

Phone 503-845-2434 Fax 503-845-9408

Staff and board members listed are those who were serving at the time this report was published.







# **North Willamette Valley Habitat** for Humanity® annual report 2018-2019

July 1-June 30









### **History meets Habitat**



he ground beneath our current Habitat home build is packed with history and a bit of

mystery. Rewind more than a 100 years and the site was home to a bustling hotel, conveniently located near the train tracks that run through the heart of Mt. Angel.

All that's left of that history, is a story and a half of the hotel expansion. No one knows for certain what happened to the original structure or that half a story that's missing from the top of the remaining building, which is now a unique, single-family home that sits next to the Habitat construction site.

"I will find out," said Bill Predeek of the Mt. Angel Historical Society. "It's my quest. This building has always piqued my interest.'

In the early 1900s, the original four-room hotel was known as Frankfort Hall and it was built in the same spot where Habitat is now constructing a four-bedroom home for a single mother and her three young children. Frankfort Hall was later torn down and a larger structure was built in its place and named Hotel Mt. Angel. Under new ownership, two additions to the hotel were completed by 1918. Historic photographs show Hotel Mt. Angel before and after two substantial additions were built.

In a newspaper clipping from 1927, it's described as having "25 sleeping rooms, a commodious dining room and other rooms, making it a capacious and well-arranged hotel."

In the early 1930s, it's believed to have been a hospital or nursing home, but then the history just disappears. There's a gap between the 30s and now. Predeek plans to continue combing through old newspaper clippings until he figures out what happened.

"This was a very prominent place," he said. "There were wedding receptions, everything took place here. You would think someone would remember what happened.'

The remaining portion of the hotel expansion, which is located on the south side of the current construction site, is now home to Amy and David Johnson. The couple purchased the home about 13 years ago. They had recently sold their house and wanted to find a property they could purchase with the cash made from that sale. David was on his way to Scotts Mills to look at a potential property when he got lost and ended up in Mt. Angel, Amy said.

"He calls me and I can still remember his excitement," she said. "He goes 'I just came upon this Bavarian village and I've seen a house that we need.' He literally bought it without me seeing it."

David admits that the home was a mess when they purchased it. They've spent the last several years making repairs and turning it into the cozy, one-of-a-kind space that it is today, filled with antiques. Dark wood ceilings and an exposed brick wall show the original character of the building.

"For me, being inside this house is like jumping back 100 years," Predeek said. "Thinking about who was here and the conversations that took place here, it's amazing.

Amy said learning about the history comforted her since she wasn't immediately sold on the house or its location, but now it's the only place she wants to live.

"I love this house and it's my last house," she said. "I'm never moving from here."

Both Amy and David said they're excited about the Habitat house next door and what it will do for the neighborhood.

### **New Executive Director hired**

#### Jan. 16, 2019

The New Year brought new leadership to North Willamette Valley Habitat for Humanity. Kari Johnsen has been hired as the new executive director. Johnsen has a strong background in nonprofit management and a personal connection to Habitat's mission.

NWV Habitat Board Chair Mark Rauch describes Johnsen as "genuine" and "passionate."

"Kari demonstrates both of these traits that are critical for success in this role" Rauch said. "We were impressed by her choice to seek out leadership roles with nonprofit organizations, and by her success in those roles."

She has more than 14 years of nonprofit management experience and has spent the last year learning about low-income housing development.

"In my work with nonprofits I have always been passionate about the opportunity to work with families and individuals to help them become self-sufficient," Johnsen said. "I have always been envious of the work that Habitat does to help families who otherwise would never have the opportunity to become homeowners."



#### 2018 Women Build Weekend

lad in bright pink shirts and tool belts, more than 30 women worked together to frame and raise the walls of a four-bedroom house in Mt. Angel as part of North Willamette Valley Habitat for Humanity's Women Build Weekend Sept. 7-8.

The group cut lumber, wielded nail guns and other power tools and learned construction skills in the process. Funds raised during the event will help cover construction costs of the home, which is for a single mother, Jessica Bomar, and her three children: Abby, 12, Chance, 10, and Cash, 6.

to our lives," Bomar said.

NWV Habitat was founded in Mt. Angel, so this home build brings the organization back to its roots. This will be the 47th home that the local nonprofit has built in the last 32 years.

"Each year, we love to bring our community together on our job site to be a part of raising walls and building homes," Executive Director Wendy Patton said. "By the end of the day, these women have helped frame the future for our partner family.

Nourished Beginnings donated the lunches for the event and Roth's Fresh Markets of Silverton pro-Bros. Building Supply Inc., Lularoe Steffani Dayton and Mackenzie's Esthetics.

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