

2021 EDITION

Rooflines

YOUR PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION WITH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WATERLOO REGION



every
one

deserves a safe and
decent place to live



Habitat
for Humanity®
Waterloo Region



Meet Suad

The road to affordable homeownership for Suad has been long. She recalls that it was in 2014 when she first dreamt of homeownership – but even at that time, the housing market felt out of reach for her. She applied for a Habitat home at the end of 2019 and due to the pandemic, it wasn't until November of 2020 when she found out her application had been approved. She was thrilled, and her children started dancing around her in response to her excitement!

“Since giving birth to my first child, I always dreamed of having our own affordable and safe place to call home”

“Since giving birth to my first child, I always dreamed of having our own affordable and safe place to call home. As a working mother of small

children, housing prices were rising to the point I almost gave up on my dreams of purchasing a home. Then, a friend of mine informed me of Habitat for Humanity.”

Suad’s heart’s desire is to be a good, nurturing mom for her children. As a single mother who works hard to provide for her family, owning a home is one way she can care for them. When asked about her volunteerism related to her partnership as a Future Homeowner, Suad comments that she is excited that her volunteer hours with Habitat for Humanity will give her the opportunity to both grow and set an example for her children.

Suad and her children will be moving into one of the latest homes being built at the Kehl Street build site. She is so excited to be a homeowner, responsible for her own unit where she is free to make decisions to change the paint and do her own repairs. Suad is excited about this new beginning, and the security it will provide for her family.



Maximizing our Impact

The children of families that partner with Habitat achieve greater educational outcomes and parents’ employment prospects improve.

Celebrating Norman Gascho and Elmer Shantz

Volunteers are the heart of the Habitat Waterloo Region community. This year, two long time Habitat volunteers passed away: Norman Gascho and Elmer Shantz.

Norm Gascho was involved with Habitat for Humanity Waterloo Region since the very beginning, even helping establish the affiliate in the mid 1980s. Participating in the construction of over 40 Habitat homes, Norm volunteered his time, energy, and expertise installing furnaces and duct work for over 20 years. He was involved in the 1993 Jimmy Carter Build here in Waterloo Region where they built 10 homes in 10 days. When he moved to Cambridge, Norm started volunteering steadily at the Cambridge ReStore between 2005-2018. Even when he fully “retired,” from his volunteer role, Norm would often stop into the ReStore to check in with everyone. Norm’s generosity of time and his dedication to Habitat Waterloo Region earned him the title of Outstanding Volunteer, receiving the Don Brown Award in 2011.

Elmer Shantz was also involved with Habitat Waterloo Region from the very beginning and his contributions were countless. He coordinated blitz builds from coast to coast– including the 10 houses in one week during the Jimmy Carter Work Project where he acted as the project manager on the Daniel Street build. Elmer’s contributions made great strides in our goal of affordable housing for all. Elmer and his wife Eileen believed that every child should have a stable home. We honour Elmer’s amazing generosity by continuing to build a future where every one has a safe and decent place to live. In 2015 he agreed to lend his name to establish the Elmer and Eileen Habitat Fund, our Legacy Gift Program. By making a donation in your will, you are making a lasting impact towards affordable homeownership in Waterloo Region. Talk to your financial advisor today to discuss your options for legacy gifts.



Habitat for Humanity®

ReStore®

Celebrating
30 years!

As the Habitat for Humanity ReStores celebrate their 30th anniversary, we want to celebrate the history of the Waterloo Region ReStores. When the Waterloo ReStore opened in 1993, a litre of gas cost \$0.55 and a litre of milk was roughly \$0.65. The initial store was situated on King Street North, and operated out of portables for 4 years. In November of 1997, until the store moved to its current location on Northfield Drive East with a lot of volunteer labour.

The Cambridge ReStore opened in 2005 in a small space off 401. Waterloo Region was one of the first Canadian Habitat affiliates to open two ReStore locations. In 2012, the Cambridge store moved to their current location on Preston Parkway. When asked what the strangest thing ever donated to the ReStore was, Trish Koebel, Manager of the Cambridge ReStore, recalls a hospital operating table. "It sold in a flash!" she comments, and explained the purchaser planned to use it as a pool-side serving cart.

The ReStores are an integral part of the Habitat Waterloo Region operation, thanks to our community members and local businesses. ReStore volunteers, customers, and donors help us to build homes in Waterloo Region for local families.

Donate, volunteer and shop at our Cambridge and Waterloo ReStores to get involved!



Over the past 30 years Habitat ReStores across Canada have helped divert **950 million pounds** of household furniture and building supplies from landfills.



2021 KWAR Golf Tournament

On September 16, 2021, the Kitchener-Waterloo Association of REALTORS® (KWAR) held its 27th Annual Charity Golf Tournament at Rebel Creek Golf Club in support of Habitat for Humanity Waterloo Region. Proceeds from the event totalled \$54,450 and we are thankful for the support of sponsors, donors, participants and volunteers.

Habitat for Humanity Waterloo Region has enjoyed a privileged partnership with KWAR for many years. We share a common goal of making homeownership possible for families. We both have an interest in finding solutions to the affordable housing crisis, and we often meet at the table as voices for housing in our community. Together, we are making an impact!

KWAR and Habitat Waterloo Region's ongoing partnership brings families closer to their dream of having a safe, decent and affordable home, something that so many in our region struggle to achieve. As the community gears up for hard discussions about housing, Habitat Waterloo Region is positioned to provide solutions as we complete our Kehl Street build and begin building in Cambridge in 2022. By increasing the supply of affordable homes and helping more families



achieve homeownership, Habitat for Humanity Waterloo Region helps free up resources on the housing continuum that can be used for other families in need.

We are thankful that we have many individuals, organizations and corporations who partner with us, similar to KWAR. You too can be part of the affordable housing solution! Contact us today to see how you can help build strength, stability and self-reliance for families through homeownership!





Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

We have long held the belief that every voice matters. However, events from the past 18 months have caused us to pause and reflect on how that belief is directing our behaviours.

While the violent events and discoveries from 2020 and 2021 around race and culture did not present new truths, there seemed to be born in us a renewed commitment and call to be part of the solution. As a staff and Board, Habitat for Humanity Waterloo Region entered intentional conversations around Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. We partnered with a consultant and used local resources to help drive our organization forward. These partnerships and resources helped us navigate tough questions around our own biases and considerations around our own staff and board make-up and whether they reflected our value of diversity.

One of the results of this intentional learning is a new Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement recently approved by our Board of Directors. We would like to share it with you – our most important partners.

We envision a world where everyone has a safe and decent place to live.

We foster and build equity through affordable housing, by fully integrating diversity and inclusion into everything we do both internally and within our community.

In order for all people to feel safe and encouraged to bring their whole selves to our mission, we commit to being more welcoming and empathetic to marginalized communities that have historically been left out, purposefully not acknowledged, or harmed. We believe that all individuals, no matter their race, creed, faith, religion, sexual orientation or gender expression should feel valued, heard, and respected. We are committed to doing the work to build a more equitable future.

This statement helps to ground our ongoing work and to shape who we are working to become. We hope this will not only chart an aspirational future but also hold us accountable to the important changes we are striving to achieve. We look forward to continuing the learning and conversation as we live this out in the coming years.

Respectfully,

Philip Mills

CEO



Kehl Street

This September, we were excited to begin building the final phase of homes for our Kehl Street project. This final block will be home to six new families, bringing the total to 45 homes at Kehl Street.

The challenges of this past year - namely lumber shortages, increased building costs, and fewer volunteers on the build site - are making way for an innovative way of building this final block of units.

“We are excited to add our last block of affordable units to the community. We are extremely proud to build a more energy efficient home using Structural Insulated Panels (SIP’s) that will give the homeowner the opportunity to reduce their home heating and cooling cost. Giving the homeowner more affordable day to day living.” -Bil Ioannidis, Director of Construction.

Structural insulated panels (SIPs) consist of an insulating foam core sandwiched between two structural facings. This will give the homeowner a building system that is extremely strong, energy efficient and cost effective.

“We rose to the challenge to navigate our unique position as a charitable home and community builder during the pandemic by remaining steadfast to our goals to provide a safe, productive and fun working environment for our volunteers and staff. We are now looking forward to welcoming back more volunteers to the site to share in this rich experience.”- Chris McCracken, Build Site Supervisor

As we work on the final stages of the Kehl Street project we look forward to our Cambridge build. We plan to build roughly 24 newly constructed stacked townhouses on Shantz Hill.

every parent

wants a better future for
their family

How you can support Habitat:



Volunteer

to work alongside families
building their futures

Donate

to help more families
build homes

Shop

the ReStore to support our
local builds



**We all associate the
holiday season with our
favourite traditions.
Our tradition is building
home for families in
Waterloo Region.**

Donate today: habitatwr.ca/donate

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