

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Happily Ever After. The achievements that we have accomplished in the last year are amazing. The staff and volunteers at DHFH have truly taken to heart the Apostle Peter's message "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." Our team continues to go above and beyond to help families achieve the dream of homeownership and community building. Homeownership is just the start of a series of ripple effects that extend much further to create strength, stability, and self-reliance for the families we partner with. We know this because families not burdened by the cost of housing achieve better outcomes in health, education, long-term economic security, and neighborhood involvement. Not having to make a choice between providing a meal or going to the doctor versus paying for housing is a game changer. It allows people, like Cheryl and her son to move from the stress and worry involved in their day-to-day life, to being able to thrive in day-to-day life. That was the beginning of their personal "Happily ever after"! For those of you who helped make that happen for Cheryl and for the other families we partnered with this year, I offer a resounding "THANK-YOU, and Job Well-done"!

We have built upon the foundation that has been growing for years now, and the future is full of excitement! That idea of excitement, building, and happily ever after struck a special meaning with me this last summer when my wife and I spent a day at Disney World with our 3 boys. It was the first time I had seen the fireworks show at Disney's Magic Castle. During the show, they played a song that captured what we are doing at Habitat locally, regionally, and across the country. It is a wonderful parallel to where we find ourselves in this Habitat journey, here is a link and I invite you to listen at www.tinyurl.com/DHFHAnnualReport2017. It talks about reaching for our dreams, the wonder of what we do, the choices we are making and how it all leads to finding a new path by leading with our hearts. I welcome you to join us on this journey as we continue forward "down this road we've chosen, there is no limit to where we're going".

We will expand our growth in the coming year, impacting more people, building greater community, and working to create the joyful world in which God intended all to live. We are going to need more resources, more people, and more leaders to help us achieve this dream of "Happily Ever After"! If you are already a part of our team I hope you will continue in that role and even consider expanding your level of involvement. If you are considering joining us in changing the world, there is no better time than the present!

I look forward to working with you all in the years ahead to create many "Happily Ever After's"!

God Bless!



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OUR VISION

A world where everyone has a decent place to live.

OUR MISSION

Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.

BUILDING UP OUR COMMUNITY

GOLFERS GIVE BACK

9 years and golfers are still giving back on the greens! On August 11, 2016, we hosted another Liberty Mutual Invitational in which our generous golfers were able to raise \$30,000 to help local families in need of affordable housing. This outstanding effort from 115 golfers and 33 volunteers included lunch, 18 holes of golf with exciting entertainment on the greens, dinner program and a silent auction. We also had the opportunity to show guests our mission in action by offering a Habitat home to one of our current partner families during the dinner presentation!



We are truly grateful for our generous sponsors including Liberty Mutual, Adidas, American Classics, Blank Label, Go Club, JetBlue Challenge, Polaroid, Shark Ninja, The Sports Illustrated Group, Taylormade, The Old Course Experience, TPC Sawgrass, Voice Caddie, Intren Inc., Garrett Consulting, Hinsdale Bank & Trust, Wheaton Bank & Trust, Hillwood, Development Solutions Inc., Buffalo Wild Wings, Cold Stone Creamery Woodridge, First Eagle Bank, Gerald KIA, Gerald Nissan, Gerald Subaru, Codilis & Associates, P.C., KOVAL Distillery, Oxford Bank, Seyfarth Shaw and Topgolf Naperville.

WOMEN BUILD: SO NICE, WE DID IT TWICE!



Women Build is always a community favorite, and the Fall 2016 Women Build was no exception. This fall we built in Bensenville, and our coalition of over 150 volunteers not only made incredible progress on that home by completing the first floor deck and all exterior and interior walls on the first floor, but they also came together to raise over \$35,000! Participants were also honored to serve a Habitat Partner Family that includes a single father of four children, and veteran in our community.

With such a wonderful Women Build in the Fall and so much interest and support from the community, we decided to get right back at it during National Women Build Week in the Spring! We returned to

Bensenville, working on another new home construction project just down the road for the Torres family. With the support of generous corporate sponsors and individual fundraisers, the Spring Women Build raised nearly \$45,000 and kicked off the construction of a beautiful new home. Special thanks to the 2017 Spring Women Build Steering Committee: April Kalinski, Kathy Nelson, Sam Fisher, Pat Green, Jake Emrick, Lauren Crowley, and Gladys Sargent!

Fall Women Build sponsors include Thrivent Financial, Hilti, United Guaranty, Mortenson Construction, ComEd, Ecolab and Experian. Build team sponsors include DuPage Habitat for Humanity ReStore and Holy Cross Lutheran Church. In-kind sponsors include CorePower Yoga, The Original Pink Box, Studio M in Glen Ellyn, Chick-fil-A Wheaton, Einstein Bros Bagels, Dunkin' Donuts, Fire and Wine, Mama Maria's Pizza, Blackberry Market, Body & Brain Yoga, Squeegee Bros Custom T-Shirts and Jamerry Nail Wraps.

Spring Women Build sponsors include Hilti, Wells Fargo, DuPage Medical Group, Showalter Roofing, ComEd, Hassett Express, Insight Property Solutions, and Lowes. In kind sponsors include Body & Brain Yoga, St. Alexis Catholic Church, Chipotle, Serino's Deli, Muscle Maker Grill, Protein Bar, Jason's Deli, Brauerhouse, Brewpoint Coffee, Lilac Bakery of Lombard, Einstein Bagels, Courageous Bakery, 100% Pure Cosmetics, Xsport Fitness, Delta Dental and Microsoft at Woodfield Mall.

2ND ANNUAL BUILDER'S BREAKFAST

Attendees of the 2016 Builder's Breakfast gathering kicked off the winter season with a delicious warm breakfast and holiday coffee station with Habitat friends and community leaders. Guests enjoyed the beautiful Cantigny park views, while hearing moving speeches from DHFH Board President Rich Dickson, DHFH Founders Dick and Florence Nogaj, and DHFH Homeowner Cindy Ford. Congratulations to our Legacy Award winner Vicki Broberg, our Legend Award winner Showalter Roofing, and our Leader Award winners United Guaranty and Pastor Tim Robertson.

Our 2016 Builder's Breakfast was generously sponsored by Anixter, Showalter Roofing, and Wheaton Bank & Trust Company.



OUR MISSION IN ACTION



PARTNER FAMILIES Tony is a hardworking veteran and single dad who performs work we all depend on in our community. But even though he works hard, an affordable place to live for their family of five was simply out of reach. Relying on one income forced Tony to make some tough decisions to support his family. At one point he even lived in transitional housing. “When we learned about DuPage Habitat for Humanity, everything in our lives changed for the better,” Tony said. “It has been a real turning point for us. DuPage Habitat for Humanity and all of the people who helped build our home have given us the sense of community we have longed for...we finally have a place we are proud to call home.”

VOLUNTEERS Marty Dettmer is our Construction Committee Chair, and we can always count on him to go above and beyond to ensure that our construction efforts are a success. Marty is extremely dedicated and knowledgeable about keeping everyone safe out on the job site. He helped to develop and run a training session for effective volunteer communication and onsite management, and coordinate CPR licensing for all Crew Leaders. His energy and passion makes him an exemplary DuPage Habitat volunteer and community member!



BOARD OF DIRECTORS Patricia (Pat) Olinger is the Vice President of our DuPage Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors. Pat has helped us mobilize many corporate sponsors and community leaders to support our mission, programs and special events including the DuPage Habitat for Humanity Liberty Mutual Invitational golf outing, Spring Women Build Week and our Executive Build. Pat is also President of the DHFH Neighborhood Revitalization Coalition helping directly support this strategic outreach goal and programming. She is a positive and inspiring leader of her community, our mission and the hardworking families we serve!

STAFF Jennifer Taff has served families across DuPage County and Habitat for Humanity for five years. With the help of the all-volunteer family services committee, she makes all of the families we serve feel welcome and supports them through their path to homeownership. Jen is also spearheading the new Neighborhood Revitalization efforts in the targeted Greenbrook Tanglewood neighborhood of Hanover Park. Her passion for the community, and the families we serve, makes her an invaluable member of our team!



AMERICORPS We couldn't choose just one of our AmeriCorps to feature, so we chose them all! In August, our affiliate added Amanda Muransky as the Deconstruction Services AmeriCorps VISTA, Jake Emrick as the Development AmeriCorps VISTA, Jill Sobie as the Community Engagement AmeriCorps VISTA, and Missy Preston as the Volunteer Coordinator AmeriCorps VISTA. Steven Langston, Victoria Jackson, and Hannah Enstrom served as Construction Crew Leader National AmeriCorps, and were joined by Construction Crew Leader, Christina DiCristofano. Our AmeriCorps work hard every day at building Habitat's mission and capacity through recruiting, retaining, and leading volunteers, administrative support needs, and ReStore assistance. Our AmeriCorps nailed it this year and beyond!



BUILDING HOMES LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY

DuPage Habitat for Humanity builds decent, affordable housing that fits right in with the surrounding houses in our communities. We bring volunteers together with varying skill levels, and the help of our excellent construction staff, to build and rehab quality homes that pass all inspections and conform to all local building codes. This year, we completed two new home construction projects in Bensenville and Villa Park, and completely rehabbed a home in Aurora. We are excited by what we were able to accomplish in this period, and are looking forward to ramping up to serve more families next year!



But we don't stop at just serving families in DuPage County. The lack of affordable housing is a global issue. Our affiliate participates in the Habitat for Humanity® International “House for a House” program that tithes funds to build a home in the Dominican Republic for every home built locally. In addition, our affiliate also planned a Thrivent Builds Worldwide Global Village trip for July 2017 to build with the West Tammany Habitat for Humanity affiliate in Louisiana. Our Global Village team will include staff, volunteers, and donors lending their time and talents by day to build safe and affordable homes, and also include wonderful experiences immersing themselves in the culture and warm hospitality of coastal Louisiana.

In addition to our new and rehab home construction projects, we also provide critical home repairs for low to moderate income families through the Home Repair Program. DuPage Habitat partners with eligible homeowners each year to support home repairs including exterior painting, accessibility modifications, window replacements, door replacements, roof replacements and landscaping needs. This year we completed four critical home repair projects throughout DuPage County for hardworking families in need of this invaluable support.

The DuPage Habitat Construction staff would like to thank our wonderful Construction Committee, Crew Leaders, and AmeriCorps members for their dedication and tenacity. We couldn't do what we do without you!

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DuPage Habitat for Humanity's ReStore had its most successful year to date with more increases in sales, community donation support and bringing on new staff and volunteers. The ReStore hit some very important milestones this year that put it in some of the top performing stores nationwide!

THIS YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- Sales of over \$1.04 million - an increase of over 21% over last year.
- An expanded Deconstruction Program that works with multiple municipalities throughout DuPage County. This provides a great service to DuPage County homeowners, and goes hand in hand with our mission to provide more donations and unique volunteer experiences.
- Over 600 tons of materials diverted from landfills
- New corporate donors including brand new light fixtures, home furniture, rugs and more.
- Hired two additional team members
- Partnered with the Illinois Department of Aging to provide job-training opportunities to senior citizens.
- Hosted a year-long volunteer from Ignatian Volunteer Corp - Chicago that provided a recently retired volunteer a way to see her Faith in Action.
- Welcomed over 250 individual, corporate and community group volunteers
- Introduced a new line of refurbished small appliances for sale to better fit our customer needs.

All items at the ReStore are donated by companies and individuals and sold to the general public at greatly reduced prices. All proceeds from the ReStore support the DuPage Habitat for Humanity mission, providing access to homeownership and home repair for hardworking families in need.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Those of you who have been in the business world or read a business publication in the last 10 years have heard the term “Continuous Improvement”. The term describes a process of incremental change in the way a system or organization runs that results in improved service, reduced costs or improved profitability. At DuPage Habitat we embrace this principal and our improved profitability is measured in terms of increased families served, broader community outreach, enhanced collaboration with organizations in the Chicago area and a higher level of commitment to the mission of Habitat for Humanity.

My message to you in the 2016 Annual Report discussed the many areas where DHFH was involved in helping to ensure a decent place for people to live. These included:

1. Serving families in need through the provision of not just homeownership opportunities, but also through critical home repairs and weatherization projects that allow residents in need to stay in their current homes;
2. Expansion of our Neighborhood Revitalization program in Hanover Park;
3. Collaboration with other Chicago area affiliates;
4. Increasing the level of service provided by our ReStore assets;
5. Expanding our staff and Board capabilities.

Many people think of DuPage County as a fairly affluent area, and they would be correct. However, we have mentioned in this and previous reports that there is a significant need for affordable housing in our service area. Not only do we need new, affordable housing, but we also need to help those families who lack the financial means to make necessary repairs to the homes they have occupied for years. Retirement on a fixed income many times makes it very difficult, if not impossible, to make costly, critical repairs to a home while continuing to put food on the table, pay utilities and set aside money for their substantial real estate taxes. That is where we can help. Working in conjunction with municipalities and corporate sponsors, we provide a hand up to those in need of those critical repairs. This is usually a hand up, not a hand out as homeowners typically pay a portion of the material costs for the repairs. As we move forward, home repairs will be an increasing portion of the families we serve, but will require a relatively small amount of volunteer hours and donations compared to our homeownership programs.

Our Neighborhood Revitalization (NR) efforts in Hanover Park are kicking into high gear! We have already provided some repairs to 15 townhouse units in our targeted area and are closing in on the acquisition of a parcel that will allow us to build up to 27 additional townhouses for partner families. In addition, we have organized or participated in numerous community engagement activities involving general clean up, after school programs and job fairs. This is obviously not all about building homes! However, the “extra” activities contribute to a successful neighborhood. It decreases crime, improves school attendance and grades, increases home values and builds pride and hope. That is truly serving families. Hanover Park is our first NR effort, but it will not be our last.

We are one of eight affiliates in the Chicago area. Each affiliate is independent and is responsible for raising its own funds, building houses, finding partner families, sourcing materials and recruiting volunteers. Do you suppose there would be some benefit to working together? You bet there is. Chicagoland Habitat for Humanity is headquartered in Chicago and has in the last several years taken on the task of providing opportunities for the affiliates to collaborate. This means sharing information, raising funds together, sharing back office services and marketing Habitat. DuPage Habitat has been very aggressive in embracing the opportunities this collaboration brings in fundraising, cost reductions and overall efficiencies. You will see us involved in more collaboration in the future at not only the Chicago regional level, but on a national level.

Our ReStore is firing on all cylinders! It has continued to develop new providers of material for sale and they have added another day of sales each week to their schedule. We are selling more new items than ever and continue to fund our non-construction costs even as we expand our service levels at the affiliate. However, we are reaching a saturation point in the area served by our Addison store. Therefore, we intend to open a new store in FY 2018. Our hope is to open a new store in the south-eastern area of DuPage County.

As we expand our level of service, add staff and increase capacity, we have to evolve as a management staff and Board. Board members continue to rotate on and off the Board as their terms expire. The skills we need on the Board change as we grow. The channels of communication between and within the staff and the Board change. It is exciting and challenging, but nothing DuPage Habitat cannot handle. As always, we seek committed, talented individuals for our Board that are willing to serve. Did I happen to mention that we were named an Affiliate of Distinction by Habitat for Humanity International this year? That puts us in the top 2% of affiliates and is an incredible accomplishment and honor. That does not just happen. It is due to all the dedicated partners we have, including companies, churches, individuals, government bodies and other Habitat affiliates.

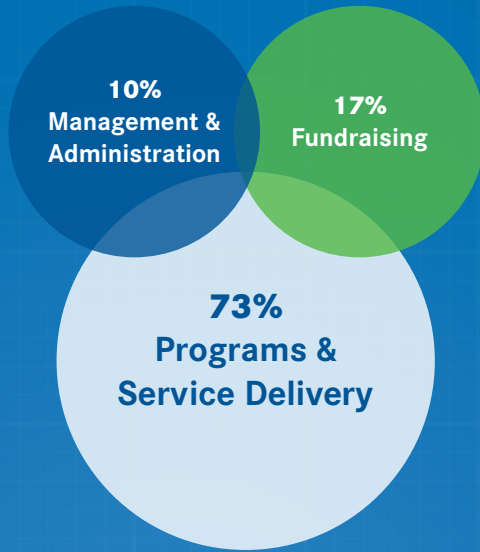
It is very difficult to summarize the fantastic things DHFH is doing. I also want to add that this is my last letter to you. My term as Board President ends at the end of December and my responsibilities will be transition to George Mulligan. I will still be involved at DHFH and other state-wide Habitat organizations. Once Habitat gets in your blood, you don't want to let it go. It has been my pleasure to meet many of you and see the great things you have been able to bring to the people of DuPage County in need of affordable housing. Thank you for all your efforts and I hope DHFH can continue to count on your help in the future.

Sincerely,

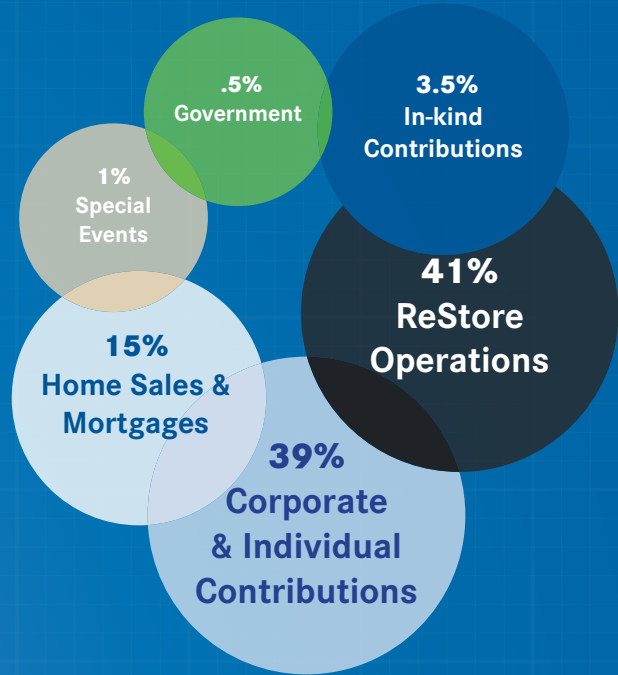


Richard Dickson
President, Board of Directors

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MAIN OFFICE

1600 E. Roosevelt Rd.
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www.DuPageHabitat.org



ReStore

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