



News From: Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County  
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### **Manis promoted to Director of Marketing and Annual Giving for Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County**

ST. PETERS, Mo. (Oct. 22, 2020) – Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County, dedicated to creating quality, affordable homes where families partner, build and buy, promoted Leah Manis to director of marketing and annual giving.

In the new role, she will spearhead efforts on donor stewardship and provide direction on the affiliate's communications and strategies – including branding, marketing and public relations – to staff members, ReStore staff and members of committees.

Manis joined the Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County team as awareness and appreciation coordinator and marketing and communications manager in July, 2016, where she implemented outreach to individuals, churches, businesses and corporations on the critical role the affiliate plays in the community and developed programs in which they can impact change. Under her leadership, as well as strategies in the use of compelling stories and photography within the organization and across social media platforms, community awareness and funding increased exponentially.

In addition to volunteering on construction sites of Habitat St. Charles County homes, Manis currently serves as vice chairman of the board of directors at Community Council of St. Charles County, which focuses on the collaboration of improving human services in St. Charles, Lincoln and Warren Counties. She also was an event volunteer for Community Living Inc., in St. Charles, Missouri.

Prior to joining Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County, Manis served as development associate for Habitat for Humanity of Pinellas County in Clearwater, Florida. She holds a bachelor's degree in fine arts with an emphasis on photography from the University of Missouri in Columbia.

"Leah has been an integral member of our team over the last four years and we are excited for her as she takes on her new role," said Michelle Woods, executive director, Habitat for

Humanity of St. Charles County. “Her passion for our mission and love for our Habitat families are catalysts in our efforts for philanthropic growth and to serve families in St. Charles County.”

### **About Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County**

Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County builds safe, decent and affordable homes with hard-working families in St. Charles County. The nonprofit community-level affiliate acts in partnership with and on behalf of Habitat for Humanity, an international, non-governmental, nonprofit organization devoted to building strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter. Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County has built 89 homes for Habitat families since 1997, with more than 2,000 volunteers donating 14,000 hours each year.

Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County offers a ‘hand up’ opportunity that transforms lives, builds a strong foundation and forges lasting relationships with communities for a bright future. Applicants and co-applicants selected for a Habitat home agree to perform a minimum of 150 “sweat equity” hours each, for a total of at least 300 hours, in the building of their home or other Habitat projects. In collaboration with community partners, Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County offers free financial coaching and skills to potential homeowners through the Homebuyer Readiness Program, in which participants learn about credit, debt, budgeting, setting goals and saving money. In addition, the organization guides homeowners through an affordable mortgage repayment process.

To help fund and support these efforts, Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County operates Habitat St. Charles ReStore [habitatstcharles.org/restore/](http://habitatstcharles.org/restore/) a retail outlet located at 186 Mid Rivers Center in St. Peters. ReStore, which opened in 2007, has diverted over 100,000 tons of waste from local landfills by selling donated new and used building materials, appliances, furniture and select home goods items back to the general public at fair prices. Funds raised allow Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County to be self-sustaining, with nearly 100 percent of every dollar donated going directly toward building simple, decent, affordable homes for deserving families in St. Charles County.

In addition, Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County hosts the annual Frame the Future Gala as its premier fundraiser in November, a trivia night each spring and sponsors Women Build, an international effort to empower women to help families build strength, stability and independence through hands-on learning.

### **About Habitat for Humanity International**

Driven by the vision that everyone needs a decent place to live, Habitat for Humanity began in 1976 as a grassroots effort on a community farm in southern Georgia. The Christian housing organization has since grown to become a leading global nonprofit working in local communities across all 50 states in the U.S. and in more than 70 countries. Families and individuals in need of a hand up partner with Habitat for Humanity to build or improve a place they can call home. Habitat homeowners help build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage. Through financial support, volunteering or adding a voice to support affordable housing, everyone can help families achieve the strength, stability and self-reliance they need to build better lives for themselves. Through shelter, we empower. To learn more, visit [habitat.org](http://habitat.org)

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