



News From: Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County
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The Power of Women Build

Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County hosts March 7 kickoff event

ST. PETERS, Mo. (Feb. 15, 2023) – Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County is hosting a 2023 Women Build kickoff party on Tuesday, March 7, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Habitat St. Charles ReStore, 186 Mid Rivers Center in St. Peters. Appetizers and non-alcoholic beverages will be provided.

Women Build, a Habitat for Humanity International program launched in 1991, provides opportunities for women to take proactive steps in serving their communities. The local affiliate encourages individuals, community groups, organizations and companies to organize or sponsor a 2023 Women Build team. To learn more, visit www.habitatstcharles.org or call 636-978-5712, ext. 126.

Although the local Habitat affiliate's Women Build event takes place during 2023 Women in Construction Week, a national initiative to highlight the work of women in the industry, no construction experience is necessary to build with Women Build. Volunteers work under the guidance of the Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County construction team and industry professionals, as well as future Habitat homeowners. "Building a Habitat home from the ground up can be an empowering experience for Women Build participants," said Michelle Woods, executive director, Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County. "Whether you are learning new skills, or simply adding more skills to your tool belt, it's a rewarding experience for everyone involved."

About Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County

Marking its 25th anniversary last year, Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County has completed the construction of 94 safe, decent and affordable homes – with additional homes underway. Each home is built by the Habitat St. Charles construction team and the selected homeowner, who join forces with more than 2,000 volunteers donating 14,000 hours each year. 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 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-to-450 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 <https://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 an annual gala as its premier fundraiser in November, a trivia night each spring and the annual Women Build movement, 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

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