

# Inhabit

A look inside Habitat for Humanity Franklin County

## Home Number 39 !

On September 25, 2017 Adeler and Tamara Florestal became the proud owners of the thirty-ninth Habitat for Humanity home in Franklin County. The home in Greenville is the fulfillment of a

life-long dream for the Florestals and their three girls.

A small ceremony was held to dedicate the home and property on September 23rd. A tree

planting ceremony was conducted and local representatives took turns welcoming the family and thanking all those who gave so generously of their time, talents, and treasure.

“Home ownership is the cornerstone of a strong community.”

-Rick Renzi



*Adeler and Tamara Florestal sign documents at settlement.*

### Why We Serve



WHO IS OUR NEIGHBOR? Who do we—as members of our local communities, as part of the human family, as supporters of a nonprofit organization that works to create a world where everyone has a decent place to live—consider the be the neigh-

bors who Christ so clearly instructed to love as we love ourselves?

The answer is literally all around us, and to love those neighbors is to serve those neighbors. To strengthen ties, to offer a hand up, to build.

Each year, 1.8 million Habitat volunteers—and countless others who believe that everyone should have a decent place to live—do just that, and the ripple effect of that generosity and hard work helps more families achieve the strength, stability and self reliance they need to build better lives.

**“Service is the rent we pay for being.”**

-MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN

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**Jonathan T.M. Reckford**

Chief Executive Officer  
Habitat for Humanity  
International

**How is God challenging you to be useful?**

**“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.”**  
**1 Peter 4:10**



## The Urgency to Serve

The idea of serving God by serving others has been written on my heart for as long as I can remember. I recall vividly the childhood visits with my grandmother when she would challenge my siblings and me to be useful. And that was not just a nice thought followed by a pat on the head.

My grandmother was Millicent Fenwick, a pipe-smoking New Jersey congresswoman who was committed to the issues of social justice. She demonstrated bold determination in taking up the cause of those who needed an advocate to make their lives better.

She would also recite what she called her “life verse” from the Bible, Micah 6:8, which says we are required to act justly, to love mercy and to

walk humbly with God.

Those words have had a profound influence on me and became very real to me when I was on a mission trip to India years after my grandmother’s death. There I encountered such hopelessness among a group of Dalit children, commonly called “untouchables,” and I know God was reaching out to me. I was fairly sure that I wanted to devote the rest of my life to helping those who live in the world’s poorest places.

It would be a long time before I received the phone call about the CEO job at Habitat for Humanity, but I had continued to look for ways I could serve. I believed I could—and should—be a positive influence in the business commu-

nity, and I found great joy in helping others. I was not a person who could sit on the sidelines when I saw people suffering. I often felt the powerful call to get up and do something.

I think that is what attracted me to Habitat. Our vision to create a world where everyone has a decent place to live offers people—motivated by a variety of reasons—the opportunity to make a difference. We are so grateful for the millions of people who have come to the job site to help families build or renovate their homes. And we are excited that accountants, lawyers, students, people with warm telephone voices and so many others have also found such innovative ways to contribute.

## A House Built by Churches?

Habitat for Humanity of Franklin County is embarking on a new project—a house built by local churches. We are trying to bring Franklin County churches together to build a house in its entirety. Imagine the people of God demonstrating His love in such a powerful way to people right here in Franklin County!

We are partnering with the Thrivent Financial Services “Building in Faith” initiative.

Thrivent will match funding that local churches donate up to half the cost of building a new home. It’s not just about money though, it’s also about the volunteers. We want to partner with churches to get the work done.

We are still in the very beginning stages of this project. The creative juices are flowing, and we have a great team in place to do the planning and organizing. But WE NEED

**YOUR HELP TO MAKE THIS A REALITY.** We know that many of our Habitat supporters are involved in a local church. Will you champion this idea at your congregation?

We hope this will be the start of something big. Perhaps this is the gateway to get people in your church involved in missions. Will you join us on this mission trip just down the street? Call Tom Reardon at 717-267-1899.

## Home 41 on the horizon

At 378 E. McKinley Street in Chambersburg, you will see a rather unassuming home. This home may not look like much, but it is full of potential. This will be Franklin County Habitat Home number 41. Work has already begun, and this is a unique opportunity because it will allow us to

continue work throughout the year.

Most of the exterior work and interior demolition has been completed. There is a lot of work to be done, which we hope will result in many great volunteer opportunities throughout the fall and winter

seasons.

This is another example of how Habitat for Humanity of Franklin County not only serves a family but also serves an entire community. By bringing this home back to life, we are improving the entire neighborhood.

## The ReStore Record

It is exciting to note that in this issue of "InHabit," there has actually been mention of four new homes. Imagine that, four builds in one issue! That's the purpose of the ReStore. The ReStore provides an amazing service to the community and keeps tons of material out of landfills; however, that is not the primary purpose of the ReStore. Our purpose is simple—to develop funds to achieve our vision of a world where everyone has a decent place to live. We simply can't talk about the ReStore without talking about building homes.

The ReStore is proud to have made such an immense im-

pact on poverty housing in Franklin County. In just a little over two years, the Franklin County Habitat for Humanity ReStore has raised enough money to build two complete houses. All expectations have been shattered. Thanks to a very generous community, we have been able to achieve an unparalleled level of success.

One of the most unique things about the ReStore is that it is never the same store twice. As quickly as items are donated they are purchased. There have been donated items that have remained on the sales floor for less than an hour! You never know what you are going to find at the ReStore.

Looking for a tanning bed? We've sold one. Looking for a stair lift? We've had them. Not looking for anything in particular? WE'VE GOT IT.

So many of our customers have commented about the amazing variety in our store. Customers often tell us that not only do they find such great treasures at the store, but they feel good when they leave, knowing that they are helping us achieve our mission.

We strive to be a safe place to find treasures, but we always keep our eye on the prize—eliminating poverty housing right here in Franklin County.

## Opportunities to Serve

Swinging hammers—that's what a Habitat volunteer does, right? Yes, that is one of the things that Habitat volunteers do; but there is so much more and we need you. You have a God-given talent, and we want to put it to use to achieve our vision of a world where everyone has a decent place to live.

We are currently working on developing our committees to increase our reach and effectiveness. If you would like to get involved but don't know which end of the hammer to hold, now is the time to stand up and make a difference.

Do you enjoy meeting new people? Are you plugged into a local church? Perhaps the Church Relations Committee would be a good fit for you. Habitat is an ecumenical Christian organization, and we want to partner with local

churches to build God's kingdom right now, right here in Franklin County.

Are you organized, and like the idea of making a BIG impact on your community? We need individuals to work on



our Volunteer Relations Committee. Help recruit new volunteers, schedule existing volunteers, and help new volunteers get oriented to their positions. In this role, you would truly impact ALL functions of the organization.

Do you have outstanding math skills, and understand finance? How about helping out on our Finance Committee?

Do you have retail experience? Are you a natural leader? Join our ReStore Advisory Committee. Help us achieve our mission by giving guidance to our ReStore leadership team and giving them support as a part of a strong, successful team.

Like the idea of saving a life? Join our Safety Committee and help us make sure that our volunteers, clients, customers, and donors stay safe. Help establish and enforce policies that will ensure safety throughout our operation.

No matter your talents and skills, there is a place for you on our team. Give us a call at 717-267-1899.

# ReStore

**"Service to others is still a crucial element in the American character and has always prevailed in overcoming challenges and correcting social mistakes."**

**-Jimmy Carter**



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*A world where everyone has a  
decent place to live.*

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**On November 18th, the Thomas family will come *HOME AGAIN* to this home in Chambersburg.**

POSTAGE

## Habitat Home #40 in Franklin County

Excitement is building for the 40th HFHFC home! In partnership with the Chambersburg Area Development Corporation, HFHFC will be able to bring the Thomas family HOME AGAIN to downtown Chambersburg.

“We were so excited to conduct an open house when this project was just getting started, but even more so now that it is nearing completion.” said Tom Reardon, HFHFC Executive Director.

The public is invited to come tour this home on

Saturday, November 18 from noon to 4:30 p.m., and join us at 4:30 p.m. for the home dedication ceremony in the back yard.

A home dedication ceremony is a remarkable experience. Join the staff and board of Habitat for Humanity of Franklin County as we pray with the family, offer words of welcome, and bless the family and their new home.

The transformation of this home is extraordinary. This home has truly exemplified the sustainable and transformational

development principle of Habitat for Humanity. When you see this project, you will have a hard time believing that at this time last year, this was a two unit apartment building in disrepair.

The Thomas family has invested more than three hundred hours in the rehab of this home. Their commitment has been exemplary, and they will have such a strong connection to the home and community.

Habitat for Humanity of Franklin County is proud to partner with the Thomas family.