

THANK YOU so much for your support of Columbia County Habitat for Humanity! We wanted to share with you how your support has been demonstrating God's love through real examples of helping people!

Matched Saving Program Creates Opportunity for Home Purchase

Two years ago in pursuit of her dream of owning a home, Caressa opened an Oregon IDA account with CCHFH which provides a five to one matched funds for low income families saving to purchase a home.



Caressa diligently saved every month toward her savings plan goal and completed required classes in financial education and home buying. This past spring, she purchased a house in St. Helens and was finally able to move her daughter to their own home. They are both looking forward to a having this stable foundation from which to grow for many years. We are proud of her accomplishments and excited to enroll more local prospective homeowners.

Columbia County Habitat for Humanity is the only provider in Columbia County for the IDA program for home purchase. We are able to offer applicants currently saving for closing costs a realistic way to achieve their home purchase goal. Pairing this program with the USDA 502 Direct Home Loan program, which does not require a down payment, opens a pathway to homeownership for those who have historically been turned

away from the Habitat for Humanity program for being slightly over the income limits. The same program can also boost savings for home repair for homeowners below 80 percent of the Area Median Income.

Could you or someone you know benefit from this program? Contact us for more information.

Meet our new Volunteer Coordinator!

Columbia County Habitat for Humanity has been selected as one of 12 affiliates nationwide to participate in a pilot capacity building program. The success of our application resulted in a rural staffing grant that funds a full-time Volunteer Coordinator for two years. We are pleased to introduce Alex Smurthwaite. Alex has a BA in English from University of Oregon and previously held a management position at a busy WinCo. He has volunteered with NAMI in Clackamas modernizing their digital newsletter. In addition, the grant includes funds for technology and training. We are excited to develop our capacity to provide a meaningful volunteer experience for individuals and groups with time and talent to join us in our mission of helping our neighbors in need.



Alex will be coordinating volunteers for the build sites and in the ReStore as well as writing promotional and training materials. He is interested in working long term in the nonprofit world and we are excited to welcome him aboard!

A Simple Project with a Huge Impact

In August we were introduced to Michael, a veteran in Rainier, who was experiencing significant mobility issues. He told us that the steps up and down from his home were restricting him from going outside at all. Worried he would fall on the concrete, Michael was reluctant to leave his house. He asked if we could help, saying that even just being able to check his mail would make a world of difference.

Our enthusiastic team of volunteer builders was able to meet with him and establish a plan to build a short bridge from his porch to his driveway allowing a safer passage to the outdoors. Michael is so excited and relieved to finally be able to walk outside his home! Thanks to the Masonic Lodge for their recent donation towards projects like these and the work crew including Dick, Mark, Steve and Matt for their construction help with this worthy project.



Habitat for Humanity ReStore News!

Our mission of building local affordable housing opportunities is primarily supported by those who donate, shop, and volunteer at our ReStore. We are so grateful for the support of the community we serve and we are blessed to witness the very best of people every day at the store. With the growth we have enjoyed in

recent years our ReStore manager, Dave Marble, has been continuously stretched to meet the needs of the store and our customers. We are excited to welcome Melissa Puyear to the Habitat family to serve as our part-time Assistant Manager! Melissa has experience in retail environments as well as volunteering at a local nonprofit.

Thank you for your support! After nearly 8,000 ballots cast for the Columbia County Readers' Choice awards, the ReStore won Best Antique/Thrift Shop. We were thrilled to hear of this great honor. Look for a write up in the Spotlight this September about the local winners!



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