

*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!*

Foundation for a Brighter Future

Despite the winter weather we have made great progress on our Vernonia project thanks to many hard-working volunteers! We appreciate the generosity of skilled tradespeople in Vernonia. For the first time we used insulated concrete forms prompting a

“concern” from the community that we were building an igloo! Thanks to Bob Stampflee for his extraordinary effort to get us through construction of the foundation and basement walls, Phillip Pearson of Personal Pride for the excavation and backfill work, Hudson Portable Toilet, Mike Stone and local plumber, Jon Mikesell for his plumbing expertise.

Our enthusiastic future homeowner who has been dropping off treats and pizza commented, "These guys are absolutely amazing, thank you so much for continuing to show up!"



Love in Action

The First Evangelical Lutheran Church in St. Helens has partnered with CCHFH since 2020 with dedicated prayers and \$5000 pledges towards the completion of each Habitat home. Congregation members have also jumped in with construction of these projects. Sporting “God’s work; Our hands” T-shirts, volunteers have assembled Ikea kitchen cabinets, painted walls and pounded nails along the way. The First Lutheran Quilting group even created custom quilts for the families’ children. These tangible efforts solidify Habitat’s mission in demonstrating God’s love in action by working to create affordable homes for our neighbors.

Although our current build in Vernonia is a fair distance from the other Habitat homes in St. Helens, we were delighted to hear of their willingness to continue their partnership with this project as well! While the miles might prevent many from contributing to the hands-on construction work, the prayers and financial support are treasured. We are also proud to declare that the church members have now completed their pledge for this home! Thank you to First Lutheran!



Oregon IDA: Vital Program for Critical Home Repairs

It's no secret that extensive home repairs seem out of reach for low income households but the Oregon IDA program may offer solutions. This winter we have had the privilege of helping two local seniors complete the process of saving money towards much needed work on their homes. These repairs can mean the difference between the home being saved from weather damage or having them destroyed over time. The inability to pay for maintenance and repairs can jeopardize the owner's investment.



When Susan's home began leaking water through the siding, she knew she was in trouble. After receiving estimates for the work, she realized it was far beyond her capability. "My husband and I were, what you would call, 'the working poor'; we worked hard; we were low-paid workers all our lives. This was a good opportunity to apply for assistance."

Susan enrolled in an IDA plan in 2022 and diligently saved towards her goal and completed the educational elements required for graduation. Due to the scale of such a large weatherization project including her roof, siding, gutters and painting, CCHFH assembled a joint endeavor between Community Action Team, Malarkey Roofing, J&K Roofing and Habitat volunteers.

The Oregon IDA Initiative combines education and regular saving over time to reach a specific financial goal with matched state funding. Susan tells us, "The program is one of the only ones that it is all about helping people, and then you are taught or reminded that you can save. With that, you can do what you want to do. And, for that, I am grateful." CCHFH is the only IDA provider in Columbia County. Please contact us if you or someone you know could benefit from this program.



Habitat at the Capitol

On February 13th CCHFH was pleased to have the opportunity to meet with Oregon lawmakers and staff in Salem at the beginning of the new legislative session to share personal stories and urge support for the Oregon IDA program. We were treated with an early morning committee hearing on a bill that would fund shelters, IDAs and homeownership development funds before meeting with Senator Suzanne Weber in the afternoon where we discussed our Vernonia project and legislative priorities.



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