

monthly news & updates



December 2019 - Issue 6



Top 3 Reasons to Shop with a Purpose

Shopping for meaningful gifts for coworkers, friends, and family can be tough! This year we are making it easy for you. Here are the top 3 reasons to shop with a purpose on our fundraising store.

1. **Support Your Community** – Every sale includes a 10% donation to Habitat for Humanity of Summit County. With your purchase, you are supporting programs in your community including our new home construction and deconstruction programs. This gift supports good work and provides a brighter future for families. That's powerful!
2. **Advocate for Good** – This gift says something! This gift proudly displays the Habitat for Humanity of Summit County logo which advocates for affordable housing. This logo shows support for our mission to

build a world where everyone has a decent place to live. It means bringing people together to build homes, communities, and hope. It stands for love, dignity, and optimism. Wearing our logo supports making the world a better place. That has way more meaning than a fruit basket.

3. **Great Items** – There is a wide variety of items from apparel to accessories; there is something for everyone. These are quality, trendy items that everyone can use in their day to day life. Browse the store and you are guaranteed to find something of interest. And remember, you are shopping for good! You are shopping with a purpose. This is guilt free shopping because your purchase is helping change lives.



A Habitat home means more than just walls, nails, and a roof. It provides a child with strength, security, health, and more. This Giving Tuesday we break down a build into 5 main phases and show how each phase impact a child's life. You have the opportunity to support a family like Hezekiah and Angela's by providing a brighter future.



Read More at
www.hfhsummitcounty.org/givingtuesday/

Shop at <http://bit.ly/2NrCxrr>

Build Updates

Watch our progress in your community and join us in building a world where everyone has a decent place to live. We are currently building 6 homes and two have an end of year deadline. 80% of our homes are built by volunteers just like you. Schedule your volunteer day now.



West Akron



North Hill



East Avenue



East Avenue



East Avenue



East Avenue

Holiday Hours

**Offices &
Construction Closed:**
December 24th, 25th & 31st
January 1st

ReStore Closed:
December 25th
January 1st

Mortgage Burning Celebration



**Congratulations to Laurene Hopkins, Curtis Jeffries,
Carol Morrison, May Sivongxay & Viengkham Rassavong!**

These families have worked hard for many years to pay off their mortgages. We celebrated by lighting those mortgages on fire! What a feeling of freedom watching those flames burn those documents. Each mortgage payment went back into a revolving fund to help build homes for other families through Habitat for Humanity. Thank you for your dedicated payments and congratulations!



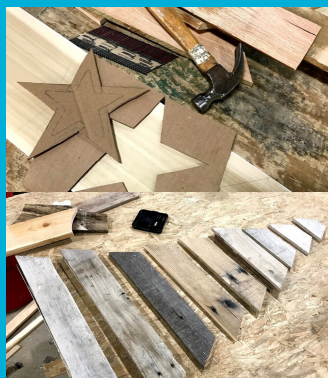
2301 Romig Road Akron, OH 44320
restore@hfhs Summit County.org
330-745-9098
Store Hours: Wed-Fri 8AM-6PM
Sat 8AM-4PM

Donate your new and gently used furniture, appliances and building materials to our 42,000 sq. ft. warehouse. All donations and purchases support our work in Summit County and around the world.

DONATION DROP OFF

Monday & Tuesday 8AM-3:30PM
Wednesday - Friday 8AM-6PM
Saturday 8AM-4PM

Or request a free pick up in Summit County by calling
330-745-9098 or visiting
<https://www.hfhs Summit County.org/restore/>



**Old unwanted pallets turned into...
...crafty decorations for your home!**



Our Loyal Volunteers have been working hard in the workshop taking apart old pallets headed to the dumpster. They are using the reclaimed wood from these pallets to get creative building Christmas trees, snowmen and Ohio wall hangings.

These make great holiday gifts while also supporting our programs in Summit County. Hurry in to get yours!

Thank You Volunteers



Common Mission
Coalition



Kappa Sigma



Myers Industries



Westfield Insurance



Myers Industries



US Bank



Volunteers Needed All Winter Long

Don't let the cold weather discourage your passion for volunteering! We build all year around and that means we continue to rely on our dedicated volunteers throughout the winter. Bundle up and join us on a build site or in the ReStore!

Hello!



Roberta Dorkoff
Volunteer & Administrative Coordinator

SCHEDULE YOUR VOLUNTEER DAY

Roberta Dorkoff, Volunteer & Administrative Coordinator

330.745.7734 x211

robertad@hfhsummitcounty.org

254 volunteers dedicated 954 hours of work supporting our programs in Summit County during the month of November. We are so thankful for each volunteer who takes time to support our mission. Thank you!



Our Ultimate Holiday Cleaning Countdown

By Katie Holdefehr, www.realsimple.com/home-organizing/cleaning/holiday-cleaning-countdown

If you're feeling overwhelmed by all the cleaning you want to do before the holidays, let this cleaning countdown be your guide. Rather than worry about getting it all done on time, we've broken down the long list of potential to-dos into little tasks you can tackle one at a time over the next three weeks. So instead of trying to make your entire home sparkle in one marathon cleaning session, you can deal with the kitchen floor one day and clear out the refrigerator another. Sure, you'll still have to do the final spruce-up the day before guests arrive, but all of the big chores will be done long before the doorbell rings. Then, relax and enjoy the holiday—without the morning-of cleaning frenzy.

Three Weeks Before:

- Stock up on essential cleaning supplies so you can skip the last-minute trips to the grocery store.
- Clean out your pantry. Start by removing everything from the shelves and wiping them down. Check the expiration date on each item before you return it. Organize one area for all of the ingredients you'll need when prepping the holiday meal. (This will also help you avoid buying ingredients you already own.)
- Take stock of the dishes, silverware, and serveware you plan to use for the big dinner. Wash or dry clean the tablecloth and placemats. You may also want to give the dishes a quick wash—especially if you're using the good china that's been collecting dust for the past 11 months.
- Scrub the stovetop and clean the oven. As a precaution, you may want to skip the self-cleaning feature on your oven. There's a risk of malfunction that could put your oven out of commission during the biggest cooking holidays of the year (yikes!).

Two Weeks Before:

- Clean out the refrigerator. First, remove everything from the shelves and give them a thorough cleaning. Check the expiration dates before returning each item to the fridge.

- Give the kitchen floors a deep clean. You'll need to vacuum or sweep again as the holiday gets closer, but any serious dirt and grime will be taken care of.
- Collect all of the extra dishtowels, hand towels, bath towels, and bed linens you'll need for your guests. Take the time to wash them all now so you're not stuck doing load after load of laundry the night before.
- If guests are staying overnight, give the guest room a quick clean by vacuuming the floor, clearing off the nightstand, and dusting. If you don't have the luxury of a guest room, check the air mattress for leaks or make sure the Murphy bed is in working order.

The Week Before:

- Clear the clutter from the kitchen counters to make space for food prep. For now, move small appliances you likely won't use to a cabinet or closet. Then clear off the bathroom counters too.
- Declutter the living room, relocating any piles of mail or kids' toys that have collected there. Leave a couple spare blankets in a basket near the sofa or side chair so chilly guests can grab them.
- Give the toilets a quick scrub, then wipe down the exteriors.
- Wipe down the tub or shower stall (now is not the time to tackle those grout lines).
- Stock the bathrooms with extra toilet paper, clean towels, and toiletries.

The Day Before:

- Wipe down the bathroom and kitchen counters. Clear off any clutter that may have collected there over the past week.
- Empty the trash cans, focusing on those in the kitchen and bathrooms.
- Vacuum or sweep the kitchen and living room floors.
- Wipe down the bathroom mirrors (and remember to follow an S pattern).
- Pour yourself a cup of tea (or glass of wine, or mug of coffee) and congratulate yourself for not riding the procrastination train this year!



Pecan Pie Brownies

BY: Micah A. Leal,
www.southernliving.com/recipes/pecan-pie-brownies

Step 1

Preheat oven to 325°F. Grease a 9- x- 13-inch metal baking pan with cooking spray and line the bottom with parchment paper; set aside.

Step 2

Make Brownie Batter: Melt butter in a saucepan over medium-high. When butter begins to boil, remove from heat and add chocolate chips, stirring once to coat. Allow to sit for 5 minutes before whisking together until fully combined. In a large mixing bowl, whisk together brown sugar, granulated sugar, eggs, vanilla, and salt. Add chocolate mixture and whisk to combine. Sift cocoa powder and flour into wet ingredients and gently stir until fully incorporated. Pour batter into prepared pan and bake until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean, about 35 minutes.

Step 3

Make Pecan Pie Topping: While brownies are baking, whisk together brown sugar, eggs, vanilla, salt, and melted butter until everything is well combined and the sugar is dissolved. Stir in pecans and set aside.

Step 4

Once the brownies are baked through, pour the pecan mixture ovetop the brownies and spread evenly with a spoon. Return to the oven until the Pecan Pie Topping is set, about 25 minutes. Allow to cool completely before slicing.

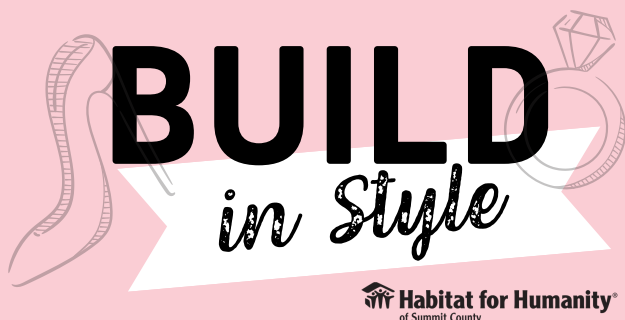
INGREDIENTS

Brownie Batter:

- 1/2 cup unsalted butter
- 2 cups chocolate chips
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 4 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour

Pecan Pie Topping:

- 1 cup brown sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/4 cup melted butter
- 1/2 teaspoon bourbon (optional)
- 3 cups chopped pecans



NOW COLLECTING DONATIONS:

Purses

Jewelry

Shoes



Bring us your Acme receipts to help us earn community cash back. We are collecting now until February 7th in the ReStore.



In the Spirit of Giving

By: Kim Kerr, Family Services Manager

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Did you know that there is a date designated as a day of giving? In 2019 the date is December 3, 2019. It is a global generosity movement. It was created in 2012 as a simple idea, a day to encourage people to do good for others.

I began working for Habitat for Humanity in July of 2019. In the short time I have been working at Habitat, I have seen this movement in action. As the Family Services Manager, I have the privilege to work with our Partner Families. I follow the families from the beginning of the application process, to the point that their homes are completed and a Dedication ceremony takes place. During our program orientation meeting, I have seen the excitement the families bring, when we discuss the requirement of working on other people's homes and their own homes. They can not wait to get started giving to others. You will hear our Families say, "We don't get a hand-out, we get a hand up". So, who benefits from the giving? Is it the person who is receiving? Or is it the person giving? Or are both parties the recipients?

We have all heard those stories, about paying forward in the fast food line. A Starbucks in Connecticut in 2013 had more than 1,000 customers pay it forward. I have been the recipient as well as the one giving to the person behind me. In my opinion, both the receiver and the giver benefit. I have often hoped, maybe I am truly making a difference in this person's day.

One year my niece planned a special birthday gift for her husband. She filled a hat with "random acts of kindness". She had him choose three gifts to share with someone to celebrate his birthday. On his birthday, as a family, they hopped in the car and went out to celebrate his birthday. His first card said, "buy a cup of coffee for someone". Off they went as a family, three young boys ages 5, 3, and a few months, headed to the local coffee shop drive through. The next card read, "write a note to someone to tell them what a great job they did parking their car in the parking lot." Little did she know, but her husband took great care writing this note and really enjoyed this activity. When he had written the note, he carefully tucked the note under the windshield wiper for this driver to receive. The final card read, "fill up someone's tank of gas". Off the family went again in search of a person to give the gift to and they found a woman at a nearby gas station. According to my niece, the woman was so taken by this act of kindness, she immediately came over to the car to greet the family, while her husband filled the gas tank for the woman who was almost in tears. As I was told this story I wondered ... who received the gift that evening? Was it the Dad who was celebrating his birthday in this nonconventional way? Was it the woman who received the tank of gas? She was so thrilled she was almost in tears. I would have loved to find out what the person thought who received the parking note. I would have kept that note forever and walked just a little taller that night. Maybe my niece who planned this special night for her husband was the recipient? Not only did she make the night memorable for her husband, but what a great lesson her boys learned that night as well. They got to see first hand the joy of giving to others without the expectation of anything in return.

As we are in the Christmas season, giving is not about the number of gifts, the amount spent, or the time invested. As a retired teacher, my favorite time of year was when we "made" our Christmas gifts for parents. In my opinion, the most precious gifts received are things that are handmade and come from the heart. I once had a parent tell me that their children know they will receive three gifts at Christmas. She said she has told them, "that is the number of gifts that Jesus received." What a powerful message that sends to children. The smallest gift to some, can make a huge impact to others. Maybe you would like to as a family, adopt a child. Perhaps give a gift to a non-profit that you believe changes lives. In all you do, enjoy the act of giving and give with a grateful heart. Have a blessed Christmas season.



Welcome Kim!

Kim Kerr is Habitat for Humanity of Summit County's new Family Services Manager. She will be working with all our partner families as they move through our homeownership program. We are excited to have Kim onboard and want to introduce you to her. She has only been with us 4 months so far but she is already a great fit with a giving heart, passionate about helping others.

So far, Kim's favorite part about working with Habitat for Humanity is our mission of building affordable homes for others. She is motivated daily by her love of helping others. Kim is a retired Barberton teacher where she enjoyed working with children. After her retirement she knew God had more in store for her, "I needed a place to continue to pour my heart to others. Habitat is the perfect place." When asked what 'home' means to her, Kim says "Home is a place to build and hold memories. It is a comfort zone where you can be yourself and relax; a place to let your personality show with pride."

From a young age, Kim has been a volunteer. Her church youth group would travel to work camps where they would serve others working on community service projects. The wonderful memories made on these trips have influenced Kim's life throughout adulthood. "I think Habitat is a continuation of this mission I was a part of so long ago." Kim says reflecting back on her life. She hopes to once again travel to volunteer on a Habitat for Humanity Global Village trip. Kim enjoys traveling; on the top of her bucket list is a trip to Israel which she hopes to soon visit with her church. Join us in welcoming Kim to our staff and wish her luck!



The Trip of a Lifetime

Global Village Trip to Oaxaca, Mexico 2 MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Saturday, February 29th to Saturday, March 7th

Join us for an eight day life changing mission trip. Live like a local with 12 other volunteers while experiencing the authentic Mexican culture up close. Volunteer building homes with Habitat for Humanity that will make an impact on the community and local families for years to come.

\$2,400 per person

(\$780 tax deductible gift to Habitat for Humanity)

includes flight, lodging, meals, ground transportation, medical insurance, tools & building materials

When: Depart from Cleveland on Saturday, Feb. 29th at 7:30AM
Return to Cleveland on Saturday, Mar. 7th at 12:00AM

How: Fly American Airlines, Cleveland to Dallas to Oaxaca

Questions? Contact our group leaders:

Mary Verstraete at maryverstraete@gmail.com

Mark Frey at mwfrey73@gmail.com

Rochelle Sibbio at 330-745-7734 ext. 203

**Sign Up Deadline: December 15th
with a \$200 deposit (balance due Jan. 24th)**

Learn More about Oaxaca Here:
www.cnn.com/travel/article/things-to-do-oaxaca-mexico/index.html

Homeowner Corner



Kim Kerr, Family Services Manager

kimk@hfhsummitcounty.org
330-745-7734 ext. 207

Interested in building a home with Habitat for Humanity?

Learn more here:

www.hfhsummitcounty.org/about-habitat-for-humanity/programs/apply-for-a-habitat-home/



H O M E O W N E R

education classes

TUESDAY 6PM-8PM

December 10th : December Holiday Celebration presented by Habitat Families and Staff

Time to enjoy each other's company as we celebrate the holidays with a covered dish dinner, seasonal activities for all, and maybe even some surprises for the partner families!

Homeowner Education Classes are ONLY for partner families and Habitat homeowners. If you plan on attending, please RSVP to Roberta at 330-745-7734 ext. 211. To learn more about becoming a Habitat homeowner, please visit our website.



MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child.

Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Follow us!



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