

# monthly news & updates



April 2020 - Issue 10

## Spring, a Time for Hope

By: Kayla Collins, Marketing and Events Manager

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Hello Spring! Longer days with warmer weather are finally here with blossoms and new life. Although we never had a tough winter, you can't help but feel excitement when you see those daffodils bloom and feel that warm breeze. This year, spring is shadowed by the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many people have lost their jobs and feel isolated staying home for days on end. Remember to look outside and feel the hope that spring brings.

What a better reminder of the new life spring brings us than the Easter celebration of Jesus rising from the grave. When the world is in chaos and fear of the unknown is everywhere, remember the hope that Jesus promises us.

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

John 14:27

Take your fear and worry to God and trust that He is always in control. God is good and He loves you. He reminds us, "Always pray and never give up." Luke 18:1

Stay steadfast in prayer during these trying times and keep peace and hope in your heart as we prepare for more beautiful spring days ahead.

### COVID-19 Update

- The Habitat ReStore at 2301 Romig Road is closed until further notice.
- Habitat for Humanity administrative offices are closed to the public. Business can be conducted over the phone by calling 330-745-7734 or emailing us at [habitat@hfhsummitcounty.org](mailto:habitat@hfhsummitcounty.org)
- All volunteers (individual and groups) are cancelled.
- All ReStore pick ups are cancelled.
- The Neighborhood Network meeting for Tuesday, April 7 is cancelled.

Please know that we are constantly monitoring the situation and will update our plans as new details emerge. Thank you for your continued support as we navigate this public health crisis together. If you wish to help us during this challenging time you can visit our website at [www.hfhsummitcounty.org](http://www.hfhsummitcounty.org) to make a donation to support us as we reopen our doors as soon as we are able. We pray with you that this crisis passes and we can get back to work changing lives in our community.



## Imagine Impact Campaign Launch

**The Link between Affordable Housing and Financial Instability:** As of 2020, 1 in 8 Ohioans spend more than 50% of their net income on housing. The ongoing increases in housing costs is a driving force behind Summit County's current poverty rate of 13.6%. Cost burdened families live in substandard housing and/or in unsafe neighborhoods as a means of ensuring that they have a place to live. These families sacrifice access to healthy food, reliable transportation and quality healthcare and education as the cost of rental housing increases. The ultimate sacrifice made by low to moderate income families comes in the form of their future. Families spending more than 50% of their net income struggle to save the money needed to secure a conventional mortgage and move themselves into more affordable housing solutions. This reduced financial mobility ensures that individuals and families are trapped in a cycle of financial insecurity. Habitat for Humanity believes that a safe, affordable home is a fundamental right that everyone should enjoy.

**Combating the Need:** Habitat for Humanity is uniquely positioned to give cost burdened families in Summit County a hand up. We are the only organization that offers interest free mortgage loans to create transformational financial wealth in the lives of families experiencing housing instability. Our average mortgage ranges from \$450-\$700 including mortgage principal payment, property taxes and home owners insurance. Furthermore, Habitat for Humanity's ability to mobilize a vast network of volunteers to assist with construction allows us to build homes in a timely and cost effective manner. Where organizations in our community are focused on short-term rent and mortgage assistance,

Habitat for Humanity of Summit County is focused on changing a family's economic outlook through affordable home ownership.

**Serving Our Community:** Habitat for Humanity helps families and communities reap the rewards associated with stable housing. Through the Imagine Impact campaign Habitat for Humanity will not only accelerate our service to the community, but we will shine much needed light on the challenges our community faces as a result of housing instability. We will bring partners together from across our community to build 75 new homes, complete critical home repairs for 150 current homeowners, mobilize 10,000 volunteers, and impact the lives of 1,000 of our friends and neighbors over the next five years. Our work will have a profound impact on the health and wellbeing of families and our community.

**Join Us In Creating Transformational Change:** Housing instability is linked to poor education and health outcomes amongst the youngest, most vulnerable children in Summit County. Adults face declining health outcomes and struggle with the stress and anxiety associated with not knowing whether their current housing situation will last. Now is the time for a bold initiative that will bring attention to the need for affordable housing. Will you join Habitat for Humanity in creating transformational change for Summit County and for those families who call Summit County their home? For every single family hoping to break free from the cycle of poverty housing, and create a brighter future there is no better time than now to join this movement.

**Be a part of the Imagine Impact Campaign Today!**

[hfhsommitcounty.org/imagineimpact](https://hfhsommitcounty.org/imagineimpact)



# **RAISE YOUR VOICE FOR HOUSING STABILITY**

**DURING COVID-19**

## **Raise your voice now to tell Congress to act for housing stability.**

With the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, families are facing both a public health and an economic crisis. The longer it goes on, the more this pandemic also becomes a housing emergency.

### **We need you to add your voice now to tell Congress to act for housing stability.**

More than 18 million families in the U.S. pay more than half of their income on housing, leaving little or no margin for lost income or increased health costs. Many of those families are facing additional economic

hardship from lost wages and layoffs and are now confronted with impossible choices between paying their rent or mortgage and life's other essentials.

And we know too that Habitat for Humanity affiliates are feeling the pain. Extended suspensions of our operations, including cancellation of our local builds and Habitat ReStore closures, will have enormous financial impacts, threatening our ability to continue serving our communities at the level required.

Congress is working to provide much-needed economic relief, and HFHI is hard at work leading efforts to provide support for our homeowners and other low-income families financially impacted by the pandemic. We're also fighting for financial support for Habitat affiliates and other nonprofits, whose work will be so vitally important as we recover from this pandemic.

But we can't do it alone. Congress needs to be hearing from all of us — staff, homeowners, volunteers, donors and more — as they are moving quickly to write the next stimulus package.

**Join us in calling on members of Congress to prioritize the needs of low-income families and the organizations that work hard to serve them.**

**Please follow this link to make your voice heard:**

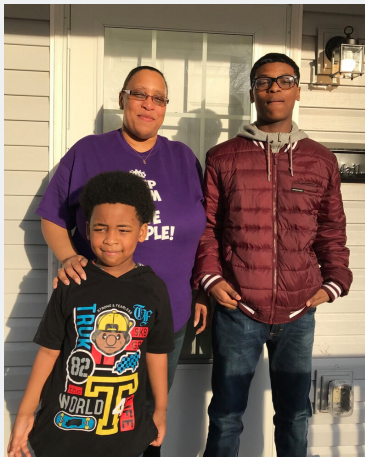
**<https://habitatforhumanityinternational.salsalabs.org/covid19/index.html>**

We encourage you to share this link with your networks to make sure Congress hears from as many of their constituents as possible.



# Build Updates

Watch our progress in your community as we build a world where everyone has a decent place to live. For more information on our builds, visit [www.hfhsummitcounty.org/joinus/builds/](http://www.hfhsummitcounty.org/joinus/builds/)



## Welcome Home Carrington Family!

*By: Malisa Carrington at her Home Dedication*

I never thought that I would become a homeowner, it was never an aspiration of mine. When I was younger, I did grow up in a home until I was about 10 years old, then my parents split and all the places I resided were rentals. I thought I would never have enough money to purchase a home so I was content with being a renter.

As a mother of 2 boys, I was tired of renting and wanted something better, more stable for them. I wanted to become a homeowner but never thought it was possible. My boyfriend referred me to Habitat to see if I could apply. I

thought the program would not accept me due to my credit situation at the time. They were able to work with me until I cleared my credit and was accepted in 2017.

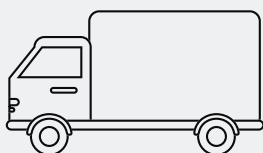
Habitat for Humanity is a great learning experience, both in the classroom and on the work site. Before starting with Habitat for Humanity, I knew nothing about making repairs on a house. I was always dependant on someone else but now after several classes and volunteering at several houses, I feel confident with minor household repairs. Not only do they provide you skills with building a house, but you create friendships with other partner families and a sense of dedication with volunteering at the different partner families homes.

Everyone at Habitat is always friendly and helpful. I would like to thank God for providing me with the patience, cause I did not have it, and the willpower to continue to the end because every day, every week, every month I would say "I can't wait for my house to be built!" I would like to thank Rochelle, Kim, Jon, and all the volunteers at Habitat for Humanity. A special thanks to Mary and her fellow members from St. Paul Episcopal Church and the Common Mission Coalition members for all your help and generosity. My boyfriend for donating all of his hours, especially on those hot summer days when it was 90 degrees outside and my family and friends that took time out of their busy schedules to help with my house.

I really can't express the words I'm feeling right now but I can say that I'm really excited, nervous, relieved and very humble that I am finally a homeowner. This whole experience has taught me to not be afraid to give your time to help others because time is a valuable commodity that we should not waste.



ReStore is currently closed to the public due to our responsibility to help contain the spread of COVID-19.



**Donation Drop Off Only**

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

## Purchase a ReStore Gift Card

ReStore still desperately needs your support to help fund our work in the community building homes for families in need. Purchase a gift card online to use when ReStore is open again!



Visit [www.hfhsummitcounty.org/restore/](http://www.hfhsummitcounty.org/restore/)



## Five Can Soup

By MegMarkR1 from AllRecipes.com  
<https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/239736/five-can-soup/?internalSource=staff%20pick&referringId=1849&referringContentType=Recipe%20Hub>

This easy recipe is perfect for your quarantine cooking. Use your canned goods to make a simple and delicious soup!

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 (15 ounce) can prepared chili with beans (such as Hormel)
- 1 (14 ounce) can whole kernel corn
- 1 (10.75 ounce) can vegetable beef soup (such as Campbell's)
- 1 (10.75 ounce) can tomato soup (such as Campbell's)
- 1 (10 ounce) can diced tomatoes with green chile peppers (such as ROTEL)

### DIRECTIONS

1. Stir chili, corn, vegetable beef soup, tomato soup, and diced tomatoes with green chile peppers together in a saucepan over medium-high heat; cook until hot, 5 to 10 minutes.
2. Enjoy!

# Thank You Volunteers

## How to Volunteer from Your Home

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have cancelled all individual and group volunteer groups in our ReStore, construction sites, and office volunteers. As a nonprofit organization, we heavily rely on volunteers for our work in the community and even though you are no longer able to join us on the job site, we still need your help!

As you all are staying home during this health crisis, here are a couple ideas on how you can continue to volunteer your extra time to help our affiliate. Habitat for Humanity of Summit County is prepared to continue to help our community through these unprecedented times. We are dedicated to helping our homeowners, and our community in the weeks and months to come and we can't do it without you!

- **Pray.** Our organization and staff needs your prayers as we continue to support our community. Every individual and business in our community, state, country and world need your prayers as we all manage this crisis.
- **Advocate.** Continue to advocate for our mission of affordable housing and support the families struggling in our community. Invite your friends and family to donate to our mission.
- **Collect Donations.** As you spend extra time at home, it is the perfect time to start your spring cleaning! Clean out those basements, garages, and closets and collect items to donate to the ReStore as well as gently used purses and jewelry for our Build In Style fundraising event.



International Women  
Build 2020 with Lowe's



UA Campus Chapter

Hello!



**Roberta Dorkoff, Volunteer & Administrative Coordinator**

330.745.7734 x211

[robertad@hfhs Summit County.org](mailto:robertad@hfhs Summit County.org)

# Partner Family Introduction: Tony Giovinozzo

By: Kim Kerr, Family Services Manager

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*By: Kim Kerr, Family Services Manager*

I began my new position at Habitat for Humanity in July. In this short time, I have been fortunate enough to meet some amazing, hard working, ambitious families. These families are our Partner Families.

These are the people that our mission is all about. So I thought it would be nice to take some time to introduce some of our families. This month, I would like to introduce you to Tomasco Giovinozzo. We know him as Tony.

Tony started the process of becoming a partner family because another Partner Family member introduced him to the program. Tony is a single dad. He has been raising his older children alone since 2010 with the help of family and friends. He has two older children, Gulianna, who is enrolled at The University of Akron and studying business and Nick, who will be looking to begin at the University of Akron in the fall but is undecided at this time about the degree he will pursue. Gulianna is planning to take the LSAT in preparation for attending law school. Tony has two younger children, Alexandria and Giovanni, who attend Nordon schools. He is going through an on-going custody suit regarding the two younger children. Tony is an accountability coach, entrepreneur, father, labor union worker, and hard worker. In talking with Tony, he puts a lot of emphasis on helping others and is always working on ways to help and encourage others.



Tony currently lives in a two bedroom apartment where he has lived for 5 years. Tony has stated that there are many benefits associated with being a part of the Habitat Family. Throughout the time that Tony has been with Habitat, he has created friendships with other families. He has gained self-confidence. The families are required to donate 250 hours of volunteer time with classes and building homes.

Tony feels this has given him confidence since he had to qualify for the program and has learned many skills along the way. Tony believes that being a part of the Habitat for Humanity program holds people accountable, since this sweat equity is a monthly requirement. For those who would like to apply for a home with Habitat, Tony's advice is "Do it right away! It is life changing and it is worth the commitments."

Tony would like to thank the volunteers who help build our homes. His advice to those who come to help is to "sign the waiver! It is a must!" Also, "please keep coming. We at Habitat appreciate you and love you". Did you know that 80% of our home construction is done by volunteers. Wow! That is amazing and our mission could not continue without our generous volunteers who so willingly give of their time.

Thank you also to our business partners who graciously give financial donations as well as donating building time.

I asked Tony what "home" means to him. He believes that home is a safe place where memories are made. It is a place that allows stability. Tony is thrilled to be getting his "own place". He already has thoughts of pulling up the driveway of his new Habitat Home. A home that he will be able to say that he helped build along with other partner families, staff members and volunteers. He is grateful every day for this opportunity. He looks forward to spending birthdays, Christmas, and family gatherings in his Habitat home that will have plenty of room for his whole family!



# Homeowner Corner



**Kim Kerr, Family Services Manager**

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



## COVID-19 UPDATES:

- **All Habitat Homeowner Education classes are CANCELLED.**
- If you are Habitat homeowner and need to make your mortgage payment, we strongly encourage you to mail it to us and if you must drop it off in person please do so at our office doors Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. Any applications for home repairs or new applications for home ownership (which will begin being accepted April 1, 2020) must be mailed to the office.

## Building our Future Scholarship Fund Now Accepting Applications Due May 1st

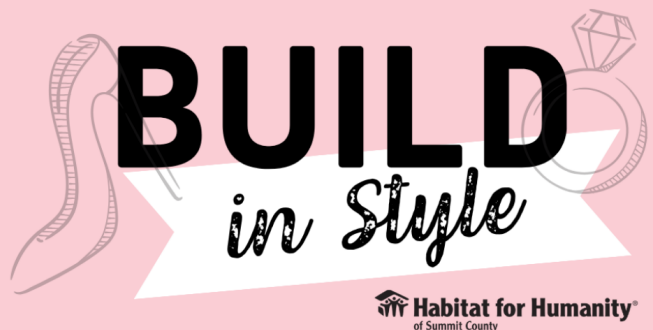
1. Trade Scholarship: The Trade Scholarship (maximum \$1,000) is for applicants seeking a diploma or certification from a trade or technical school.
2. College Scholarship: The College Scholarship (maximum \$2500) is for applicants planning to enroll or currently enrolled in a two-year associate or four-year bachelor degree program from a university.

<https://www.hfhsummitcounty.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/2020-Habitat-for-Humanity-of-Ohio-Scholarship-Application-Final.docx>

# Happy Easter!

## SAVE THE DATE

May 28th, 2020  
Silver Lake Country Club  
[hfhsummitcounty.org/buildinstyle/](http://hfhsummitcounty.org/buildinstyle/)



 **Habitat for Humanity**  
of Summit County

## Follow us!



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