

## Prioritizing Accessibility in New Construction From Day One

Lowe's is funding home accessibility for local disabled children as well as helping prioritize aging in place standards in new construction.

This year, Habitat for Humanity of Summit County has the opportunity to participate in a special household accessibility project in partnership with Habitat for Humanity International and the Lowe's Foundation. Habitat for Humanity of Summit County is one of only a few affiliates across the country that received funding from Lowe's to develop new home construction and home rehabilitation plans for life that meets the changing needs of homeowners as they age.



Locally, Habitat for Humanity is working on a home rehabilitation project in the City of Stow. The home will eventually be occupied by a mother and four children, two of which have disabilities that make living in a traditional house very difficult. Habitat for Humanity construction staff are working hard to ensure that this home meets the needs of the family, and gives them a place to grow and thrive. Thanks to Lowe's generosity,

### What's Inside:

- Build Updates
- Seven College Apartment and Dorm Room Items You Can Find at ReStore
- Curb Appeal Increase Your Home's Value by 5-11% This Fall
- A Prayer for Shelter
- You're Invited to Annual Build In Style
- Coalitions Showing Their Faith Through Action



our construction staff is making sure that the entire home is handicap accessible through enhancements like wider hallways and door frames, wider turning radiuses in rooms to accommodate wheelchairs, handicap accessible bathrooms, the installation of grab bars, and many other accessibility enhancements designed to ensure that this home meets both the short-term and long-term needs of the family that will live there.

Our work on this home will then be shared with the entire US Habitat for Humanity network as a guide for how other affiliates can integrate these accessibility modifications into their construction plans. Habitat for Humanity of Summit County is proud to have the opportunity to make homes even more accessible for the families that we serve, and we appreciate Lowe's giving us the opportunity to be a part of this very important initiative.

If you would like to support this project, please contact Drew Hall (Director of Development and Engagement) or visit [www.hfhwummitcounty.org/joinus/donate](http://www.hfhwummitcounty.org/joinus/donate) to make a gift today!



## Volunteers Are Still Needed

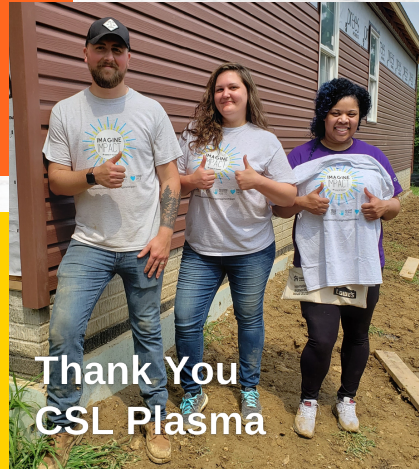
We always prioritize the safety of our volunteers and staff, and that includes COVID19 precautions. There are many ways you can volunteer with us. It's always a good day when you are helping others and supporting your community!

Available Volunteer Opportunities:

- Construction Build Site Volunteer
- ReStore Volunteer
- Office Help
- Build In Style Event Volunteer
- Virtual Weekly Prayer Partner
- Virtual Youth Volunteer



Thank You Hudson  
Community Foundation



Thank You  
CSL Plasma



Thank You  
J.W. Didado

## Schedule Your Next Volunteer Opportunity

Roberta Dorkoff, Volunteer Manager

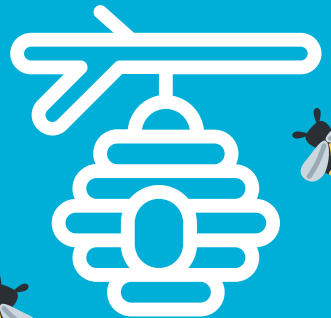
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## Tim's Tip

Monthly tips on home maintenance from our Construction Manager, Tim Crozier.

To deter wasps and bees take a brown paper bag, fill it with air, and twist off the top to make it resemble a bee or wasp nest. Hang the inflated bag(s) in the area that you'll be spending time, and no bees or wasps will come around.



Firestone Park



Cascade Valley



Ellet



Goodyear Hts.



## Curb Appeal Increase Your Home's Value by 5-11% This Fall

I can't believe it is almost fall - where did the summer go? Fall means back to school for our children, football games, pumpkin spice everything, and cooler temperatures. This might also be a good time to think about curb appeal for your home.

I realize many of you may be thinking... curb appeal now? Isn't that something on your mind in the spring? The Gardeners of Greater Akron have been helping me complete a project recently and in talking to some of the members, they have informed me that fall is a great time to think about perennials. This is the time that many home gardeners are separating some of their plants that have grown too big over the summer. This is also the time to plant bulbs such as tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths that will bloom in the spring. According to The Native Plant Herald, "the soil and air temperatures during autumn present the perfect conditions for root establishment." So, planning a new garden in the front of your home may be just what your home curb-appeal needs this fall.

When choosing perennials to use at your home, you need to do a little bit of investigating. You need to consider how much sunlight your area will get. There are shade perennials such as Hostas, Astilbe, Lungwort, and bleeding heart. There are also many perennials that require full to moderate sun. South-facing areas will receive the most direct sunlight. You will also need to consider your tree coverage as well.

In our area, we also have lots of deer. An article written by Karen Farka from Cleveland.com had a list of perennials that grow well in our zone and also are resistant to deer. Most of my research indicates that we are in zone 6. However, our area can get colder than zone 6, so zone 5 plants would work as well. Many of the perennials attract butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds.

Getting advice from your local nursery can help with what would work in our area.



In speaking with the Gardeners of Greater Akron, they also suggested considering the height of different plants as well. By doing this, you are able to have higher growing plants in the back and have other plants with various colors of flowers up closer to the front of the bed.

After your flower bed is established, it will be ready for you to plant annuals in the front of the bed to add even more color. Keep in mind, perennials will come back each year, while annuals need to be replanted each year.

Curb appeal can be enhanced in other ways such as making sure your lawn is mowed, adding outdoor lighting, or making your front door pop by adding a pretty wreath. Curb appeal can help increase the perceived home value by 5 to 11%. Your home is your greatest asset. Caring for your home and keeping it beautiful is important. With the weather cooling down, this might be a great time to get out and work on your home's curb appeal.

**Kim Kerr, Family Services Manager**

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## Seven college apartment and dorm room items you can find at ReStore

Time to head back to school! For those of you heading to college – or have kids doing so – you're looking for affordable items to transform a dorm room or college apartment into a space that feels like a home. Check out the list below of all the great things you should look for during your next trip to ReStore.

### 1. Furniture

Whether you need a sofa, kitchen table, bed, dresser or all of the above, you'll find a slew of gently used furniture options at ReStore. Keep in mind that the inventory changes daily based on donations from your community so check back often to find exactly what you need.

### 2. Kitchen Appliances

You can find microwaves and toaster ovens as well as items like mini-fridges and fondue sets. Though these items seem like relatively small purchases, they can add up quickly. Habitat ReStore often carries a variety of kitchen gadgets at great prices!

### 3. Lighting

Many dorms are equipped with fluorescent lighting, which can prove harsh on the eyes. Pick up a lamp or two from the Habitat ReStore to reduce the eye strain and provide your dorm room with a warm glow.

### 4. Washer & Dryer

If you're living in an apartment without laundry facilities, you may need a washer and dryer. While this would ordinarily represent a large expense, Habitat ReStore has many gently used washing machines and dryers that will save you trips to the laundromat.

### 5. Storage

Dorm rooms and college apartments aren't typically known for providing an abundance of space. The wide variety of items at Habitat ReStore give you a chance to creatively make great use of the space you do have available.



### 6. Art & Decorations

Blank walls provide a great opportunity to turn a generic dorm room or apartment into a space that is uniquely yours. Shop ReStore for great-priced artwork, frames, and more.

For an example of how you can transform an old painting into something new and unique, take a look at number six on this list of creative DIY ideas and decorating tips for dorms: <https://www.apartmenttherapy.com/dorm-room-decorating-ideas-tips-207145>

### 7. Materials for DIY Projects

Speaking of creating your own projects, sometimes the best ways to furnish and decorate your new living quarters are by making something altogether new. The possibilities for this one are nearly endless. See this HGTV article featuring 40 DIY dorm room ideas for inspiration. These ideas use a wide variety of materials you may be able to find at Habitat ReStore, including room dividers, wooden crates, book ends, rope, trunks and brass fittings: <https://www.hgtv.com/design/make-and-celebrate/handmade/33-diy-dorm-room-ideas-pictures>

Source: <https://www.habitat.org/stories/seven-college-apartment-dorm-room-items-you-can-find-at-habitat-restore>



## Coalitions Showing Their Faith Through Action

Since our inception in 1986, partnering with Coalitions to build homes has been woven into the fabric of Habitat for Humanity Summit County. Groups of churches and community organizations form Coalitions providing Volunteers to build homes, nourishment for the Volunteers building, spiritual support and contributions to offset the cost of new home construction.



*Dale Gilbert and Millie Keyser*



*PF Tawana Banks and FUMC members Bob Boltz, Rob and Melinda Chase are looking forward to learning drywall skills.*

Common Mission is one of our Coalitions. The Common Mission Coalition (CMC) is a “hybrid coalition” formed in 2015 by the joining of an Episcopal group and the HVB (Habitat Volunteer Builders). Mary Shepherd, a past Family Services Manager and current member of the coalition, coined the phrase “Common Mission” mirroring the efforts of the two groups. Today CMC is made up of 11 Churches; St John’s Episcopal, Fairlawn United Church of Christ, The Vine Fellowship Church, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Bath United Church of Christ, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, St. Hillary’s Knights of Columbus, Copley United Methodist Church, Church of Our Saviour, First Congregational Church and our newest member First United Methodist Church of Cuyahoga Falls.

First United Methodist Church of Cuyahoga Falls (FUMC), under the spiritual guidance of Pastor Michael Ward, has a long history of mission work for all ages. Here are a few of FUMC missions

- Cup Bearers bringing worship to Assisted Living communities
- Soup’s On providing a free hearty lunch and Christian fellowship
- Blessing Box stocking area “Blessing Boxes” with non-perishable foods
- Henderson Settlement of Frakes, Kentucky is a week’s long mission trip for adults and youths improving the lives for the Appalachian community.

Habitat for Humanity Summit County is honored to be added to the list of missions and welcomes First United Methodist Church of Cuyahoga Falls and their 20+ volunteers to the Common Mission Coalition. Volunteers have participated in two warehouse builds painting doors and trim while providing lunch for volunteers and Habitat staff. They are looking forward to building at the soon-to-be home of Partner Family, Tawana Bridges, in Firestone Park in the months to come.

**Roberta Dorkoff, Volunteer Manager**

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## A Prayer for Shelter

Loving God, you made us in your image and blessed us with wisdom, creativity, skill, compassion, and love. Give us sight to see your children in need, the ability to hear your call to serve, and willingness to be your hands and feet. Empower us with your strength and wisdom to build safe dwellings. Give us willing hearts, Lord, and inspire us to action. Grant us safety and protect us as we build your kingdom through building homes and communities. Transform our world and transform our hearts and minds. Make us into one people, your people like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Amen.

*From Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County*

**Learn more about becoming a  
Weekly Prayer Partner:**

[www.hfhsummitcounty.org/joinus/volunteer/](http://www.hfhsummitcounty.org/joinus/volunteer/)

JOIN 15+ AKRON AREA  
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ORGANIZATIONS IN A DAY OF  
CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY

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DAY  
WEEKEND!**



**For more information please contact  
[socialaction@templeisraelakron.org](mailto:socialaction@templeisraelakron.org)**

**MITZVAHDAYAKRON.COM**

*You're Invited!*



**Habitat for Humanity®**  
of Summit County

**October 5th, 2021 4PM- 7PM**

**Summit County ReStore**

**[www.hfhsummitcounty.org/buildinstyle/](http://www.hfhsummitcounty.org/buildinstyle/)**

Ladies, join us for an evening of shopping, wine, food, fun and fundraising to build hope in our community. Guests will have access to unlimited shopping of new and gently used purses, jewelry, and more as well exclusive early access shopping in the ReStore. Raffle tickets will be sold for a wide variety of great gift baskets as well as a 50/50.

