monthly news & updates

Habitat for Humanity® of Summit County

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First Annual Bourbon Build Event

By: Samantha Starkey, Marketing Coordinator

Cheers to Habitat for Humanity of Summit County's First Annual Bourbon Build Event! Bourbon Build took place Thursday, May 19th from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the High Street Hop House & Baxter's Speakeasy in Akron. The night was full of fun, raffles, music, food, and of course, Bourbon!

Habitat for Humanity of Summit County President & CEO, Rochelle Sibbio, and Honorary Chair, Mason Meyer from WQMX welcomed our guests. The night started with a signature event cocktail along with appetizers. Before long, it was time for the bourbon tasting on our Habitat for Humanity flight boards! The bourbon flight boards were handcrafted by our construction staff and loyal volunteers.

As the guests enjoyed jazz from the Garret-Parsons Duo, they also took notes about the three bourbons on the flight: Woodford Wheat, Woodford Rye, and Woodford Double Oaked. Many guests purchased tickets for our raffle baskets and our bourbon bottle raffle.







Bourbon Bottle

Raffle Winners

Top Shelf Raffle: Jon Oliverio

Basket #2: Jeffrey Hord Basket #3: Mike Danks





We had raffle baskets with prizes including tickets to the Cleveland Guardians and Akron Rubberducks, an overnight stay at the Blu-tique Hotel, a flavored Jim Beam raffle basket, and more! We also had a variety of Bourbon Bottles to raffle, including bottles of Pappy Van Winkle and Rip Van Winkle!

A huge thank you to our event sponsors Bologna Insurance Agency, Cohen & Co, and WQMX for helping us put on this event. Thank you to our Bourbon Build Committee, Board of Trustees, and all those who made this event possible. Event proceeds support Habitat's programming in Summit County, which builds hope through affordable housing solutions. Thank you for supporting our mission. We hope to see you at our 2nd Bourbon Build next year!





Tickets are on SALE!



Scan QR code to purchase!



Self-Defense Class

By: Kim Kerr, Family Services Manager and QLO

It seems that the pandemic is somewhat behind us, though numbers are climbing again. This feels like the first summer in years that things may be closer to "normal". I have heard so many say that the pandemic has been more difficult than dealing with illness. People have been isolated and for many, even if they have remained healthy, their mental well-being has been affected. I have wondered how people are affected by this pandemic and what can we do?

Part of our homeownership program involves attending homeownership classes. On June 8 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm, we are offering a self-defense class for our Partner families. Homeowners are also welcome to join us. So why take a self-defense class?

Self-defense according to Wikipedia is "a countermeasure that involves defending the health and well-being of oneself from harm." Taking a self-defense class can help you be aware of your surroundings. Being aware of your surroundings involves being prepared. Considering what you would do under certain circumstances can help you be more prepared. Along with being aware of your surroundings it is important to stay in a group. As you are walking to or from an event, stay in well-lit areas and avoid deserted routes. Make sure other family members know where you are going and who you will be with. It would also be helpful to share your friend's phone number with a family member.

Taking a self-defense class can also help build confidence. Many people do not have confidence in their abilities to take care of themselves without being shown in a class. Self-defense classes are often taught in a group. Attending a class may give people an opportunity to again be a part of a group. Since many have had a difficult time without interactions with others through the pandemic, it may just the time to start a new activity. I am anxious to learn how a self-defense class can help build confidence.

Lastly, self-defense classes can help with your fitness and strength. Self-defense class can be a martial arts class or a class like we are going to be taking which deals with preparing for certain situations. Thinking back to the beginning of the pandemic when many of us felt isolated and perhaps still have lingering effects from COVID, being included in an exercise program may be a perfect opportunity for getting some kind of "normal" back into our lives.

I look forward to our class regarding self-defense. If you would like to attend the self-defense class, Partner Families and Habitat Homeowners are welcome to join us on June 8.



Goodyear Hts. Build with **James & his daughter**



Lakemore Build with **Dave & Jeanne**



Lakemore Build with Cheyenne & her family





Barberton Build with **Shalyn & her family**



You Are Building 4 Homes

Your donations and volunteer time are helping build these four homes for local families in Summit County. Continue to support these builds and provide affordable housing for deserving families!