

Shaping the Community



A Hand Up, Not A Hand Out

Inside:

- ▶ **History Made.**
 - + **First** Homeowner Pays Off Mortgage
 - + Largest Group Build EVER
 - + Team Habitat Expands

Habitat Happenings

Habitat for Humanity's Bi-Annual Newsletter

Summer 2018

Key Dates

-  First Friday of Every Month
Homeownership Program Info. Session
Noon at the Habitat Office
-  Friday, August 17th
Volunteer Appreciation Event
2:30 PM - Weinhandl Home Dedication
3:00 - 4:00 PM - **Ice Cream Social**
Harris Crossing Construction Site
-  Tuesdays, October 2-23
Financial Foundations Classes
6:30 - 8:30 PM
4 week course for those interested in gaining financial skills to become homeowners.
Free Registration.
-  Friday, October 5th
4th Annual Building Haven Gala
Wolcott Galleria, 6:00 PM
An Evening of Vintage Celebration
-  November
Subaru Share the Love Event
White's Mountain Subaru
Habitat for Humanity, Hometown Charity of Choice

We were recently recognized for our transparency with a 2018 Silver Seal on our GuideStar Nonprofit Profile! Now our community, potential donors, funders, and key decision makers can tangibly see our commitment to financial accountability.



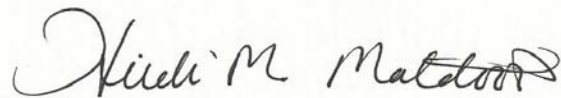
From the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

I am excited to share with you through these pages of the work we are accomplishing together! It is truly exciting to see that in the months ahead Harris Crossing, our first subdivision, will become a permanent and stable neighborhood for the families we are partnering with.

It is equally exciting to see our Habitat Family growing as each week we welcome new homebuyers, volunteers, donors, staff, and board members into our organization. My warmest thanks to YOU, our Habitat Family members - both those with years of service here and those new to our family - for lending our neighbors in need a hand up!

In partnership,



Heidi M. Maldoon
Executive Director

*Front Cover: Image taken by Lee Milner
Women Build 2018*



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Visit Our Webpage
heartofwyoming.org

Team Habitat Expands

Meet Some of the New Faces of Our Diverse Team



Alaina Binfet, owner of wyOMing Yoga & Massage, has joined our dynamic Board of Directors. Alaina is a spirited and positive individual with strengths as a successful business owner and entrepreneur.

"The purpose of my yoga studio is to provide an open and accepting space, free of judgment where one can come to grow physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually through yoga. So, **I understand the importance of community and having a safe space to call your own. I believe that helping others to the best of our ability is what drives and empowers us and creates a better world. We all rise by lifting others.**"

Board of Directors

Jim Edgeworth, President
Tim Anderson, Vice President
Tyler Stark, Treasurer
Kindra Moore, Secretary
Alaina Binfet, Member
Cheryl Callies, Member
Shauna Gibbs, Member
Jens Hansen, Member



Tanner is our Development Intern this summer and will be helping with a variety of projects and events. Tanner attends Natrona County High School where he's involved with DECA (which develops students into emerging leaders in a variety of fields). He also works in the film and television program and is obtaining certification in automotive skills. Tanner said he wanted to work for Habitat for Humanity **"because it is a great way to change not only my town but the world, one family at a time."**

Carol has extensive experience working in the non-profit world, most recently with the Prevention Management Organization of Wyoming (PMO) as Community Prevention Director. Carol has been inspired by Habitat for Humanity's work for many years.

"I've always believed people deserve safe and affordable housing," she said. **"I love the way Habitat puts the person they are serving first."** In her free time, Carol enjoys traveling, spending time with her family and cheering for the Pittsburgh Steelers.



Staff Members

Lorraine Adams, Administrative Assistant
Kelly Cooper, Program Manager
Dave Davis, Construction Site Supervisor
Tanner Ewalt, Development Intern
Carol Hall, Volunteer Coordinator
Heidi Maldoon, Executive Director
Shawn Martz, Construction Manager
Anita McCoy, Finance Manager
Jamie Smith, Design Associate

Meet the **Hayes Family**



A Chance at a New Beginning

The Hayes Family becomes the 36th Homeownership Partnership in Natrona County.

When Habitat for Humanity told Kristen Hayes, 29, that she and her daughter qualified for a house at Harris Crossing, she burst into tears and said, "Are you kidding me?" Her next question? Kristen wanted to know when she could start working on her sweat equity.

Kristen and her three-year-old daughter Riley have lived with other family members in the past and currently live in an apartment, but long for something to call their own.

"It will give me and Riley the space we need to grow and bond together and the open space she deserves," she said.

Kristen said her family is everything to her. They love to get together, but never at Kristen's home. Kristen also loves the outdoors and is very excited about the thought that she and her daughter could camp out in their own backyard in the future.

"Riley loves to ride her bike," Kristen said, but added that her daughter is forced to ride her bike in the hallway because the neighborhood is not safe.

Kristen recalled first hearing about Habitat for Humanity in high school and thought

that maybe in the future that was something she might pursue. More recently, one of her neighbors received a Habitat home and Kristen was inspired to apply.

Kristen has been a cashier at Albertson's for eight years, and she loves meeting people and hearing their stories.

But Kristen is most excited about the idea of building her own home. She said she loves to tinker with stuff and as a child took apart her toys and tried to put them back together, sometimes to her family's dismay. Now, instead of taking something apart, Kristen will be putting something together for her and Riley's future.

"Just the thought of a house is unbelievably incredible to me," she said.



Sara, who volunteered at the construction site, said that she thought Kristen looked familiar. As it turned out, Sara lost her ID at Albertsons (Kristen's place of work) and Kristen had found and returned the ID to her. Now, here is Sara helping to build Kristen's home.



Habitat Homeowner **Makes Casper Affiliate History**

Mortgage Paid In Full



Supporters of Lisa Hughes, including Mary England, Habitat for Humanity Board Member at the time of mortgage origination and Lisa's Homeownership Partner, were in attendance to cheer Lisa on as she shredded a copy of her original mortgage paperwork.

In March 2018, Lisa Hughes became the first homeowner to pay off a Habitat for Humanity mortgage in the Natrona County area.

April 27th was a historical moment in the Habitat office as the first Habitat homeowner to pay their mortgage in full was celebrated.

Lisa Hughes applied to the Homeownership Program in 1997 and waited three years for her Habitat home to be completed in 2000. Single mother of two boys, Lisa wanted her children to grow up with a place to

call home. The business owner, substitute teacher, and avid gardener owned one of the first homes in Bar Nunn. She recalls the days she had a sprawling view and when the suburb was very quiet, and still is, but now with many more young families moving into the neighborhood.

When applying to the Habitat program, Lisa thought there was no way that she would be selected.

Shocked by her approval to partner with Habitat to build her own home, Lisa said yes immediately to the house, sight and floor plan unseen. With no prior construction experience, she recalls having no clue what she was getting into and what the home would look like, but was thrilled with the open floor plan and wouldn't change a thing about the 3 bedroom home. Lisa elaborates on the benefits of having a smaller house, less cleaning and the well-insulated home keeps the heating and electrical bills to a minimum each month.

Occasionally, Lisa contemplates moving out of state now that her boys are grown, but declares she wouldn't move to another house in Casper. One of her proudest accomplishments is having her two sons attend the University of Wyoming, with her youngest son earning a full-ride academic scholarship.

With the financial freedom of no longer having a monthly mortgage payment, Lisa is looking forward to home improvement projects and purchasing a hot tub.

Construction Update at

HARRIS CROSSING

EST. 2017



BEVERLY HILLS
CONDOMINIUMS



Home One is nearing completion with minor exterior construction remaining and interior detail work left. Anticipated completion: September 2018.



Home Two is well underway as the interior ceilings and walls have been dry walled with exterior siding largely installed. Anticipated completion: December 2018.



Lots 2-12

Construction of additional homes will begin after the completion of the Summer Application Cycle concluding in August 2018.



Would you like to call Harris Crossing home?

The Homeownership Program empowers families to build a new life for themselves through the stability and security of owning their own home. Contact us today to ensure you receive an application during our next application cycle.

Future Homeowners Hit the Community



Downtown Art Walk
Breck Media Group
Refreshment Booth



CHA Father's Day Event
April 2018



**Radio Interview - 100.5
KTED Casper's Pure Rock**
Breck Media Group

Casper's ***Largest Group Build EVER***

Women Build 2018 yields a tremendous turnout

Over 100 community members were on site at the Second Annual Women Build Day to volunteer their time in an effort to support women in the construction industry. We were able to make incredible headway at the two homes under construction at the Harris Crossing Subdivision, with all framing of the exterior walls raised at the Hayes home and the first coat of paint at the Weinhandl home interior executed! Additionally, participants raised over \$10,000.

Kristen Hayes stood on the wood floor base of her future home and picked up the edge of a wall. On the count of three, she and a line of women volunteers hoisted the wall to standing.

Hayes looked through a window opening and wiped away a few tears with a free hand as she helped hold the structure. Hammers pounded as crew members on Saturday secured the first wall of the home she'll soon call her own.

The house Hayes is helping to build means safety and stability for the single mother and her 3-year-old daughter.

"This is going to be my house forever, for the rest of my life," Hayes said. "And I know that one day I'm going to be able to pass this along to my daughter and give her something that she can call her home forever."

More than 100 volunteers—mostly women—helped construct the floor and walls of her home Saturday as part of National Women Build Week.

Across the street from where Hayes' house took shape, Sarah Weinhandl joined volunteers

painting the inside of her future home.

"A lot of times people will come to something like this and they've never really had any construction experience," Maldoon said. "They walk away and they feel empowered, too, just like our homeowners."

For single mothers Hayes and Weinhandl, the homes mean security and a place to call their own and raise their children.

Since being chosen for a Habitat for Humanity home, her son has been diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes. The family has dealt with medical costs and traveling to Denver for his care, said Weinhandl, who recently was promoted to assistant manager at Porter's Mountain View Supply.



Having her own home started to feel more real as Weinhandl and volunteers rolled creamy off-white paint over her walls. But she still couldn't quite believe it, she told one of the workers. She looks forward to getting to know her future neighbors and her children making lifelong friendships like she did in her neighborhood growing up. "Plus I'm excited to wake up on Saturdays and walk out my front door and help build my neighbors' houses," she said.

"It's a big deal — all these ladies and gentlemen coming out and putting their heart and soul into something that's not even theirs," Hayes said. "It's just the most incredible thing. There's still faith in humanity."

Story Courtesy of Casper Star Tribune, Eylisa Conner



Change Makers



Big Brothers Big Sisters **Take Initiative!**



Community Impact Night

We are so impressed by the dedication, kindness, and hard work that was displayed by the Greater Wyoming Big Brothers Big Sisters of Casper. Earlier this year, Habitat received a call from BBBS asking how they could support Habitat. They championed the Pizza Ranch Fundraiser and worked hard to raise funds for affordable housing in their community.

We are so thankful for their generosity and appreciate everyone staying late (even when they had work and school in the morning) to make the fundraiser a success! Additionally, thank you to **Pizza Ranch** of Casper who presented us with a check for over \$750! Thank you to everyone who ate pizza and supported Habitat!

Roosevelt *Donates* Proceeds from **Concessions**

Habitat's future homeowner Kristen, a Roosevelt Alumni, volunteered alongside her former teachers and current Roosevelt student council members at the concession stand to fund-raise on behalf of families in need of affordable housing during the Cowboy State Feis Irish Dance Competition. Portions of the concession stand proceeds will go toward the construction of Kristen's home at the Harris Crossing Subdivision.



Community **Support**

ANB Bank



\$3,000

First Interstate Bank



\$25,000

With the addition of this recent contribution, First Interstate Bank has helped fund the construction of **eight** Habitat homes in the past five years.

U.S. Bank Foundation

\$2,500

Wells Fargo Housing Foundation

\$30,000

With Wells Fargo's investment over the past three years, **five** families now have permanent homes and a level of stability which affords family members the opportunity to thrive and grow to their full potential.

2018 Lasting Legacy Award Call for Nominations



Instituted in 2017, The Lasting Legacy Award is awarded annually by the Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors in recognition of the **selfless contribution of an individual or group of individuals.**

Habitat for Humanity is accepting nominations for The Lasting Legacy Award for 2018 until August 31, 2018. The following attributes should be considered:

- Nominee may be an individual or group of individuals
- Nominee should have directly supported the work of the organization in any or all of the following areas and functions: construction, administrative, community involvement, and other support functions
- Nominee's length of service to the organization will be considered
- Eligible nominees include but are not limited to current and/or former volunteers, committee members, staff and/or board members, and community members

Past recipients include:

2017 - Don and Hallie Harris for founding the organization in 1994 and their unwavering dedication and service to the organization since its inception.

Nominees will be honored at the 4th Annual Building Haven Gala on Friday, October 5, 2018. The nomination form can be obtained at www.heartofwyoming.org.

Job Site Trailer Donated



During the winter months, all of the snow and frigid temperatures require a place for our volunteers to come in from the cold and stay warm. Thank you **Rob Hill**, an instructor at Pathways Innovation Center, for lending Habitat a job site trailer for use at Harris Crossing Subdivision. The trailer will serve as a meeting place for volunteers and Habitat staff while providing essential on-site storage.

Nursing Students Aid



Thank you Casper College nursing students, Nachele Harbaugh (left) and Samantha Lubenow (right), for volunteering your time to help our office with the last newsletter mailing!

Nearly 600 application packets for the Homeownership Program are mailed out and distributed each year. (There's a big need!)

Homeowner Gives Back



Sabrina Hurst, Habitat's 34th homeowner, is giving back to the organization, excavating lots for future homeowners at Harris Crossing. Sabrina, a heavy equipment operator, helped to build her own home and moved in with her two children in December of 2017. One of the most remarkable aspects of the Homeownership Program is that *our partnerships with homeowners often continue long after a partner family closes on their home.*

Construction Heroes

Meet the construction *regulars* who volunteer to **BUILD** strength & *stability*.



Standing-left to right; Greg Olson, Cort Wales, Dave Davis, Mike Miller, Cindy Armstrong, Diane Henshaw, Phillip Murphy
Kneeling-left to right; Shawn Martz (Construction Manager), Dean Brennan
Dogs-left to right; Sadie, Gunner, Peanut

These are the faces of the volunteers that work each week to build Casper residents homes and improve the lives of their neighbors through shelter.

The regular construction crew members begin their day with a tool belt, a passion for helping others, and a group of friends coming together to work towards a common goal; everyone deserves a decent place to live. Habitat volunteers show up to build for various reasons, but they usually stay for the same motive; the camaraderie.

Behind the scenes of every Habitat home are the regular construction volunteers that show up each Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday to build a home for someone they initially know very little about. Primarily composed of retirees, these individuals sacrifice their time to better the community they live in knowing that a family in need will eventually move in. And it is not easy work. The physical demand of hoisting roof trusses into place, hammering nails for four-hours-straight, and pouring concrete is no small task. This crew starts at the foundation and doesn't quit until the last faucet is installed. And repeat.

Collectively, these volunteers have clocked thousands of hours and an impressive amount of year's experience between them.

This group is not unlike any other club, but these members physically work diligently to build a lasting impact. It is rare to find a group of people with such big hearts, freely giving of their time and skill in such a proactive and productive manner.

Not all heroes wear capes, ours don hard hats.

We caught up with Habitat's Construction Manager, Shawn Martz, to hear what he had to say.

"I feel called to do this." Shawn joined Habitat nearly 12 years ago and continues because he feels called to give back to his community through this work and empowered by the organization to do so.

Shawn's love for helping both our homeowners and community members is compelling. He appreciates the opportunity to build with our homeowners as well as engage community members in the physical work of constructing a home. Many have never been on a construction site and there is a sense of empowerment in learning how to use tools and be part of something tangible.

What attracts people to Habitat?

The opportunity to give back in a tangible way to those less fortunate.

Porter's Wins the Igloo Cup!

Cold Weather Building Challenge

For most of us, winter in Wyoming is spent indoors avoiding the harsh wind and freezing temperatures, however, this time of year is often the hardest for individuals and families with a lack of safe and affordable housing.

Undeterred by the snow, each winter volunteers brave the cold in an effort to continue the construction of homes for local families in need. In appreciation of those hardy volunteers, 2018 marks the debut of the Igloo Cup.

Congratulations to Porter's Mountain View Supply of Casper, employer of future homeowner Sarah, for working on the coldest group build day this winter at a *blustery* 6 degrees.



Porter's Mountain View Supply
February 2018

Volunteer Team **Build Days**

THANK YOU!



29° Wells Fargo
January 2018



36° WCDA
February 2018



'Dream Team'
March 2018



Kiwanis Club
April 2018



First Interstate Bank
June 2018



Non-Profit Org
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HABITAT FOR HUMANITY, THE HEART OF WYOMING
PRESENTS

An Evening of Vintage Celebration

BUILDING HAVEN GALA

CHARLESTON EVENING
SPONSORS:

 **ANB Bank**

ROCKY MOUNTAIN
BRAKE SUPPLY

OCTOBER FIFTH TWO THOUSAND EIGHTEEN
SIX O'CLOCK



WOLCOTT GALLERIA BALLROOM
CASPER, WY

GUARANTEED TO BE A ROARING GOOD TIME



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