

habitat builder



Habitat
for Humanity®
of New Castle County

This Edition Powered by:
Habitat Homeowners

October 2024

Homeowner Spotlight : Sheena Porter

Sheena Porter, a single mother of a 13-year-old, struggled to make ends meet in a cramped apartment, where rent and bills consumed most of her income. Homeownership felt like an unreachable dream until she discovered Habitat for Humanity's Homebuyer Program.

"I needed a program to guide me through the steps of homeownership and wanted to be part of a community," Sheena shared. When accepted into the program, she was overjoyed at the prospect of being the first homeowner in her family.

For Sheena and her daughter, the benefits are clear: more space, peace of mind, and the security of owning their home. She's excited to work alongside volunteers to build it and to give back to her community.

"Before, I felt stuck, but now I have a path to follow," Sheena explained. She's committed to sharing her knowledge and helping others on their journey to homeownership. Through Habitat, she's not only building a home but also creating a brighter future for her family and community.

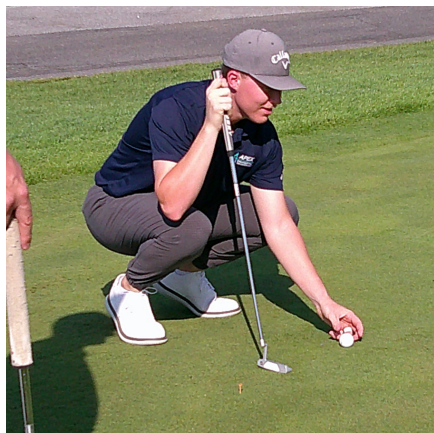


2024 Golf Outing Recap



We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who participated in our September Golf Outing. Your support helps further our mission of providing safe, affordable housing to families in our community. A special thank you goes to IFMA and our sponsors for their incredible generosity. Your involvement truly made this day a success.

The day started with registration and lunch; then, with instructions from the Golf Pro, golfers were on their way to the 1st hole to tee off. There were some fantastic rounds of golf on the beautiful Hartefeld course, where friendly competition was matched only by the camaraderie shared among players. As the afternoon gave way to evening, we gathered for our ball drop, a delightful networking dinner and Silent Auction while sharing stories, laughs, and the common goal of supporting Habitat for Humanity's vital work.



During dinner, we heard from a Habitat homeowner who shared how grateful she is for our work and for Habitat helping make her dreams a reality for her and her family. The day was a culmination of hard work from Habitat and the dedication of all who support our mission. Thank you again for making this event a memorable and impactful experience. We look forward to seeing you again in 2025. If you want to sponsor next year's Golf Outing, contact Kathi Barber at development@habitatncc.org.



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Edgemoor Gardens Press Conference

In September, Habitat for Humanity of New Castle County and the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) held a press conference to announce a transformative community project in Edgemoor Gardens. This initiative marks a significant step toward improving the neighborhood's living conditions and environmental sustainability.

The project focused on rehabilitating the community resource center, improving energy efficiency, and implementing environmentally conscious solutions. Through this partnership, DNREC provided expertise and resources to enhance the center's energy efficiency, helping to reduce utility costs and lower the community's overall environmental footprint.

The event was attended by local government officials, community leaders, and residents, all expressing their excitement for this project's positive impact. Habitat's CEO, Kevin Smith, spoke on the importance of Habitat collaborating with DNREC, emphasizing how the combination of affordable housing efforts and environmental sustainability will create long-lasting benefits for Edgemoor Gardens families. County Executive Matt Meyer had the same sentiments, as he knows the community very well and is excited to see what growth and community care will look like for these new spaces.

In addition to improving the resource center, the partnership will include educational workshops for residents on sustainable living practices. This will empower the community to maintain the upgrades and make environmentally friendly choices for years.

The collaboration between Habitat for Humanity and DNREC exemplifies the power of public-private partnerships to foster community development while addressing critical environmental concerns. Both organizations are committed to making Edgemoor Gardens a healthier, greener, and more affordable place to live.



Left to right: Roshida Austin, County Executive Matt Meyer, Councilman John Cartier, Roz Ellis, Kevin Smith and Secretary Shawn M. Garvin



Take a Tour with Our CEO: Kevin Smith's Guided Site Visits

Are you curious about the impact Habitat for Humanity of New Castle County is making in the Wilmington community? We invite you to experience it firsthand by joining one of our exclusive site tours led by our CEO, Kevin Smith. His passion for our mission shines as he guides you through various Habitat sites around Wilmington. Over 60 minutes, you'll look at the homes we are building or have already completed. Along the way, Kevin shares the rich history behind each project, from the families we serve to the volunteers and partnerships that make our work possible.

This tour is more than just a walk-through; it's a unique opportunity to engage directly with our CEO. Ask questions, hear about our future plans, and learn how you can get involved in transforming lives through affordable housing. Whether you're a long-time supporter or new to our cause, this tour offers a deeper connection to the heart of Habitat's work.

Space is limited, so don't miss your chance to see our mission in action and be inspired by the work in Wilmington. For more information or to schedule your tour, please contact Kathi Barber at development@habitatncc.org.

Volunteering With Us

Volunteer with Habitat for Humanity of New Castle County! Make a lasting impact in your community by volunteering with us. Whether you're interested in building homes, assisting in our ReStores, or joining our neighborhood revitalization projects, we have opportunities for individuals and groups of all skill levels.

Your time and talents help us provide affordable housing and build stronger, more sustainable communities.

Join us in transforming lives through service! For more information, contact Eric Pichalski, our Volunteer Coordinator, at volunteer@habitatncc.org or call 302-652-0365 x107.



Volunteer group from JPMorgan Chase

Prices Corner ~Habitat ReStores~ Middletown

DONATE, SHOP, AND VOLUNTEER AT OUR RESTORES!

Donations Made Easy!

Schedule your donation pickup online at habitatncc.org/restore, email us at restoredonations@habitatncc.org, or call 302-652-5181.

- **FREE Regular Pickup:** Ensure your donation is placed outside or in a covered area for pickup. Self-schedule your donation on our website.
- **PAID Priority Pickup:** Need a faster or specialized pickup? Partnering with ReSupply, we offer priority pickups for a small fee. [Click here](#) to schedule.

Exciting Updates from the ReStore!

- Prices Corner ReStore achieved a record-breaking \$1.2 million in sales! These proceeds directly support Habitat for Humanity of New Castle County's mission.
- We qualified for the Large ReStore Conference in LA, reserved for the top 10% of ReStores in the nation.
- We welcomed Dennis Martin as our new full-time Corporate Donation Procurement Lead.
- We received 5,660 material donations and logged over 6,000 volunteer hours—equivalent to 3 full-time employees!

Shop with Us!

- **Prices Corner ReStore:** 3312 Seminole Ave, Wilmington, DE 19808
 - Hours: Tues–Sat, 10:00 am–5:00 pm
- **Middletown ReStore:** 600 N. Broad St, Middletown, DE 19709
 - Hours: Wed–Sat, 10:00 am–5:00 pm

Shop Online!

Our Habitat ReStore on eBay is now open for business. Visit www.ebay.com/usr/habitatrestorencc to find unique items available exclusively online and shipped directly to your door.

Volunteer at the ReStore!

Help us keep our stores running smoothly. If you enjoy working inside, our ReStore is the perfect place for you. We welcome individuals and small groups. For more information, contact our Volunteer Coordinator Eric Pichalski at volunteer@habitatncc.org or 302-652-0365 x107.



SCAN HERE TO SHOP
OUR ONLINE STORE

Habitat's First-Time Homebuyer Program

Habitat's First-Time Homebuyer Program prepares, educates, and assists individuals in their journeys to become homeowners in New Castle County. Habitat offers a 0% mortgage and homes with a net zero energy bill and are carbon-free. To qualify, applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Ability to Pay: Participants must show a stable income and the ability to repay a zero-interest mortgage. Income should fall within 35% to 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI) for New Castle County. Creditworthiness and debt levels will also be considered.
2. Willingness to Partner: Applicants must contribute 200–400 "sweat equity" hours by volunteering with Habitat, helping build their own home or other Habitat homes, and participating in homeowner education workshops.
3. Residency: Applicants must have lived or worked in New Castle County for at least one year before applying.

4. Commitment to the Program: Participants must complete financial education and homeownership training courses to prepare for a home.

By meeting these requirements, applicants can partner with Habitat to build a better future through affordable homeownership.

Learn more about Habitat's First-Time Homebuyer Program by visiting www.habitatncc.org/homeownership or by scanning the QR code.



"A Portrait of Perseverance" Remembering Shareba Waters

We are deeply saddened by the passing of Shareba Waters, a cherished Habitat for Humanity of New Castle County's Homebuyer Program participant. Shareba was dedicated to achieving her dream of homeownership, working tirelessly through the program's steps from financial workshops to sweat equity hours. Her strength, perseverance, and love for her family inspired all who knew her.

Though Shareba passed before completing her journey, her spirit and commitment left a lasting impact on our Habitat community. We extend our heartfelt condolences to her family and friends, and we will honor her memory by continuing to help families achieve their dreams of homeownership.



Shareba Waters