Building Hope Spring Newsletter

Volunteer

Tom Barnett

Tom has volunteered for Habitat of Porter County since 2001. He has over the years, served multiple roles as President, Vice President, Building Chairman, volunteer coordinator.

Tom has been a resident of Porter County most of his life. He is currently the Manager of Environmental for Cleveland Cliffs, Indiana Harbor plant.

Now working on his 28th house with us, Tom has seen the good that is being done for families in need who are willing to work to better their situation. Our families are not given homes, they have to work for them, and at the end, they have a modest mortgage.

Most of all he likes the Habitat motto – "A hand-up, not a hand-out."

Tom Shares His Blueprint for Building Hope...

Years of Service: Started in the fall of 2001, right after 9/11.

Connection to Habitat for Humanity: After going to a service at the Valparaiso University Chapel for the victims of 9/11, I sat and I asked myself, "what am I doing to help my fellow citizens?". I called Ken Hill, a buddy who volunteered for Hilltop Neighborhood House. He said, knowing I had built my own house, that I needed to go work with Habitat. So, he gave me Bob Buhle's number, and the next Saturday I showed up with my hammer and my work pouch. Two months later I was on the Board.

Inspiration to Continue to Serve? The fun of the work, the comradery, the pleasure of creating a home from the ground up for folks who need one and are willing to volunteer and help themselves.

Favorite Power Tool or On-Site Construction Task and Why? It is all fun work. However, I think working on their home, directing large groups, and getting the walls up are the biggest thrill. When the walls go up, you know we are on our way to completing the home!

Donate

Attainable Homeownership Tax Credit
What if I told you there was a way to improve your community *and* 2025 tax options all at once? With the Attainable Homeowner Tax Credit (AHTC) program you can! The AHTC program lets taxpayers

donate to Habitat for Humanity of Indiana benefiting the Porter County affiliate and receive half of that amount back in the form of a tax credit. **This credit directly lowers your Indiana state tax liability on your 2025 Indiana income tax bill.**

This allows you to choose where your tax dollars are invested and helps Habitat bring families the stability that only a home can provide. Since the start of the AHTC program, **taxpayers across Indiana have given over $4 million to Habitat for Humanity**! This has resulted in approximately **50 additional homes built or repaired** which helps **over 200 people. If we raise all $8 million in tax credits, this will result in 100 additional homes and around 400 people served**!

Questions about this tax credit program? **Please email Samantha Fisher: sfisher@portercountyhabitat.org or (312) 718-2459.** We appreciate your generosity and support to help us build up our community for hardworking neighbors in need of affordable homeownership.

Land Lot Donations
Habitat is in need of buildable land lots for hardworking families in need. Please contact our office to learn more about donation and tax credit options available for your land contributions: **mail@portercountyhabitat.org or (219) 531-0359.**

Get Involved

Skill-Based Committee Support
We are looking for skill-based volunteers to support Development, Marketing, and Construction Committee needs of our mission. These roles can be remote and / or on-site to accommodate your availability. Below are current Committee project needs. If interested please contact our office to learn more: mail@portercountyhabitat.org or (219) 531-0359.

Development Committee Project Needs: Donor Development, Corporate Giving, Special Event Support

Marketing Committee Project Needs: Social Media and Graphic Design Support

Construction Committee Project Needs: Construction Material Donation and Land Lot Search Support