



Building Hope Autumn Newsletter



An exciting introduction!

We are thrilled to announce our new Executive Director, Kristin Marlow!



Kristin brings over a decade of nonprofit leadership experience and a deep commitment to community-driven development, sustainable housing, and volunteer engagement. Most recently, she served as Executive Director for the American Red Cross Indiana Region, where she led community resilience initiatives across 19 counties. In that role, she strengthened partnerships through implementing collective impact strategies and equitable resource allocation models to strengthen vulnerable communities. Her leadership has shaped large-scale disaster operations, guided emergency response partnerships with local

government officials, inspired teams to deliver mission-critical services and championed equitable access to preparedness and recovery resources during times of crisis.

Her extensive background with Habitat for Humanity of Northwest Indiana further reflects her dedication to Habitat's mission. During her 17-year tenure there, she launched the "A Brush with Kindness" wheelchair ramp and wall panel build construction programs, managed major ReStore expansion projects and developed volunteer and partnership models that continue to serve families today.

Kristin's leadership style centers on collaboration, innovation, and faith in action. She is passionate about empowering volunteers and partners to build not only homes, but stronger, more resilient communities.

Kristin holds a Bachelor of Science in Business, Sales and Sales Management from Western Governors University and Architectural Engineering and Construction Technology from Purdue University. She has served on the board for Habitat for Humanity of Northwest Indiana since 2009, the past 2 years as the Board President, and continues to advocate for affordable housing access and sustainable community growth across the region. Prior to entering the nonprofit sector, she spent 16 years in business operations and sales management regional leadership in industrial markets throughout Indiana and Illinois, with a focus on metal working and heavy equipment.

Her contact information is kmarlow@portercountyhabitat.org and she can also be reached at 219.781.7763.

Volunteer



Jonah Besch

Jonah has been on the Board of Directors for the past 13 years and served three terms on the Executive Committee. His connection to Habitat grew out of a commitment to Jesus' command to "Love your neighbor as yourself" and desire to be involved in his community.

Jonah graduated from Purdue University with a degree in Construction Management and worked in Construction Management (primarily in commercial construction) for 15 years. His experience and desire to invest in his community led him to Habitat for Humanity of Porter County. "I am proud to be part of a Board of Directors that have all selflessly given their time to help build something greater together than what we could do as individuals. Since joining the Board, I have been a part of 23 homes that have benefitted 23 different and unique families. The joy of seeing a child go from having unsuitable or unsafe housing to seeing their new house and new bedroom that is theirs is so impactful. To see a parent reassured that they will be able to provide a safe and well-constructed house that their family can grow in and call home is a reward for all involved."

Jonah is married to his college sweetheart, Kristine, and they have one child, who is a freshman at Purdue University this year. Over the years Jonah, Kristine and their son, Miles, have helped volunteer with Habitat and those build days remain a favorite family activity. Jonah works as a financial consultant with Thrivent Financial, who is also a committed contributor to the mission here in Porter County. He and his family attend Calvary Church in Valparaiso, who continues to be a partner in the mission as well.

Jonah shares his Blueprint for Building Hope...

Years of Service: 13

Connection to Habitat for Humanity: Board Member, Past Board President and Vice President, eager build day volunteer when time allows.

What inspires you to continue to serve: Working together with a great group of volunteers and Future Homeowners to make impactful changes to our partner families lives

Favorite power tool or on-site construction task and why: Favorite power tool is a drill as it can be used for so much more than just drilling including polishing metal, cutting, and routing wood.

Donate



MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAM LAUNCHES

[*Habitat Key Supporters](#) is our **Monthly Giving Program** consisting of a group of our **most valued partners dedicated to supporting our mission** and helping families secure safe and affordable housing in their communities. By making automatic donations each month, Key Supporters assist us by making it easier for Habitat to plan long-term and create more life-transforming outcomes for local families in need.

Monthly givers choose how much to give monthly and can update that amount as needed at any time. Habitat will make sure your donation is being put to immediate use where it is needed most to help more hardworking families access affordable housing!

By becoming a **Habitat Key Supporter** and committing to consistent monthly support, you are putting your financial donation directly into the hands of those in need and **becoming the key to our mission!**

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT!

Workplace Match/ Employee Giving Programs can help magnify your impact to our mission through donation match programs, hourly compensation donated back to Habitat, and paid volunteer hours to support building up our community. Learn more about Employer Giving Programs through your company directly or [click here to confirm if your corporate donations are matched.](#)

ATTAINABLE HOMEOWNERSHIP TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

*Maximizing Your Impact and 2025 Taxes Through Attainable Homeownership Tax Credit!

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, and any unused credits extend for up to 5 years!**

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.

Get Involved



BOARD MEMBERS

We are actively seeking new board members to join Porter County Habitat for Humanity. We are specifically looking for individuals in any of the following professional circles: Education or Social Work, Surveyor/Appraiser/Attorneys, Insurance, FQHC Provider, Marketing/Communications, Faith-based Leadership, Local Business Owners, Energy/Utility Companies, or Local Builders. If you have a heart for your community, we invite you to join us in our mission to build affordable housing for our neighbors here in Porter County.

Please contact our Executive Director, Kristin for additional information at 219.781.7763 or kmarlow@portercountyhabitat.org.

PART-TIME CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISOR OPPORTUNITY

We are looking for more than someone who is a knowledgeable construction worker. The right fit for [this job](#) will be organized, can teach volunteers including those with little to no construction experience, believes that everyone deserves a decent and safe place to live, and who is passionate about helping others and the community we are located in. If interested, please contact our office to learn more: mail@portercountyhabitat.org or (219) 531-0359.

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