



# Habitat for Humanity<sup>®</sup>

of Porter County

## Building Hope Winter Newsletter

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### New Year's Resolutions

As we welcome a new year, it's natural to reflect on personal goals and aspirations. However, this year, consider expanding your resolutions to include ways you can make a positive impact on those around you. Here are some ideas to inspire you:

#### **Volunteer Your Time**

Commit to volunteering regularly with a local organization that aligns with your values. Whether it's building homes with Habitat for Humanity, mentoring youth, or supporting the elderly, dedicating your time can make a significant difference in your community.

#### **Practice Random Acts of Kindness**

Make it a goal to perform random acts of kindness throughout the year. These small gestures, like buying a stranger's coffee or writing a heartfelt note to a friend, can brighten someone's day and foster a sense of community.

#### **Support Local Businesses**

Pledge to support local businesses and artisans. This not only strengthens the local economy but also supports the dreams and livelihoods of individuals in your community.

## Advocate for a Cause

Choose a cause you're passionate about and become an advocate. Use your voice to raise awareness, educate others, and drive change, whether it's through social media, community events, or writing to local representatives.

## Be a Thoughtful Neighbor

Make it a point to know and support your neighbors. Offer to help with groceries, organize community events, or simply take the time to check in on them. Building strong neighborhood bonds promotes a safer, more connected community.

By incorporating these resolutions into your life, you not only enrich your own experiences but also contribute to the well-being and happiness of those around you. Let's make this year a time of hope, compassion, community strength and resilience.

# Volunteer



## David Murch

### David's Blueprint for Building Hope:

My wife, Erika, and I moved to Valparaiso with our two children, Wyatt (8) and Cora (6), in the spring of 2021. I work for ServiceNow as a product manager for mobile applications, but at heart I've always been a builder and hands-on problem solver.

### Years of Service:

I first volunteered with Habitat about 22 years ago during college at Ohio State. Since then, I've joined a handful of single-day builds through work, but it wasn't until 2024 that I got involved with Habitat for Humanity of Porter County. I've been volunteering for about a year and a half now.

### **Connection to Habitat for Humanity:**

Habitat's mission has always stuck with me. A safe, stable home is one of the most important foundations a family can have, and I love that Habitat focuses on building exactly that. I also grew up working in my family's small-town hardware store, so building and fixing things is in my nature and has always brought me joy. Habitat lets me combine that personal joy with work that genuinely strengthens families and communities—a perfect fit.

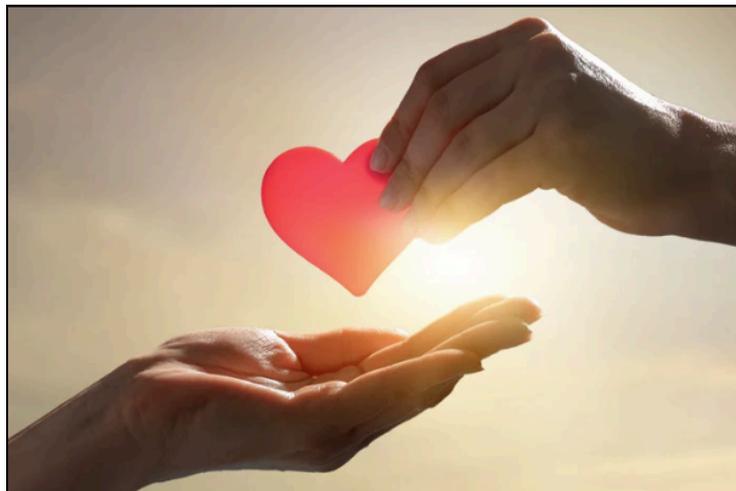
### **What inspires you to continue to serve:**

After settling into Valpo, I kept telling my wife that I wanted to find a meaningful way to volunteer, and Habitat was always in the back of my mind. When I drove past the build site on Valparaiso Street and saw the Habitat sign, that was the nudge I needed to get online and sign up. From my very first volunteer day, I knew I had found something special. The Porter County regular volunteer team is a fantastic group, and I'm grateful to work alongside them. I'm also fortunate that ServiceNow encourages volunteering, which lets me carve out one day a week to be on-site.

### **Favorite power tool or on-site construction task and why:**

My favorite on-site task is framing. It's like a big jigsaw puzzle and I enjoy using nail guns and hammers to build the walls. Even more than the tools, I love watching the walls go up. That's the moment when a foundation becomes a house, and you can start to see a future home taking shape for the first time.

## **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 2026 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 2026 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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

**Administrative Team Needs:** Joining the team in the office for some administration help (2-4 hours a week).