



Habitat for Humanity[®]

of Porter County

Building Hope Spring Newsletter



Strategic Milestones: Framing A Strong Future

It is an exciting season of growth at Habitat for Humanity. As we look back on our recent successes and cast a vision for the future, we are proud to share the strategic milestones that guide our mission of bringing people together to build homes, communities, and hope.

From increasing our construction capacity to enhancing how we connect with our supporters, here is a look at our progress and the road ahead.

FY24: Strengthening the Foundation

Our focus for the 2024 Fiscal Year was on "capacity building"—ensuring we had the digital and human infrastructure to support a busier build schedule.

- **Construction:** Successfully completed (2) **new homes**, providing stable housing for local families.
- **Infrastructure:** Welcomed a new **part-time Administrative Employee** to streamline our daily operations. Charis Cotton joined our team and created the foundation and framework for many of our updated internal systems and processes. We look forward to all the advances we will make with her expertise and energy!
- **Digital Presence:** Launched a **brand-new website**, making it easier for volunteers to sign up and for the community to see our impact.
- **National Alignment:** Integrated with the new **Habitat for Humanity International direct marketing plan**, ensuring our messaging is consistent with the global mission while staying locally relevant.

FY25: Streamlining the Mission

In FY25, we maintained our building momentum while focusing on streamlined donor experience.

- **Construction:** Hit our target of **(2) home builds**.
- **Online Giving Upgrades:** Acquired and launched a **new online giving platform**. This upgrade simplified the donation process, allowing us to process gifts more securely and efficiently than ever before.

FY26: Increasing Our Impact

This year marks a significant "step up" in our community engagement efforts.

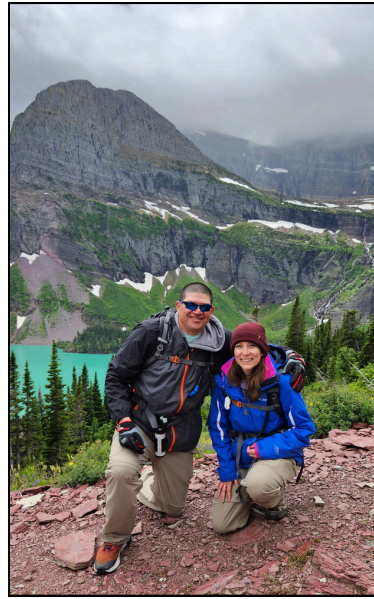
- **Construction:** We are maintaining a consistent **(2) home builds** per year while actively searching/ acquiring future lots to build.
- **Development:** To support our future growth, we hired an **Executive Director** in lieu of a dedicated Development Employee, to focus on community partnerships as well as fundraising and donor relations. Kristin Marlow has done an exceptional job advocating and elevating our mission. We look forward to the big goals and strategic strides ahead under her leadership!
- **Community Engagement:** We were thrilled to have hosted our **2nd Annual Executive Build** this past October. This event welcomes community and corporate leaders for a day of service, networking, and building up our community together.

FY27: Sustaining the Future

Looking toward FY27, we are moving into a phase of high-volume production and long-term sustainability. Our goals ahead focus on:

- **Construction:** We will reach a new mission milestone by striving to complete **(4) home builds** in a single year.
- **Field Operations:** We are currently seeking a **part-time Construction Supervisor**.
- **Major Gifts:** We will launch a **Major Gifts Campaign**, inviting visionary donors to make deep, multi-year investments in the future of our community.

Volunteer



Michelle and Sergio- A Blueprint for Building Hope

I have wanted to volunteer with Habitat since I was in college, but the timing was never right. I have always enjoyed creating, doing projects around the house, and learning new things. As a teacher, helping others is second nature. Sergio has always enjoyed lending a helping hand and creating relationships with new people. After moving to Indiana, we were finally in a place to be able to invest the time we wanted to volunteer.

Years of Service

We have been volunteering with habitat since spring of 2023. After running a 5K in Valparaiso, we visited a house volunteers were finishing up. Now, Habitat is something that we look forward to every weekend.

What inspires you to continue to serve

Sergio and I both enjoy helping others and spreading joy. Being new to the area, we were starting to build our own foundation and our own home. With that, we wanted to build connections within the community. When we visited the first build site, the welcoming atmosphere, comradery, and compassion of the group hooked us. Now that we have established our home, we find joy in building homes for families so they can do the same.

Favorite power tool or on-site construction task and why

My favorite power tool is the nail gun because nail guns mean framing, but nails themselves also remind me of my youth. Growing up, I remember my dad always hammering in nails when we worked on projects. Every time I use the nail gun, I think about how much faster projects could have gone, but maybe not using one was part of a different plan. Sergio's favorite on-site construction task is doing the flooring. He enjoys the methodical rhythm of laying the tiles and seeing the finished product. To him, this is the step where the house really begins to look and feel like a home.

Donate



2026 ATTAINABLE HOMEOWNERSHIP TAX CREDITS AVAILABLE!

*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 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.

MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAM!

***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.](#)



Huge thank you to NWI Home Builders Association Parade of Homes Awards Night (formerly the “Gala”) that recently united over 170 industry leaders for one big cause on March 20th. Our Executive Director and BOD members served on the steering committee to help make this gathering a special night of celebration and generosity. It was an inspiring evening filled with recognition, celebration, and community. Over \$15,000 was raised by local Builders and our Habitat BOD to support building more safe and affordable housing for hardworking neighbors in our community!

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

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