

the builder



Fall 2022

Expanding Our Footprint

Paterson Habitat for Humanity will change its name to Passaic County Habitat for Humanity **beginning January 1, 2023**. This name more accurately reflects our existing work and will support our strategic expansion to serve Passaic County as a whole.

The change comes out of an extensive strategic planning process involving staff, a community of our supporters, and our Board of Directors, which led to the creation of our Fiscal Year 2021-2025 Strategic Plan, "40 & Beyond". As we expand our footprint, we must acknowledge that the affordable housing crisis is crippling families across all of Passaic County. For example, in Passaic County, **47.9% of renters are cost burdened paying 30% or more of their income on rent**. The need for affordable places to call home is greater than it has been in a generation.

Paterson Habitat began in 1984, exclusively building homes for 36 years in the City of Paterson, where we have constructed 286 homes and served over 350 families to date. While much of our work has been confined to Paterson, our ReStore has been located in Wayne for the past ten years. Further, over the past two years, building on previous collaborative development efforts, we embarked on our first solo development project outside of Paterson, the redevelopment of the Albert Lawson Memorial VFW Post, located at 135 Summer Street in the City of Passaic. We are currently partnering with the City of Passaic on this mixed-use project which will offer a new home for the VFW Post #10117 and provide four affordable homeownership opportunities.

We will leverage the experience and expertise we have developed over the past 38 years to bring our traditional volunteer-supported homebuilding efforts, and a new home preservation solution, to all of Passaic County while continuing our work in our hometown of Paterson.

"We have decided that 2023 is the right time for a brand refresh and for our name to more accurately reflect the communities we serve, as well as acknowledge our expanding work beyond the City of Paterson; bringing safe affordable housing to the whole of Passaic County," said CEO, Scott Millard.

Our commitment to bring people together to build homes, communities, and hope remains the same in Paterson and now reaches throughout Passaic County. Paterson is our history, our home, and a central part of our future. We look forward to partnering with all sixteen Passaic County municipalities to ensure **all people** in our county have access to the transformational power of safe, stable, and affordable housing. **With your support, we will serve more families than ever before in Paterson and beyond.**



“Our ability to build homes, community, and hope has evolved beyond Paterson. The name change serves as a reflection of our organization’s growth and expansion.”

A Note from Scott

CEO, Paterson Habitat for Humanity

As we celebrate the traditional season of harvest we at Paterson Habitat are also preparing to begin harvesting. A year ago in my fall newsletter column I talked about planting, planting foundations for new homes. A year ago we planted the foundations for five new homes two days before Thanksgiving and now we are ready to begin harvesting, turning dreams into realities for five more families. AND we are also getting ready to plant again for eight families this time who, with your help, will end 2023 very differently than they will end 2022. With your help and generous support of our 2022 year end campaign, BUILD HOPE NOW, these 8 families will end 2023 with their dreams of safe, stable, home ownership realized. Planting and harvesting and planting again, together we can build hope!

Gala Celebration: Paterson & Beyond

On Thursday, September 22nd, Paterson Habitat supporters from across the state gathered together at the Westmount Country Club for an incredibly special evening. Together we honored Railroad Construction Co., Inc. (RCC) with the Millard Fuller Award. The philanthropic spirit at RCC is part of the company fabric and is written into the company charter. The spirit permeates throughout the team at RCC as they generously volunteer their own time and resources to many causes. We are extremely grateful for RCC's continued support and dedication to the Paterson community.

We also shared the story of Mustapha and Haja, who recently became Habitat homeowners on Clinton Street in Paterson. We visited with them several weeks ago to hear more about their road to homeownership and how the life-changing opportunity to purchase a home of their own has changed their lives forever.

Throughout the evening our mission remained the focus as we raised funds to continue our work of building safe, stable, and affordable homes in our local community. We were excited to end the evening on a high note with the announcement of our brand refresh and name change to Passaic County Habitat for Humanity. This change, which begins January 2023, more accurately reflects our geographic service area and commitment to serving Passaic County as a whole.

We again extend a special thank you to our gala event sponsors, supporters, and attendees.

Gala Sponsors:



Scan to watch

Our interview with RCC and hear Mustapha and Haja's story.



A Safe Place to Play

On Friday, September 9th Paterson Habitat was joined by Paterson Mayor Andre Sayegh and representatives from Wells Fargo to celebrate the groundbreaking of the future Clinton Street Park, a project that will transform a vacant lot into a vibrant community green space in Paterson's Northside neighborhood.

The site, located at 63-95 Clinton Street, will feature a flexible court with an interactive water feature, a variety of seating, swings, pavement games and space for events, an open lawn for picnics and informal gatherings, green space for a variety of sports, a terraced garden which will host outdoor performances, and a street-level plaza with game tables and seating.

During the ceremony, Paterson Habitat launched its Northside Critical Repair Program, a new program offering help to eligible homeowners who need critical repairs to their homes in Paterson's Northside Neighborhood.

Following the groundbreaking, Paterson Habitat hosted a community block party for neighborhood families with resources from local organizations including a food truck, ice cream cart, school supply giveaways, and activities for children. The block party was generously funded by our corporate friends at Wells Fargo.

Construction of the park will begin soon with a ribbon cutting ceremony planned for Spring 2023.



Build Hope Now: A Year-End Giving Campaign



Paterson Habitat has kicked-off our year-end campaign, Build Hope Now with a goal to raise \$1,000,000 by December 31, 2022.

Last year you helped us far exceed our goal and enabled us to accelerate the construction of ten new homes for ten families in need of a place to call their own.

With the rising prices of construction materials, these critically needed funds will ensure that 2023 will be a life-changing and transformational year for 17 new homeowner families and that numerous families will remain safely, and stably housed through our newly launched critical repair programs. We are currently in the pre-development stage of our biggest home-building project of 2023 – eight new homes on Harrison Street in Paterson. In addition, we are in the final stages of completing our Governor 5 development and our first mixed-use project in Passaic is underway and taking shape. In Passaic, four future homeowner families and the members of the Albert Lawson VFW Post #10117 are anxiously awaiting the completion of their new homes.

Paterson Habitat's future homeowners and all the families impacted by Paterson Habitat's programs are grateful to you for Build Hope Now through donations, sponsorships, and new partnerships. Without your generosity, we truly could not fund our mission to continue to serve Paterson and beyond. Thank you!

Build Hope Today!





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Gift Planning is for Everyone

The truth is all gifts, no matter the size, can make a big difference!

Planned gifts provide the resources that create extraordinary opportunities for Paterson Habitat for Humanity's work in the community now and into the future. Naming Paterson Habitat as a beneficiary in an IRA, life insurance policy, other financial instrument, or in your will is a simple way to provide for Paterson Habitat's future stability and growth. If you've already included Paterson Habitat in your estate plans, please let us know so we may welcome you into our **Legacy Circle**.

For more information about ways to plan and build a lasting legacy, contact Phillip Keefe at (973) 595-6868 ext. 106 or Phil@patersonhabitat.org