



HOMEOWNER NEWSLETTER ISSUE #2

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We're excited to share news, updates, and resources to help you stay connected to the Habitat ChesCo community. Inside this newsletter, you'll find highlights of homeowners, seasonal home maintenance tips, upcoming events, local community resources, and stories from fellow homeowners. Every edition will bring fresh information, helpful guidance, and ways to get involved, so you can see how your homeownership journey continues to impact your family and the community.

Homeowners Highlight

A Habitat home is more than a place to live; it's where traditions are built, milestones are celebrated, and futures are secured. This issue, we're honored to highlight two powerful homeownership stories that reflect the lasting impact of safe, stable housing.

For Crystal and her family, home has been the heart of holiday celebrations for an entire decade. After partnering with Habitat ChesCo ten years ago, her home has become a gathering place filled with love, connection, and cherished traditions. Even as her children have grown, it remains a place they return to; a reminder that homeownership creates roots that last a lifetime.

Although my children are both grown now, they still have a home to return to and it feels so good when all hearts come home for the holidays. Thank you Habitat as this is our 10th holiday season in our home. I will be eternally grateful for the blessing of homeownership.

– ***Crystal, Amaya, and AJ***



We also celebrate Carla, who recently reached an incredible milestone: paying off her mortgage and officially owning her home. This achievement represents years of hard work, perseverance, and commitment. For Carla, homeownership means more than financial freedom; it offers long-term stability, independence, and the opportunity to continue building a strong future.



Stories like Crystal's and Carla's remind us that a Habitat home is not just a starting point; it's a foundation for decades of memories, growth, and possibility. We're deeply grateful to our donors, volunteers, and community partners who make these journeys possible.

Homeownership Program

Winter Home Maintenance Reminders

- It's time to change the air filter on your heating system if it has been more than 3 months. Filters should be checked monthly and changed as needed. A clogged filter will reduce operating efficiency and cost you more to keep your house warm, and can actually damage components.
- Are you using a humidifier (either whole-house or room unit)? It is vital to ensure these units are cleaned and maintained to prevent mildew growth on or in the unit, which will spread unhealthy air and can affect allergies. If you are using a humidifier and are noticing condensation on the interior of your windows, the setting is too high and needs to be lowered. Excessive moisture in the air can lead to mold growth. Always start at a lower setting and raise it if needed for comfort.
- If you have an oil tank, make sure the tank fill area is cleared in the event of snow to ensure access for deliveries.
- Are you prepared for a possible power outage due to wind or ice storms? Have flashlights and extra batteries available. Keep extra non-perishable foods on hand. Never use a generator in an enclosed area. Refrigerators are very well insulated, and the food in the freezer can stay frozen for a day or two if you avoid opening the door. The water in your water heater will remain hot for 8-12 hours, but will not replenish once used until power is restored.
- Late winter snowstorms and then rapid melts due to quickly warming temperatures or rainfall are one of the leading causes of basement water penetration. The ground under the snow is still frozen and can not absorb water. The water needs to run off somewhere, and you don't want it to be your basement. Check your downspouts and make sure they are directed away from your foundation. In the event of snow, make sure to shovel out the outlets so all the discharge from the roof can drain away from the house.



If you have any questions about these maintenance tips or need guidance, please don't hesitate to contact us. We're happy to help!

[Contact Us](#)

Ongoing & Upcoming Habitat ChesCo Events

Habitat ChesCo events connect people, fuel our mission, and help build stable homes. Each one is an opportunity to have fun, give back, and strengthen our community.



Building A Thirst Beer Coupon Book Fundraiser

For our 10th annual fundraiser, we've expanded beyond breweries and partnered with 25 local breweries, cideries, wineries, and distilleries. Each coupon book includes vouchers for complimentary pours at participating locations, valid year-round. Purchase yours today!

Build a House... Build a Dream Contest

Join us on Saturday, March 7th, for our 23rd annual contest for fifth-graders! In this contest, students are encouraged to unleash their creativity by building a three-dimensional model home, which will be judged by professional architects, engineers, and builders. Secure your child's spot!



Hops for Homes Beer Festival

On Saturday, June 20th, enjoy an unforgettable summer experience at our 5th annual event, featuring local craft beer, food trucks, live music, vendors, and community spirit.



Mark your calendars and join the excitement! Every event you attend helps build homes and hope for local families.

Are you seeking a fun and hands-on way to make a difference? We're always looking for volunteers to help make these events successful. If you're interested, contact Christy Kane at christy@hfhcc.org.

[ChesCo Events](#)

[ReStore Events](#)

Community Resources & Events

A stable home is the foundation, but community is what makes it thrive. Habitat ChesCo is proud to highlight local resources, organizations, and events that strengthen our neighborhoods and bring people together. Explore what's happening nearby and share these opportunities with others in your community.

Arts Holding Hands and Hearts, Inc. (AHHAH): AHHAH builds equity and justice by empowering youth, strengthening families, and mobilizing communities through arts, literacy, and mindfulness.

Ongoing Events & Programs:

- **YoQi With Jan:** Wednesdays from 10 to 11 AM
 - Kennett Library, Second Floor Oak Room (320 E State St, Kennett Square, PA 19348)
 - A free movement, breath, and awareness class that integrates elements of yoga, QiGong, and meditation to increase energy, balance emotions, reduce stress, and connect us with the world around us.
- **Chester County Imagination Library (CCIL)**
 - Preschool children can enroll to receive a free, high-quality book by mail once a month, regardless of their family's income.
- **CCIL Children's Book Club & Storytime:** First Three Fridays of Every Month, from 10 to 10:30 AM
 - Kennett Library (320 E State St, Kennett Square, PA 19348)
 - This program is a free book club and storytime for children ages 2-4.

CHILDREN'S BOOK CLUB & STORYTIME
Ages 2-4

First three Fridays of the month
10:00 - 10:30 AM

Kennett Library
320 E State St.
Kennett Square, PA

Visit the Kennett Library calendar for details!

AHHAH
Kennett Library
Just Linnere Foundation

The graphic features the Chester County Imagination Library logo, an illustration of a woman reading to two children, and a QR code. Logos for AHHAH, Kennett Library, and Just Linnere Foundation are at the bottom.

Canine Partners for Life (CPL): CPL improves the quality of life and increases the independence of those with disabilities or who are in other situations of need by pairing them with professionally trained service dogs and companion dogs.

Upcoming Event:

- **CPL Spring Gala, Unleashed:**
Written in the Stars: Friday, April 17th, from 7 to 10 PM
 - Deerfield Country Club (507 Thompson Station Rd, Newark, Delaware 19711)
 - Experience an unforgettable evening celebrating the belief that some connections are simply meant to be.





Chester County OIC: The Chester County OIC opens opportunities for individuals to prepare for sustainable employment and financial independence through education, training, and support services.

Ongoing Programs:

- **English as a Second Language (ESL) Classes**
 - For beginners through advanced students, classes are held in the mornings and evenings in the West Chester location classrooms.
- **GED Classes**
 - Free GED classes are offered virtually and in-person.
- **Adult Tutoring**
 - Free one-on-one tutoring for adult learners (18+) who would like help with: reading, writing & spelling, ESL, High School Equivalency/GED, TEAS, etc.



Chester County Food Bank: The Chester County Food Bank offers food, support, and educational resources to the community.

Ongoing Programs:

- **Seed to Supper Gardening Classes**
 - A beginning gardening course for growing vegetables at home on a budget. Available in both English and Spanish, the free classes highlight practical, low-cost techniques for growing and celebrating the harvest of a successful vegetable garden.
- **Prepared Meals**
 - Provides nutritional meals to the community, including home-delivered hot meals through Meals on Wheels (hot meals delivered to homes), and frozen, microwavable meals through Simple Suppers, Summer Meals for Kids, and Sunshine Meals.

Community Warehouse Project: The Community Warehouse Project provides household goods and furnishings to Chester County families and individuals in need, at no charge.



Coatesville Youth Initiative: The Coatesville Youth Initiative (CYI) is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to fostering youth-led, transformational community change. They train youth leaders, enhance family relationships, encourage prevention education, and build community collaboration.

Ongoing Programs:

- **Mind Mavericks**
 - The First and Third Monday of Every Month from 4 to 5:30 PM | CYI Office
 - A club dedicated to creating a supportive space for youth to explore and discuss various aspects of mental health, learn coping strategies, and foster a sense of community.
- **Coatesville Community Coalition**
 - CYI's Community Coalition brings together community members, residents, and local organizations to foster collaboration, address community needs, and prioritize local issues to drive community change.



Domestic Violence Center of Chester County (DVCCC):

The Domestic Violence Center of Chester County (DVCCC) provides free services to help survivors of domestic violence.

Upcoming Event:

- **10th Annual High School Student Art Contest**
 - Monday, March 30th, through Friday, April 3rd | John H. Baker Gallery at West Chester University
 - High school-aged artists (grades 9–12) who live in Chester County or attend school in Chester County are invited to participate in the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County's 10th Annual Student Art Contest!



THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CENTER OF CHESTER COUNTY'S 10TH ANNUAL High School Student Art Contest & Exhibition

March 30 – April 3, 2026

John H. Baker Art Gallery at West Chester University

Thank you to our hosts at the
John H. Baker Art Gallery



and our event sponsors



Ellie Mental Health: Ellie Mental Health is a judgment-free clinic that offers a range of therapy options for adults, children, and couples, both in-person and online, nationwide. They often share tips on their Facebook [page](#).

Kennett Collaborative: The Kennett Collaborative is a non-profit organization that promotes, encourages, and enhances the economic, community, and social vitality of Kennett Square.

Ongoing Event:

- **Kennett Square Farmers Market**

- Every other Friday from now through April 17th, from 3 to 5:30 PM
- Meet and shop with local farmers, food makers, and more in Kennett Square.



Safe Harbor of Chester County: Safe Harbor of Chester County provides emergency housing, food, and access to support services in a structured environment for unhoused single men and women in Chester County.

Upcoming Event:

- **Trivia Night**

- Thursday, February 26th, at 6 PM
- Chester County History Center in West Chester, PA
- Enjoy a lively evening of trivia, community, and giving back—all in support of Safe Harbor!



NAMI Chester County: NAMI Chester County offers free mental health support services, programs, education, and advocacy.

Support Groups & Programs:

- **NAMI Family Support Group**

- The 3rd Tuesday of Every Month from 7 to 8:30 PM
- Lincoln Center Office Park (150 John Robert Thomas Drive, Exton, PA 19341)
- A free, confidential, and safe group of families helping other families who live with mental health challenges.

- **NAMI Connection Recovery Support Group**

- **Online:** The 1st Monday of Every Month from 6 to 7:30 PM
- **In-Person:** The 2nd Wednesday of Every Month from 6 to 7:30 PM
- Equity Health Center (744 Lincoln Hwy. E, 4th Floor, Coatesville, PA 19320)
- A free, peer-led support group for any adult who has experienced symptoms of a mental health condition.



The Bridge Academy & Community Center: The Bridge Academy & Community Center is a community service organization in Coatesville that provides after-school programs, tutoring for kids, classes, and resources for families at no cost.

Ongoing Programs:

- **School-Year Programs**
 - The center offers elementary programs, secondary academic programs, special electives, Middle School Night, and Teen Night/Young Life/Campaigners.
- **Foundations & Futures**
 - This program aims to empower families by providing personalized support, practical resources, and opportunities for growth.

The Garage Youth Center: The Garage Youth Center is an after-school and youth development program serving middle and high school students in Kennett Square and Avondale.

Ongoing Programs:

- **Garage After School Program**
 - Monday through Thursday, 2:30 to 6 PM
 - 115 South Union Street, Kennett Square, PA 19348
 - An after-school program that provides free academic support, daily enrichment activities, and access to tutoring and mentoring for middle and high school students.
- **Special Programs**
 - Students who participate in the after-school and summer programs have the opportunity to participate in several special activities and services. Each one is designed to cultivate skills and foster growth in a different area of the student's life, be it academic, relational, vocational, or spiritual.



Habitat ChesCo ReStores: Your Local Home Goods Thrift Store

Do you have items you no longer need?

Drop off gently used goods or schedule a pickup for larger donations. Donation drop-off hours are Wednesday through Saturday, from 10 AM to 4:30 PM.

[View Donation Guidelines](#)

[Schedule a Pickup](#)

Turning your house into a home doesn't have to come with a high price tag. As Habitat homeowners, you have a valuable local resource right in your community: our ReStores in Caln and Phoenixville. Think of them as your go-to home goods thrift store, offering sustainable options for furnishing, decorating, and improving your home. From furniture, decor, and housewares to appliances and building materials, you'll find items for every room and your next DIY project, at prices that fit your budget.

Every ReStore purchase supports Habitat's mission and helps make homeownership possible for more families in Chester County. By shopping, saving, and sharing your fabulous finds, you're continuing your partnership with Habitat and helping to strengthen the community you now call home.

Present your Habitat ChesCo homeowner card (included in your welcome package) to receive 15% off every purchase at both ReStore locations! Please note that some exclusions may apply. Earn rewards for making a difference! Join our loyalty program to receive \$10 off your next purchase for every \$200 you spend. Shopping hours are Wednesday through Saturday, from 9 AM to 5 PM.

[Learn More](#)



Growing Together as a Habitat Community



As Habitat homeowners, you are living proof of what's possible when stability, partnership, and community come together. With your shared commitment and continued involvement, 2026 promises even greater opportunity for families throughout Chester County, as we expand our impact through new construction, home repairs, and long-term community development.

This year, we plan to complete **seven** homes, including one on Country Club Road, one on Lumber Street, and five homes in West Grove Phase 6, with plans to break ground in April. Construction will also begin on **twelve additional homes**, including developments on 1st Avenue, a twin home at 773 Coates Street, a single-family home and triplex on Emmett Street in Phoenixville, and five homes in West Grove Phase 7.

Many of you recall the excitement of settlement day. That same joy was felt at the West Grove Phase 5 settlements at the end of June 2025, when several new homeowners officially became part of the Habitat community:

- **Ashley Leatherbury**, a single homeowner, celebrated with her parents, brother, boyfriend, and his daughter.
- **Richard and Angela Torres** marked this milestone with their two daughters.
- **Charlotte Trowery** and her daughter, Demi, began their next chapter together.
- **Balu Bangura** celebrated with her youngest daughter, Mariama, joined by her family, including her adult daughter Christiana.

In addition to new construction, we anticipate serving **10 families through home repairs**, which will help improve safety, accessibility, and overall quality of life. This support strengthens neighborhoods and enables homeowners to remain secure in the homes they have worked so hard to achieve. Continued infrastructure work, including property surveys, drawings, and permits for Foundry Street and the Phoenixville Tower, will help lay the groundwork for future communities and expanded homeownership opportunities.

Homeownership Program

Habitat Home Repair



Other Ways to Support Our Mission



In addition to shopping at or donating to our ReStores in Caln and Phoenixville, here are other ways you can support our mission:

- Volunteer to support our ReStores, builds, events, or community outreach efforts.
- Raise awareness about the need for stable housing in our community.
- Advocate for policies that create housing opportunities for all.

Every action brings us closer to a future where everyone has a decent place to call home.



Habitat for Humanity[®]
of Chester County