



# HOMEOWNER NEWSLETTER ISSUE #1

**Release Date: September 4, 2025**



**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 new 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.**

## New Homeowners Highlight

We are proud to celebrate two remarkable women who have turned their dreams of homeownership into reality.

Alicia Buchanan celebrated her home dedication on Friday, July 25th, with loved ones and members of the Coatesville community. A dedicated mother to A'Zierr and Jayden, Alicia was recently recognized as one of the 40 Vista Next Generation Superstars—a well-deserved honor for someone who continues to inspire through her resilience and leadership.



“

For us, owning a home is far more than just acquiring a property; it is about creating a sanctuary where my children can feel safe, secure, and cherished. It means providing them with a stable environment where they can grow, learn, and build lifelong memories. It is a place where they will have the freedom to be themselves, where laughter will echo through the walls, and where we can gather around the dinner table to share our days, our dreams, and our aspirations. This home represents stability, a sense of belonging, and the fulfillment of a dream I have carried in my heart for so long.

- **Alicia Buchanan**

”



Lisa Forrester celebrated her home settlement in March, followed by a heartfelt dedication ceremony on Wednesday, June 11th, joined by her granddaughter. She now looks to a future of hope, gratitude, and stability for her and her granddaughter.

“It is still difficult to really believe we have a safe, secure place to call ‘home.’ Habitat for Humanity, the volunteers, and the generous donors don’t just help to get houses built. They provide individuals with hope and stability, making the goal of owning a house achievable. This house then serves as a place where memories are made. My heart is filled with deep gratitude to the volunteers, construction team, and generous donors who may not realize how much of an impact they make in people’s lives.”

**- Lisa Forrester**



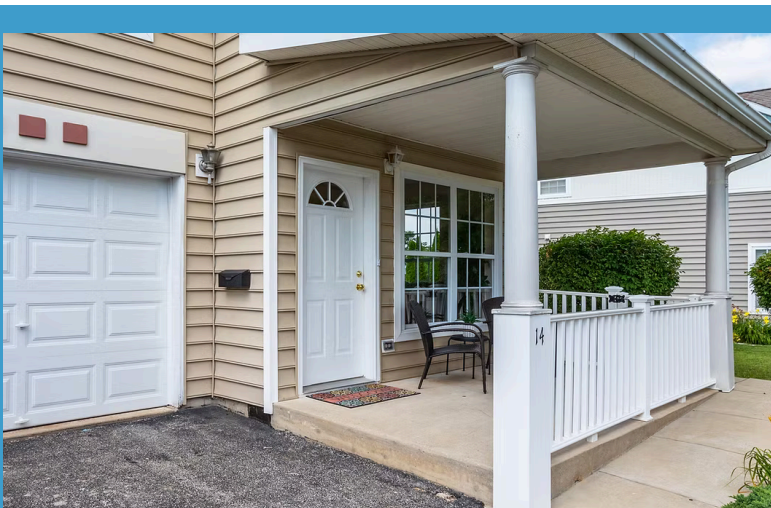
We are honored to stand alongside Alicia and Lisa as they open this new chapter. Both women have overcome significant challenges on their journeys, and today, their strength and determination shine brighter than ever. Thanks to the unwavering support of our donors, volunteers, and community partners, these families now have a foundation on which to build lasting memories and brighter futures.

**Homeownership Program**

## Fall Home Maintenance Reminders

As the weather turns chilly, here are some reminders to help keep your home warm and cozy before Winter weather sets in.

- Check the weather stripping around all doors and windows. Make repairs and updates as needed. When the Winter wind blows, you will be glad you did. Not only will you be warmer, but you will also be saving on energy costs.
- If you use window air conditioners during the summer, it is best to remove and store them during the Winter. No matter how well you cover them, drafts and heat loss will still occur throughout the Winter.
- When was the last time your Heating System was serviced? The service call for “no heat” will be much more expensive than a yearly service contract, which includes a tune-up of your system.
- One of the most common oversights in a home is blocking and obstructing heat supply vents. Relocate furniture or storage that will reduce the circulation of warm air within the room. Remember to check the air filter on your heating system monthly and change it as needed.
- Take a walk around the outside of your home and look for any openings around service lines, pipes, vents, and the roof line. Seal as needed because you are not the only one who will be looking for a warm place to spend the Winter. Field mice, squirrels, and other critters only need a small opening to get in.
- All garden hoses should be removed from the spigots to prevent freeze damage. Even if you have a “frost-free” hose bib, it is best to turn the water off on the interior of the house and drain the water line to the outside.



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

At Habitat ChesCo, our events unite people, strengthen our community, and raise funds for building stable homes. There's something everyone can enjoy while making a lasting impact.



### Driving to Build Strength, Stability, and Self-Reliance Golf Outing

Our 22nd annual golf outing is on Monday, September 8th, at the French Creek Golf Club. Attendees will enjoy a fun-filled day on the course with food, drinks, contests, a silent auction, and an awards ceremony.



### Building A Thirst Beer Coupon Book Fundraiser

Partnering with local craft breweries, this fundraiser offers beer lovers a coupon for a free pour at each participating brewery. The coupon books are valid year-round.



### Fall Community Yard Sale and Vendor Event

Get ready for a day of treasure hunting and community connection at our Fall Community Yard Sale and Vendor Event! Join us on Saturday, September 20th, from 8 AM to 12 PM at our Phoenixville ReStore.

### Carter Work Project Rural Rally

Habitat ChesCo will participate in Habitat for Humanity International's first-ever Rural Rally this fall. This rally is a new component of the Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project and highlights the need for housing that is affordable in rural America.

The Carter Work Project is Habitat's flagship build, honoring the profound impact of President and Mrs. Carter on Habitat's mission worldwide. This year, thousands of volunteers will gather in Austin, Texas, during the last week of October to build 25 homes on the city's east side. The Rural Rally, on Thursday, October 30th, will support home builds and rehabs in more than 60 rural communities across at least 20 states and all regions of the U.S.

We're excited to highlight the Fuller Meadows community in West Grove, PA. Homeowners interested in sharing how their home and community have impacted their families can contact Christy Kane at [christy@hfhcc.org](mailto:christy@hfhcc.org).

We also have limited volunteer opportunities to help hang drywall in phase 6, and we'd love to provide chalk for families who want to decorate sidewalks outside their homes. Please contact Christy to participate or volunteer.



- **Build a House... Build a Dream Contest:** Mark your calendars for our 23rd annual event in March 2026! This exciting competition invites 5th graders from across the Delaware Valley to design and build model dream homes, which are judged by industry professionals.
- **ReStore Earth Day Events:** Save the date! In April 2026, our Caln and Phoenixville ReStores will celebrate Earth Day with free e-waste recycling events. This is a great opportunity for the community to dispose of electronics while helping protect the planet responsibly.
- **Hops for Homes Beer Festival:** On June 20th, 2026, 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 fun! Every event you attend helps build brighter futures for families in our community.

Want to make an even bigger impact? We're always looking for volunteers to help make these events successful. If you're interested, contact Christy Kane at [christy@hfhcc.org](mailto:christy@hfhcc.org).

**ChesCo Events**

**ReStore Events**



## Community Resources & Events

At Habitat ChesCo, we know that a safe, stable home is just the beginning. Strong communities thrive when people can access support, resources, and connecting opportunities. This section highlights local organizations making a difference and their exciting upcoming events. Share them with friends or neighbors who could benefit from them.

**Hearne Hardwoods:** Hearne Hardwoods is a Lumber store featuring a wide selection of hardwood, including bloodwood and pear, for building and woodworking projects.

**Upcoming Event:** **14th Annual Open House**

- Friday, September 26th, from 10 AM to 4 PM
- Saturday, September 27th, from 10 AM to 3 PM
- Enjoy vendors, live music, food, raffles, and more. All raffle proceeds will support Habitat ChesCo's mission.



The graphic features a photograph of a wooden staircase and floor on the left. On the right, the text reads 'Hearne Hardwoods' 14th Annual OPEN HOUSE'. Below this, a calendar icon indicates the dates 'September 26th 10 AM - 4 PM' and 'September 27th 10 AM - 3 PM'. A location pin icon points to 'Hearne Hardwoods 200 Whiteside Dr Oxford, PA 19363 (New Retail Building)'.

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

**Upcoming Event:** **Ladies Dance Party**

- Thursday, November 13th
- More information will be available soon!

**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.

**Upcoming Event:** **Día de los Muertos Community Celebration**

- Sunday, November 2nd, from 5 to 8 PM
- 121 Pennsylvania Ave, Avondale, PA 19311
- Enjoy an evening filled with culture, color, and community! Expect music, food, art, and a vibrant ofrenda to remember our loved ones.



### KSQ FARMERS MARKET

**EVERY FRIDAY  
3-6pm**

600 S Broad St  
Kennett Square, Pa

Free on-site parking!



**Kennett Collaborative:** Kennett Collaborative is a non-profit organization that promotes, encourages, and enhances Kennett Square's economic, community, and social vitality.

**Ongoing Event: Kennett Square Farmers Market**

- Every Friday from now through October 31st, from 3 to 6 PM
- Meet and shop with local farmers, food makers, and more in Kennett Square.

**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 Events:**

- **Light the Night for Hope & Healing**
  - Tuesday, October 7th, at 6:45 PM
  - Enjoy celebrations in Coatesville, West Chester, Phoenixville, and Kennett Square.
- **Pints with a Purpose with Locust Lane Craft Brewery**
  - Wednesday, October 15th, from 5 to 8 PM
  - Guest bartenders will pour their hearts out; every tip goes directly to DVCCC.

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

**Programs & Support Groups:**

- **NAMI Family-to-Family (Exton):** A no-cost, 8-week educational program designed for family members, significant others, and friends of individuals living with mental health conditions.
- **NAMI Connection Recovery Support Group:** A free, peer-led support group for any adult who has experienced symptoms of a mental health condition.





**Chester County Food Bank:** The Chester County Food Bank provides food, support, and education to the community.

**Ongoing Programs:**

- **Fresh2You Mobile Market**
  - June 3rd - November 7th. Location and times vary.
  - Fresh2You Mobile Market travels throughout Chester County, providing high-quality, local, seasonal, and affordable fresh foods.
- **Eat Fresh Cooking Classes**
  - In partnership with local community organizations, Eat Fresh is an 18-class series in English and Spanish that allows participants to gain positive attitudes toward various nutritious foods, including fresh fruits, vegetables, and whole grains.



**Ellie Mental Health:** Ellie Mental Health is a judgment-free clinic that provides various therapy options for adults, children, and couples, both in person and online, across the nation. They often share tips on their Facebook [page](#).



**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.
- **Mom's Club**
  - Wednesdays, from 12 PM to 2 PM
  - 570 Olive St, Coatesville, PA 19320
  - Enjoy fellowship, food, and lessons for the women (not just moms!) of Coatesville.

**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 Events:

- **Golftoberfest Benefit & Pickleball**
  - Tuesday, September 30th, at White Manor Country Club.
  - Enjoy a day filled with golf, pickleball, gourmet food, networking, and most importantly, a chance to transform lives in our community.
- **2025 Conference: Innovative Approaches to Homelessness**
  - Thursday, November 20th, from 12:30 to 5:30 PM, at The Desmond in Malvern, PA.
  - This is an exciting opportunity to learn, connect, and explore innovative solutions for supporting those in need.



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

### Ongoing Programs:

- **Game Changers Youth Council**
  - Every two weeks on Monday from 5:30 to 7 PM at the CYI Office.
  - The Game Changers guide the development of programs and activities that directly and indirectly benefit students and residents in the greater Coatesville community.
- **Coatesville School Supplies & Resources Outlet:** The outlet is a place for youth and community members to pick up school supplies at no cost.

Community Resources



## Furnish Your Home for Less at Our Habitat ReStores: Your Home Goods Thrift Stores

As new homeowners, we understand the importance of making your house feel like a home while staying within your budget. That's where our Habitat ChesCo ReStores in Caln and Phoenixville can help! Our ReStores are designed to be affordable and accessible resources for decorating, furnishing, and repairing your home. We offer everything you need, including furniture, appliances, decor, building materials, and more.

Every purchase you make is not just a transaction; it's a step towards continuing your partnership with Habitat. By shopping at the ReStore and sharing your amazing finds with others, you're helping us build secure homes for families in Chester County.

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. You can enjoy even more savings by joining our loyalty program, which rewards you with \$10 off your next purchase for every \$200 you spend. Shopping hours are Wednesday through Saturday, from 9 AM to 5 PM.

[Learn More](#)

**Do you have items you no longer need?**

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

[View Donation Guidelines](#)

[Schedule a Free Pickup](#)



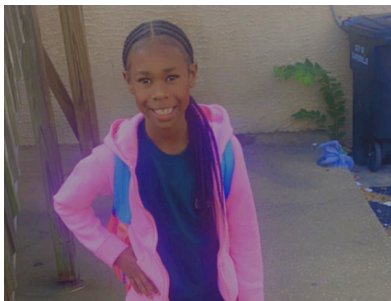
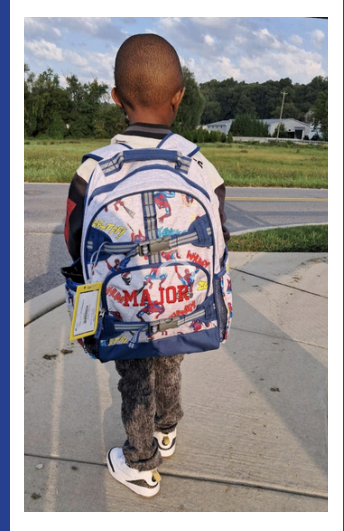
## Stay Connected & Share Your Story

We love seeing how your new homes are making a difference! Your stories inspire our community and show the real impact of safe, stable housing.

Here's what some of our homeowners shared recently:

"Hi, I'm Donnek, and this is Major's first day of kindergarten. He attends Avon Grove Charter School. Since living in our new home, Major has had great attendance because the home we lived in before had mold, and Major and I were sick a lot, which caused him to miss school. Now, Major's happy and moving up to 1st grade for the year 2025-2026."

- **Donnek & Son Major**



"Having a new home has improved her confidence because now she feels she has responsibilities to accomplish at home and school." - **Charlotte & Daughter Demi**

"I feel that for all of my children, having their own space to thrive and complete their tasks has been key! They love having their own rooms and space that is uniquely theirs." - **Jessica Weatherby & Son Matthew**



We want to hear from you, too! Share milestones—graduations, holidays, or everyday moments—and send us photos to show how your home is helping your family thrive. Your stories inspire others and remind us why our work matters. Send your updates to Christy Kane at [christy@hfhcc.org](mailto:christy@hfhcc.org) and Brooke Seeger at [brooke@hfhcc.org](mailto:brooke@hfhcc.org).



## 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**<sup>®</sup>  
of Chester County