

The Habitat Scoop



Global Village Program Relaunch

We recently had the privilege of participating in the relaunch of Habitat's Global Village program. Our 10-person pilot team spent a week in the Dominican Republic, mixing and pouring concrete floors for four homes, and painting one house, as part of the Habitat Latin America and Caribbean region's 100,000 Floors to Play On initiative.

We connected with, and served alongside, an incredible family community that has lived on the land outside Santo Domingo for over six generations. We shared labor, meals, and much laughter. After one week, the team left—sore, a little sunburnt, with joy in our hearts and passion for Habitat's mission—both locally and internationally—as we

all strive together to impact the lives of so many through housing stability and security. Thank you, Nicolas, Ari, Juanita, Francisca, Juana Geronimo, and your extended family for your hospitality, grace, and generosity.

Global Village is gradually resuming until a safe and quality experience can be provided at scale worldwide. We can't wait to invite you to join your own Global Village experience soon! Learn more: habitat.org/volunteer/travel-and-build/global-village ■

Pictured (from left): Chief Strategy Officer & EVP Matthew Dunbar, Dr. Dara Udo, and our CEO Karen Haycox led team members from across the US, Latin America and the Caribbean



Habitat Net Zero

We've made a lot of exciting progress on our Habitat Net Zero project. These energy efficient, modular homes across Southeast Queens will meet Enterprise Green Communities Criteria and incorporate Passive House elements, reducing heat and cooling demand by up to 90% and energy demand by up to 75%.

Your ongoing support enables us to develop high quality, low energy affordable housing like Net Zero, which will create homeownership opportunities for 16 hardworking New York City families. ■



Above: Net Zero modular home components being constructed at a factory in Pennsylvania and one of our Net Zero sites

Building the Beloved Community

"There's only one race—human race.... If we can get back to what [Dr. King] was trying to say that August of 1963, which is we're all human first, and we all have rights and basic needs that everyone shares, and when we understand that, then we can mow down the playing fields of discrimination and segregation and economic injustices." – Pastor M Zidde Hamatheite, Wayside Baptist Church

"It's the showing up that is the beginning of the community...that builds that support system.... Whether you know what to do or not, there is someone there who can articulate what that need is." – Denise Dixon, The Showing Hearts Foundation

"...there is a very big difference between coexisting and learning alongside one another and thinking through how being rooted in love as compared to like, means you are willing to have the difficult conversations necessary to go farther together for societal change." – Hollins Gause, The Marcy Lab School



Left to right: Karen Haycox, Pastor M Zidde Hamatheite, Denise Dixon, and Hollins Gause

Just a few of the profound moments from our Building the Beloved Community: A Conversation on Faith, Race and Housing luncheon panel. Facilitating conversations like this is one way we can celebrate people of different races, faiths, and backgrounds coming together in collective commitment to equity and community. The Beloved Community was Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision for a society where all forms of discrimination are replaced by intentional inclusivity and unity.

Make a gift that supports our work Building the Beloved Community. Together, we'll dismantle the discriminatory systems that obstruct Black, Indigenous, and other people of color from homeownership, and increase affordable housing equity across New York. ■

Meet Melissa, a new SEED Homeowner

Melissa R., who was born and raised in Texas, moved to New York City 16 years ago, and “plan(s) to be here forever!” And while Melissa may have found the city to call home, she was not able to find a stable, affordable home of her own. She lived through “decades of housing instability,” and has moved about 14 times.

A painter and performer who also works as an operations manager, Melissa loves to cook and spend time with friends and her partner. Despite “applying for housing for ever, as long as I’ve had consistent income,” the real estate landscape in New York City made saving up for a downpayment on an apartment feel impossible. Then the pandemic exacerbated an already traumatic cycle of housing insecurity. “Housing in New York is just so brutal, and it’s not getting any easier.”

Through every rough season, Melissa knew what she was striving for: “Peace of mind of not having to move [and] a place to make my own.”

Finally, a breakthrough. Melissa applied for the Habitat NYC and Westchester SEED co-op in Brooklyn. Melissa was chosen from the lottery and accepted into our Home Purchase Program. She filled out her paperwork and completed her sweat equity. The process was rigorous and challenging, but Melissa’s resilience and determination proved unfailing, and now, Melissa is a Habitat Homeowner! Through it all, Melissa says, “I just kept trying to focus on the goal of stability.”

Prior to homeownership, Melissa found herself couch surfing. “In that time, I would go and sit in my storage

unit because I didn’t have anywhere to go.” It’s no wonder that becoming a homeowner is still sinking in. Bit by bit, Melissa is making her home a cozy and welcoming sanctuary. “Having a home where I can make it the way that I want it, has been very fun. I got a projector—we have friends over, and when my boyfriend’s son comes over, they all play video games on the projector. It’s so sweet.”

Reflecting on her journey to homeownership, Melissa recalls the first thing she did in her new home was, “Walk around and take a deep breath.”

Take a breath, Melissa. You’ve found your home now. ■

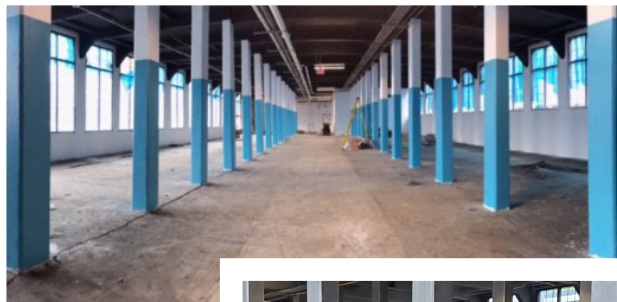


Melissa outside her new Brooklyn co-op

Opening Soon!

Our NEW flagship Westchester ReStore is almost here. Get ready for summer days filled with great deals, furniture thrift shopping, and visiting your favorite ReStore team in Yonkers. We can’t wait to see you there. Stay tuned for more updates.

● 470 Nepperhan Ave, Yonkers ■



Save the Date!

Our **2023 Habitat House Party, Blueprint for Housing Justice** is on **Tuesday, November 14**.

To amplify the expansion of our work and impact on housing justice across the region, we're thrilled to share that this year, we're celebrating with locations in both New York City and Westchester! More details to come. www.habitatnycwc.org



To become a **2023 Habitat House Party sponsor**, please contact our Resource Development team at development@habitatnycwc.org

stay connected!



Habitat.NYC.WC

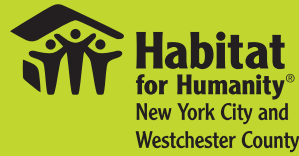


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