

*"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;
for His steadfast love endures forever."
1 Chronicles 16:34*



Celebrating 35 Years of Impact

Our Mission

Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities, and hope

A Time of Thanksgiving and Celebration



David Emerson
Executive Director

Welcome and thank you for your help in serving the communities of the St. Vrain and Estes Valley. This last year we accelerated our new home building efforts after a period of preparation due to the pandemic and delays in land acquisition. In the previous 4 months, Habitat has dedicated 6 homes and will dedicate another 2 in December or January. We have another 93 lots in our pipeline between land owned and under contract. A good portion of this Impact Report is devoted to presenting the findings of our efforts to impact an entire neighborhood in Dacono. This represents the culmination of 6+ years of work that started with new home construction, continues with critical home repair and led to the creation of a resident-led coalition called Pride of the Glens. Thank you to all our supporters who make this ministry possible!



Raquel Yslas
Board President

Two Habitat Homeowners Elected



Doris Crespo
City Council of Dacono

Being a partner homeowner with Habitat brings significant improvements to the educational outcomes, financial stability, and physical health of the household. Habitat is proud to share that it also brings new opportunities for civic engagement. Two Habitat homeowners were recently elected to public office! Doris Crespo was elected to the City Council of Dacono while Brenda Wyss was elected to the Estes Valley School Board.

Doris and Sergio Crespo moved into their home in the Glens neighborhood of Dacono in September of 2017 with their 5 children. Doris stated, "We were so grateful to finally have a place to call our own and focus on our kid's education". Doris was an early member of The Pride of the Glens coalition that is part of Habitat's Neighborhood Revitalization program. Their oldest daughter has now graduated from Holy Family High School and is attending college. The other children attend St. John the Baptist Catholic School and St. John Paul II High School.

Brenda and her two children moved into their Habitat home in Estes Park in March of 2021. Her daughter graduated from Estes Park High School and received a full scholarship to Vanderbilt University. Her son is currently in high school.

Doris was appointed to the Dacono City Council to fill a vacancy a year ago, so this was her first time running for office. "I am so excited to continue representing my community and focus on giving back to Dacono." Doris is the first Hispanic person to serve on the Council. Congratulations to both our newly elected officials!



35 YEARS OF SERVING FAMILIES



1988

St. Vrain
Habitat founded



1992

1st new construction
in Longmont



1994

1st home completed
in Carbon Valley



2002

Habitat Hires first
Executive Director
(pictured left)



e-Commerce Flourishes at ReStore



Art Nouveau Slade Glass Lamp sold in 2022

Online sales are a fast-growing trend around the globe. Habitat’s Longmont ReStore is proud to have multiple digital selling platforms on eBay, Facebook, and our own e-commerce store. In 2016, ReStore launched its eBay site. By 2023, ReStore’s eBay has reached its biggest sales year yet. These online sales, particularly bigger auction items, drive significant traffic to the eBay store. Habitat encourages local shoppers to see what we have to offer online.

When the 2020 Global Pandemic forced ReStore to temporarily close its doors, the team knew they needed to get creative to generate sales. ReStore launched its own e-commerce Shopify site as a way to continue raising money for affordable housing during the 6-week shutdown. Over the past three years, the Online Store has increased online sessions by 32%. Online sales continue to provide more exposure to new customers and donors.



A traditional English Pram sold in 2022

ReStore has also established a significant sales presence on social media. Facebook has become a great traffic source - 800+ sessions in the past 12 months. Over \$3900 worth of donated Ethan Allen furniture such as sofas, bed frames, and chairs have sold through Facebook. ReStore also lists products on Craigslist, and many items sell same day.

As online presence continues to grow, ReStore regularly receives out-of-state calls about shipping. While ReStore is not always able to accommodate all requests, we can offer limited shipping dependent upon size, weight, and type of item.

This year, a customer from Iowa wanted to purchase a Northern Mist Loons Print for her husband’s birthday. She expressed concerns about shipping. ReStore’s Online Sales Manager, Nikki Watt sent photos and an outline of the store-to-customer shipping process. The couple received the print in excellent condition in time to make the husband’s birthday a success. This is one of many examples of happy customers who purchased items through our online sales platforms.



Northern Mist Loons Print with (Certificate of Analysis) sold in 2023 as a birthday gift

Shop with Longmont ReStore Online



<https://qrco.de/beLnXH>



<https://qrco.de/beLnYM>



<https://qrco.de/beWuxz>



Search Boulder Craigslist. Type in Habitat ReStore.



SCAN ME



35 YEARS OF SERVING FAMILIES



2006

ReStore Opens in Longmont



2009

1st Apostles Build (Faith Build)



2011

1st Global Village Trip Cambodia



2013

ReStore Expansion at Current Location

Sowing Seeds of Hope - Neighborhood



The Glens of Dacono Gateway Stone

In 2017, St. Vrain Habitat began its Neighborhood Revitalization (NR) program partnering with the Glens neighborhood of Dacono. The approach provides a path for Habitat affiliates to serve more families and improve life for the whole community beyond building homes. The Glens was selected as 1 of 10 neighborhoods in 2018 to partner with Habitat for Humanity International in a 5-year Learning Cohort to implement and test the Quality of Life Framework; a guiding tool developed by Habitat International, to partner with residents and bring lasting change to marginalized neighborhoods across the country.

The Glens is home to 1/3 of the City of Dacono's residents and consists primarily of manufactured homes built in the 1970's.

High homeownership rates and a strong sense of pride are characteristic of the neighborhood. While the homeownership rate of 67% in the Glens is higher than that of the state, the median income is 40% lower than that of Dacono and the State of Colorado. There was a history of disinvestment in the neighborhood, new developments surrounding the Glens, and there were barriers to amenities and services.

The neighborhood also has a higher percentage of low-income, elderly, and Hispanic households than surrounding areas. The 2020 Census indicates 20% of the adult population is over 55 and 55% of the households are Hispanic. These percentages are significantly higher than the rest of Dacono (16% Over 55; 39% Hispanic).

What Changed Over 5 Years in the Glens?

To evaluate the effect of the NR program, Habitat partnered with ORS Impact to conduct resident surveys and focus groups. Residents shared what the changes mean to them and what they have enabled them to do. Surveys of 161 residents in 2019 and 267 residents in 2023 along with physical observation of 100 properties were completed.

These surveys examined how residents perceive their quality of life is improving in the neighborhood.

There is strong evidence that improvements have positively affected residents' lives in meaningful ways.

— ORS Impact



*Together we can build our community
Juntos podemos construir nuestra comunidad*

The creation of the "Pride of the Glens" coalition provided foundational outcomes for community and collective action in the neighborhood. The coalition is a multicultural, bilingual, resident-led coalition of "neighbors helping neighbors." Through the Coalition, Spanish-speaking and English-speaking residents from a range of backgrounds and age groups find opportunities to lead and participate. While they come to the table with different motivations and backgrounds, in the end, they coalesce around a shared vision:

"proud to live in a quiet friendly neighborhood where all of our dreams can come true"

In the past five years, leaders have developed annual goals and completed projects impacting the community through events, beautification, and neighborhood connections action teams.

Residents are the fuel behind the Coalition— they hold the key to long-term sustainability.

— ORS Impact

Inviting diverse voices to find common ground and take action isn't a new idea, nor is it simple. Habitat for Humanity's very roots at Koinonia Farm in Americus, Georgia challenged convention in the 1940's with an integrated and intentional community. A guiding principle of inclusion to hear all diverse voices, center previously marginalized communities and serve the entire community equitably has driven how the coalition comes together.

Providing meals and childcare at meetings, and bridging digital divides helps to hold space for everyone to contribute. The coalition focuses on

Revitalization in the Glens of Dacono



listening and leaning toward strengths, rather than problems. This invites community members to build on what's good, sharing their gifts in new ways in the neighborhood. Community activities have had lasting impacts. May and October Dumpster Days and improvements at the Shopping Center beautified what was in disrepair and neglected.

Residents in The Glens are happy with their neighborhood and think it has become a better place to live over time.

— ORS Impact

Creating shared space at the new Community Center, El Centro, meets a longtime need for a place to gather and learn. A Gateway Stone for the neighborhood and a mural celebrating Dacono's history enhanced the sense of the community. Advocating for an accessible crosswalk at the state highway seemed out of reach, and then it was achieved! Residents have become respected leaders of their community, teaching and inviting others to join and bringing ideas into action. The Coalition plans to continue to grow independent of Habitat, as a sustainable organization to lift up not only the Glens neighborhood, but Dacono and the surrounding areas.

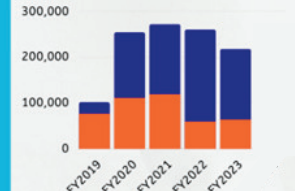




Coalition Leaders join members at El Centro for Zumba

In addition to the efforts of the coalition, Habitat has built 14 new homes in the Glens and completed 32 Home Repairs. Critical Home Repairs improve safety, accessibility, economic stability, and social connections for vulnerable and older adults. Homeowners contribute 10% of the cost and social/sweat equity towards the project. The average cost of a repair of \$15,000 often includes roof replacement, accessible bathroom modification, installing ramps or new windows. Residents are grateful to feel safe in their home. Restoration and prevention of future water damage increases the home's durability, saves on utilities, and allows them to access insurance. Repairs also have a positive influence on surrounding properties and have inspired others to make improvements.

Sense of Community

Creating the space and time to connect and listen for dreams, hopes and concerns builds relationships and community. Survey results indicate that around half of neighborhood residents have engaged in at least one community meeting or event.



Investments in the Glens over the past five years total \$1,314,495 from funding partners for Home Repairs and the Pride of the Glens Coalition

Learning

Cultures of Learning allow for conflict, innovation and adaptation. Reflecting on principles and purpose guide the work:

- Foster Partnerships
- Build Power
- Accountable to Community
- Learn, Improve, Innovate
- Focus on Systems

* Findings of ORS Impact Evaluation and Program Information available at stvrainhabitat.org

St. Vrain Habitat's Neighborhood Revitalization efforts have leveraged local, federal and foundation grants investing a total of \$1,314,495 in the Glens neighborhood and Dacono, not including new home builds. Funding partners include the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, General Motors, H&R Block, Wells Fargo, Republic Services, The Weld Trust, United Way of Weld County, The Weld Community Foundation, United Power, and the City of Dacono. The Federal Home Loan Bank of Topeka and USDA Rural Development fund the Critical Home Repairs program.



SCAN ME

A comprehensive evaluation of the impact and learnings of the cohort communities will be published by ORS Impact in 2024.



A Legacy of Volunteering



Habitat board member, Deanna Dyer serves Longmont by volunteering with organizations that support the economic vitality of our City. Her parents set this example for her, as business owners, and as volunteers themselves. Her father Marvin was active with the Rotary, was president of the Chamber of Commerce and served on the Policy Committee — Deanna is now Vice Chair of that same committee. Her mother Lois volunteered with the St. Vrain Historical Society, Longmont Symphony Orchestra and Friends of the Museum board. Prior to joining Habitat, Deanna was active with the Lions Club and served as president of Longmont Association of Realtors (LAR).

Her first experiences with Habitat were at an LAR build day and participating in a Women's Build sponsored by Lowe's. She began volunteering as a "family advocate," working alongside new homeowners to help them understand legal documents, explain taxes and insurance as part of their mortgage payments, how to be part of their HOA, and what to expect and prepare for regarding annual home maintenance. In 2016, Habitat recruited Deanna to join the board of directors.

Habitat's mission embodies principles important to Deanna, specifically giving people the tools and support they need to be successful.

She knows that homeownership can be life-changing for families, with benefits for children who grow up in a Habitat home. Deanna tells a story about a family her father became close with — he referred them to different job opportunities, helped them with the citizenship process, and provided a loan through Longmont National Bank so they could purchase a home. What Marvin was able to do for one family is what Habitat does for many families and Deanna loves that about our program.

Her parents operated both a Hallmark store and a local realty agency. Deanna worked for both family businesses — her background in both retail and real estate, plus longtime connections within the community are an asset to Habitat. She recognizes trends in the real estate market, understands changes in the affordable housing market, and can explain how deed restriction, zoning and other public policies might impact Habitat's ability to serve families as well as the effect on individual homeowners in the future. Her specific expertise in this area gives our executive team and board information needed to make decisions. Deanna described the multiple viewpoints and different perspectives that board members contribute. She laughed saying, "We definitely don't rubber stamp proposals from the staff and don't always agree — landing in the middle, coming to a compromise is probably the most frequent outcome," which is probably best for the organization.

Deanna looks forward to Habitat's Gift of Home Tour (always hosted the weekend after Thanksgiving). The tour began in 1957 as a way for the United Church of Christ to raise money for local causes and nonprofits. Habitat accepted responsibility for the tour in 2020. Churches, businesses, and organizations come together to support this event — raising funds and awareness for Habitat's homeownership programs. "The Gift of Home Tour is such a special Longmont event," she shares. For Deanna, the Gift of Home Tour is a holiday tradition that brings together cherished aspects of the Longmont community.

**Habitat's
Volunteer Opportunities**
www.stvrainhabitat.org/volunteer



SCAN ME

Habitat Paraguay Celebrates 25 Years

In September 2023, our affiliate joined Habitat for Humanity Paraguay to build and to celebrate their 25th anniversary. Affiliates from Fort Collins, Colorado Springs, Cape Fear, and El Salvador also joined the efforts and festivities. Together, the team worked in Luque, a suburb of Asuncion. Recently Habitat Paraguay completed 60 bathroom remodels in Luque. During the anniversary week, volunteers helped complete a bathroom project for Norma and her family just in time for the celebration. The team visited various city projects, including the Barrio San Francisco, Chacarita Alta, Maria Auxiliadora Neighborhood and a new condo project in Luque. Proud residents guided our tour.

Community developments in Chacarita Alta is truly impressive. The informal settlement on the edge of Asucision's downtown area has also undergone transformation. When St. Vrain Habitat visited during a Global Village trip

10 years ago, Chacarita was too dangerous to visit. Now Habitat Paraguay is a well respected agent of physical and social change.

Habitat Paraguay partied in style with a concert by popular Paraguayan artists Purahei Soul. The concert evening was attended by the original founders of Habitat Paraguay, supporters, volunteers, homeowners, and staff. It was a time to reflect on accomplishments, including over 11,000 housing solutions for Paraguayan families. Our partnership with Habitat Paraguay is an example of

the deep connections Habitat offices can create through mutual collaboration. Some of the unique events have included 3 Global Village trips to Paraguay from St. Vrain Habitat, 1 Global Village trip to Paraguay from St. Vrain, and a staff exchange and a joint trip with Habitat Paraguay to Habitat Lesotho in 2020.



St. Vrain Habitat builds, and celebrates with Habitat Paraguay



35 YEARS OF SERVING FAMILIES



2013

St. Vrain River Flood Rebuild efforts begin



2015

Habitat Paraguay visits Longmont



2015

Celebrated over \$500,000 in tithe



2017

St. Vrain & Estes Habitats Merge



2020

Habitat Kept Building During Pandemic



2021

Celebrated over \$1 Million in tithe



2021

Hosted 1st Gift of Home Tour



2023

Julie Gallegos appointed Associate Executive Director



Help Families Thrive for \$35 a Month

In honor of our 35th Anniversary, Habitat invites you to participate in a special monthly Giving Campaign.

By partnering with St. Vrain Habitat, families are able to achieve strength, stability, and self-reliance. These families complete 250-500 hours of sweat equity and attend educational courses prior to moving into their new home. They pay an affordable mortgage that is never more than 30% of their total income.

Habitat Homeowners Report:



A greater sense of wellbeing



Stronger physical and mental health



Improved educational outcomes



Increased savings



Safer and flourishing neighborhoods

WHEN YOU PARTNER WITH HABITAT, YOU INVEST IN FAMILIES & THE FUTURE!

Commit via our ColoradoGives **Thrive for 35** campaign page. Sign up for automatic monthly payments or send a check to Habitat once a month and write "Thrive for 35" in the memo line.

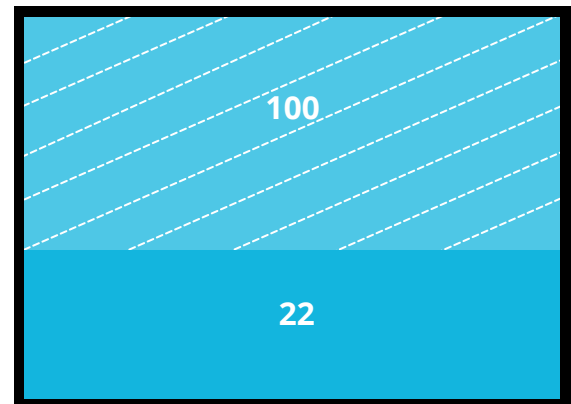
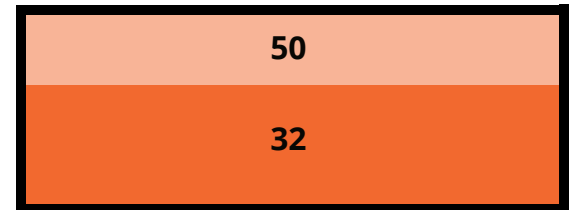
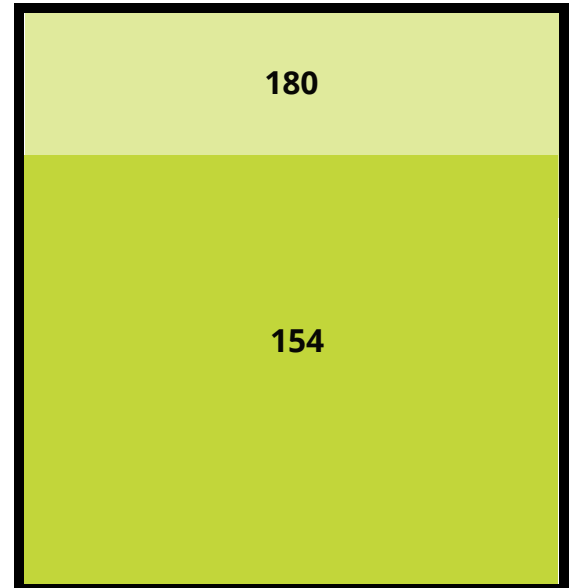


SCAN ME

GIVE NOW

www.coloradogives.org/story/2sp9of

Our Progress



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