

Summer Notes From the Habitat Build Site: We're still building!

Wow - what a crazy, difficult, and challenging year so far. Corona virus, murder hornets, lockdown, struggling economy and rising unemployment. At Habitat, the Surplus Sale store closed for two months, Beans 'n' Jeans was postponed and is now online, and all construction work stopped for months. I have always been a glass-half-full kind of guy and I think that the challenges we are having are opportunities for us all. With that I would like to bring you some good news from the build site – we are back at work and we are back to our regular schedule of building Thursdays and Saturdays. It feels good to be building again.

The Palouse Habitat Board of Directors and our fantastic Executive Director Jennifer Wallace have gone over the books and decided that we have enough money to start the 2020 home build. It's not easy to know the right path to take in these crazy times. We have to plan the best we can for everyone's safety and can only build if we have the funds. You may not know, but all funds to build a Habitat home must come from the area where the home is built. We don't receive any funding from Habitat International or the government. Beans 'n' Jeans is our big fundraiser that gets us the money to buy the materials and land to build our houses. This is our biggest challenge. For those of you who want to help but cannot come out to the build site, Beans 'n' Jeans is an opportunity to lend a hand. Your financial help is always appreciated. Because Beans 'n' Jeans was postponed and now will be an online auction in August, we really don't know how much funding we'll be able to raise. The plan for now is to build until the house is dried in and then see whether we have the funds to continue or if we have to pause until we can raise more funds next year. Dried in means all the exterior work is done and absolutely nothing done on the inside except bare stud walls,. But the home is secure and weather-tight, ready for a Palouse winter.

Since we started construction again in May, we've been working only with a small group of our regular volunteers, the Codger Crew, most of whom are retirees. Together we have backfilled and compacted the foundation, completed all of the underground work, sewer, water and electric conduit, and poured the concrete for the garage floor and the front porch. The I-joists for the floor are in place, and we are about to start framing the walls—one of my favorites parts of the build. You can see highlights of this progress below, and there are more photos on our website, Facebook and Instagram pages.

One of the challenges, opportunities, this year is working in Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and of course social distancing. We think the safety of our team is the most important thing we do. Another challenge, opportunity, is the number of volunteers that we expect. In years past we have been fortunate to have volunteers from many of our local businesses, churches and other groups. Over 200 per home build. This year I expect that the bulk of the work is going to fall on the Codgers. As usual, I know that they will rise to the occasion. I can't say enough good things about these people.

One more opportunity for all of us, WE CAN DO BETTER. We can help make the world a better place one nail at a time. I hope you'll join the Beans 'n' Jean online auction palousehabitat.org/beans-n-jeans August 15-23 to help us keep building in this crazy year. And mostly, thank you all for your support. Stay safe!

Dave Stradley, Construction Supervisor



Construction Supervisor Dave Stradley puts the finishing touches on concrete poured at the Uniontown home.



I want to help build the Uniontown Habitat Home!

Cornerstone: Yearly pledge to help build each Habitat home \$ _____

Gift in Memory or in Honor of _____ \$ _____

Donation of any amount for home building or general use \$ _____

I want to Volunteer! (circle): Construction Ramps & Rails Office Surplus Sale

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

NEWSLETTER CHANGES. You'll notice the newsletter is shorter and is missing its usual self addressed return envelope. With COVID restrictions, we can't have teams of volunteers stuffing, sealing and addressing our newsletter, and we're trying to watch every penny closely.

J&H Printing is making this simplified version of our newsletter as affordable as they can, and we want to support local businesses. Many thanks for using your own envelope to return any gifts to: **Palouse Habitat for Humanity PO BOX 3054 Moscow, ID 83843**

Make checks payable to Palouse Habitat for Humanity or give online at palousehabitat.org/donate. Note in the memo line "for local use" if you want us to use the funds to build homes locally. Otherwise, Palouse HFH will tithe a portion to Habitat for Humanity International to support home building in Guatemala and in disaster response around the world.

Gifts in Memory or Honor

Gifts were given in honor of

Valerie Linscott

Gifts were given in memory of*

Ken Hall Dean Vettrus Denise Blevins David Clark

*please see our website for our customary summary obituary for first time memorial gifts

Palouse Habitat Surplus Sale

Donate or shop for construction materials, plumbing, electrical, appliances, furniture, tools, antiques and more!

304 N. Main St. Moscow

Visit palousehabitat.org/shop for current hours

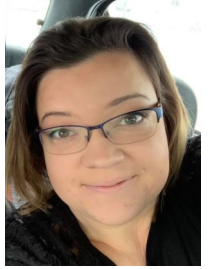
208-882-5246 store@palousehabitat.org



Changes at Habitat

Palouse Habitat Surplus Sale has had to say farewell to long-time manager Mike Madsen and Assistant Manager Eric Olson. Mike decided to make retirement official, and move with his wife, Bev, to be closer to family in northern California. Mike was our first store manager and he left big shoes to fill. His knowledge of home repair was valuable, but most important was the welcoming atmosphere he created at the store. Anyone walking in the door to shop or donate was at risk of being recruited to join the team and many did, happily. Eric Olson, our Assistant Manager over the past year, stepped down to focus on his position with the U.S. Postal Service. We will miss his kind management style and his sense of humor.

Given Mike's decision to retire, the Habitat Board of Directors felt it was time for the stability offered by a full time position, and in July we welcomed Tara Wimer as our new store manager. Tara comes with the unique combination of background and hands on experience with retail, home improvement and nonprofit management. We are excited for her to join our team. Stop by the store to say hello!



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After postponing from our original event date in April, there is nothing we would rather do on August 22nd than gather with all of you, dish up a plate of BBQ, visit, and raise funds to build the Uniontown 2020 home. But the risks from Covid-19 are too great.

So, what to do? Thanks to our generous community, we already have the auction items ready to go. We already have the event sponsors supporting us. Vulnerable members of our community need safe, affordable housing, now more than ever.

So we're doing the best we can given the situation at hand, "making lemonade when life hands you lemons" as the old saying goes. We're taking Beans 'n' Jeans 2020 online, and we hope you'll join us. Visit palousehabitat.org/beans-n-jeans for more information.



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