

# Habitat Happenings

Lakeshore Habitat for Humanity Quarterly Newsletter



## Welcome home, John & Elizabeth!

We were able to close on two homes in recent weeks! John closed on his home at the Haven Townhomes, and he shares, "I love my home. It's so peaceful to be close to work and everything - it's a big step in the right direction."

Elizabeth also closed on her home at Vista Green and shared with us, "I'm going to stay there forever, I'm not going anywhere. I'm so happy - it's a dream come true."

We are thrilled for them both as they move into their homes, and we are so thankful to have had the opportunity to partner with them. They both worked hard to complete their sweat equity hours and achieve their dream of homeownership.

*Are you or anyone you know interested in partnering with Lakeshore Habitat as a homeowner? The first step in the process is filling out an interest form, which can be found on our website.*

*What we accomplished together in 2023*



**13 homes completed**



**4 homes started**



**3 homes repaired**

# Build Updates

## haven townhomes



Construction on both Haven Townhomes in north Holland and Buttermilk Creek Townhomes in Hudsonville is complete! Both developments are move-in ready and closings are in process. We could not be more excited for the families who have been waiting patiently for their homes! We covet your prayers as our team navigates all the paperwork and logistics of the closing process.

## buttermilk creek townhomes



## vista green

Our Vista Green development in south Holland is coming along! Of the 9 homes in Phase 1, three are complete and have been dedicated, four are in various stages of progress - drywall, painting, cabinet installation, siding, etc - and two have foundations and are ready to be framed this spring.

Our team is also working on finalizing all the permits and applications necessary to get started on building Phase 2 this year! Without your partnership through donating and volunteering, none of this would be possible. Thank you for helping us provide homes for families in our community.



# Jim Deur

## Our first 4,000 hour volunteer!



One of our regular volunteers, Jim Deur, hit the 4,000 volunteer hour milestone in January! In those 4,000 hours, Jim has helped build homes for more than 58 families in our community. Jim is the first Lakeshore Habitat volunteer to hit this incredible benchmark, and we could not be more proud or thankful for all of his hard work.

Jim began volunteering three full days a week with Lakeshore Habitat shortly after he retired 12 years ago. Jim shares, "I love to build and I feel strongly about serving others in gratitude of God's gift of salvation to me through Jesus Christ, so building with Habitat is a natural and perfect way to serve."

Lakeshore Habitat Executive Director Don Wilkinson shares, "Jim Deur is a humble and hardworking man, and we are so thankful he's chosen Lakeshore Habitat to give his time and work to. The world needs more Jim Deurs."

Jim's favorite part of volunteering is the opportunity to work alongside men and women who share the same values and volunteer for the same reasons he does. He also loves hearing stories of families thriving in the new home he was able to help build.

To anyone considering regularly volunteering with us, Jim says "Go for it! If you don't have a lot of experience, you will not be made to feel bad, and you will learn a lot. Most of us regular volunteers are 'old' so you don't have to worry about keeping up. If you have some time, and a desire to serve, come join us. We'd love to have you."

Thank you, Jim, for lending Lakeshore Habitat your time and expertise. We couldn't provide homes for families in our community without you and others like you.



**Jim has volunteered on homes for 58 families in our community, as well as volunteering in our office and in the ReStore.**

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I love to build and I feel strongly about serving others in gratitude of God's gift of salvation to me through Jesus Christ, so building with Habitat is a natural and perfect way to serve.

- Jim Deur

If you're interested in volunteering with Jim and our other regulars, reach out to our Volunteer Coordinator, Kara:



[volunteer@lakeshorehabitat.org](mailto:volunteer@lakeshorehabitat.org)



Lakeshore  
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 a place to  
 call home.**

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**upcoming events**  
**03.12** housing coffee hour  
**04.30** spring luncheon  
**07.09** golf outing  
 visit our website for more info and to RSVP.

**a message from our  
 executive director**

Don Wilkinson



2023 was another great year for Lakeshore Habitat! Last year we were able to complete 13 homes, start 4, and repair 3 in our community - and we couldn't have done any of it without your support. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you.

We are hopeful and excited for the years ahead as we strive to fill the need for affordable homeownership in our community. As we look to finish Vista Green in 2025, we know the work in our community is far from over, and the need only continues to grow. The projects we have in the works give us faith that God will continue to allow us to meet this need in Ottawa, Allegan, and Van Buren counties. We can't wait to share them with you soon.

Thank you for the role you play in our work. We won't stop until everyone in our community has a decent place of their own to call home.