

# Habitat Happenings

Lakeshore Habitat for Humanity Quarterly Newsletter



## 20th Street: Work on our next project begins!

As we begin work on the 2nd phase of the Vista Green development in Holland, we are looking ahead to what's next. We are incredibly excited to share that work on our next project has begun! In partnership with Jubilee Ministries, we are beginning work on a development on 20th Street between Cleveland and Ottawa in the City of Holland. This development will consist of 11 townhomes - 6 by Jubilee and 5 by Lakeshore Habitat.

While completion of this project is several years off, we are overjoyed to have another opportunity to provide affordable homeownership to households in our community! We believe that everyone deserves an affordable place of their own to call home, and we will continue to work everyday to do our part to see that happen.

*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've  
accomplished  
**together**  
so far in 2024



**11 closings**



**2 homes  
started**

# Build Update



## Vista Green: Phase 1

Exciting news: all 9 homes in Phase 1 of our Vista Green development on the southside the City of Holland are built! Families have moved into 3 of those 9 homes, 2 homes are awaiting final inspections, and the next 2 are undergoing finishing touches like painting, flooring, trim, etc. We were able to begin framing the last two homes in Phase 1 in early April. With the nice weather conditions, our construction team and incredible volunteers have been able to move quickly and have made incredible progress since April. In fact, both homes already have shingles!

## Vista Green: Phase 2

With all the progress in Phase 1, work on Phase 2 of Vista Green has begun. Roads have been graded and the preparations for foundations have been made, with foundations going in at the end of May. We are thankful for progress and look forward to the families getting into their homes soon!

If you're interested in helping support our work at Vista Green, reach out to our Volunteer Coordinator, Kara:

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

## In Loving Memory of Tom Reagan



Longtime Lakeshore Habitat regular volunteer, Tom Reagan, lovingly referred to as "Painter Tom" passed away Thursday, May 9 after a battle with cancer. A gifted painter, Tom began volunteering with Lakeshore Habitat in 2011. Since then, he put in 3,284 volunteer hours and worked on 52 homes, in the ReStore, and in the office. You could often find him helping homeowners paint their front door in their chosen color. Tom will be dearly missed by his family, as well as our homeowners and staff. Thank you for your dedicated service to affordable homeownership in our community.

**3,284 lifetime volunteer hours**

# Ali, Zahira, & Family



We recently sat down with current homeowner partners, Ali and Zahira and their family, to hear their story. They moved to Holland in February of 2020 from Sri Lanka, where they had lived since 2016 as refugees from Afghanistan. Upon arriving here, they moved into an apartment. However, with most of their income going towards rent and safety concerns in their apartment complex, they decided to get pre-approved for a home. Despite Ali's job at Haworth, their pre-approval amount unfortunately wasn't enough to purchase a home large enough for all of them. Even their children felt the effects. Ali shared that his oldest daughter regularly asked him why they were always moving and why they didn't have a home of their own.

They first heard about Lakeshore Habitat's Homeownership Program in 2022 during a conversation with a friend from their sponsor church, Pillar Church. They decided to apply and were quickly approved and began the process of earning sweat equity hours, taking educational classes, and saving for a down-payment. Ali shares, "It was a dream for my family, especially for my children, to have our own house. To play freely. To not be scared of our landlord kicking us out. It's difficult to express the joy."

As their home in Vista Green nears completion, they now wait with eager anticipation to move into their home. Their children are very excited, and Ali and Zahira shared that they have already picked out their rooms and their furniture, and regularly begin conversations with "when we move into our new house...". What a privilege to partner with families like Ali and Zahira's and help them achieve their dream of homeownership - a dream that might otherwise be out of reach.



“

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- Ali

Your donation helps families like Ali and Zahira's achieve their dream of homeownership. Scan the QR code to donate today:





Lakeshore  
**Habitat**  
 for Humanity®  
 12727 Riley Street  
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**everyone  
 deserves  
 a place to  
 call home.**

**ways to get involved:**

 **volunteer**

 **donate**

 **shop the restore**

**let's stay connected**

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 [www.lakeshorehabitat.org](http://www.lakeshorehabitat.org)

 [lakeshorehabitat](https://www.instagram.com/lakeshorehabitat)

**upcoming events**  
**06.13** housing coffee hour  
**07.09** golf outing  
 visit our website for more info  
 and to RSVP.

**a message from our  
 executive director**  
 Don Wilkinson



We are now several months into 2024, and we are excited to see all the doors that God is opening for Lakeshore Habitat to continue providing affordable homeownership in our community. While many of them we can't share yet (though we can't wait to!), we hope you are just as excited as we are for the news we can share about our next project on 20th Street in Holland. What a joy and privilege to build homes for families in our community, and we thank you for your support that allows us to continue to do so. Whether you have attended an event, donated your time or resources, or told someone about the work of Lakeshore Habitat, we cannot do our work without you. Thank you for helping us provide strength, stability, and self-reliance through shelter to local families.