




# Hearts and Homes

Fall 2025

## Governor Moore Honors Habitat Chesapeake



 In early June, Maryland Governor Wes Moore, together with many other elected officials, community leaders, and corporate sponsors, gathered at the Orchard Ridge neighborhood in East Baltimore to celebrate the work of Habitat Chesapeake. Moore took time to tour the Habitat homes under construction, to meet with some of the projected homeowners, and he also announced that Habitat was the first recipient of the state's new UPLIFT funding program. This \$1.25 million award will help to cover the affordability gaps for new homeowners.

This celebration marked a milestone year in the making: the launch of the final phase of a decade-long, 57-home neighborhood transformation. Future homeowners are

busy completing their education process for the first five brand-new, energy-efficient homes slated to be completed this fall. The next four homes for the 27-home final phase of this development are also under construction, planned completion is early next year.

In addition to state support, corporate and foundation leaders were recognized for the significant role they play in Habitat's mission to bring people together to build homes, communities, and hope. Their generosity helps cover the affordability gaps so homeowners can purchase these homes with a mortgage payment that fits within their budget and income guidelines. Bridging these gaps is the power behind Habitat's ability to provide families and individuals with generational transformation and stability.



**The Dream of Homeownership.** Habitat Chesapeake partners with families to make safe, affordable homeownership possible. Through our program, qualified applicants can purchase newly renovated 2- and 3-bedroom homes with modern amenities and low monthly payments. Scan the code to learn more about our Homeownership Program.



## Board of Directors

**Bryan Porter**

Chair

**Mark Heird**

Vice Chair

**Kevin Carter**

Secretary

**Nathan (Josh) Rollins**

Treasurer

**Jim Goodrich**

**Steve Hulse**

**Seema Iyer**

**Kimberly Orange**

**David Ralph**

**Owen Rouse**

**Zack Shankman**

**Peggen Townsend**

**Scott Wingrat**

**Jeff Beck**

## Executive Staff

**Mike Posko**

Chief Executive Officer

**Steve Bolton**

Chief Operating Officer  
Construction

**Paul Erbes**

Chief Development &  
Marketing Officer

**Leila Kohler-Frueh**

Vice President  
Homeowner Services  
and Community Relations

**David Miller**

Chief Operating Officer

**Candice Van Scoy**

Chief Financial Officer



## THANKS TO YOU, WE'RE GROWING OUR IMPACT

Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake has received a great deal of public attention these past couple months. Community leaders, the media, and organizations are noticing our focused efforts to expand the impact of our mission in Central Maryland.

You may have seen the major announcement with Governor Moore at the 27-home Orchard Ridge project (see accompanying article) where we were the first recipient of UPLIFT (Utilizing Progressive Lending Investments to Finance Transformation), a funding program by the State of Maryland to increase the availability of affordable homes. A couple weeks later, Habitat Chesapeake was awarded the opportunity to participate in the Baltimore Vacants Reinvestment Initiative (BVRI) with a plan to rehab 20 homes in Baltimore City. More recently, Johns Hopkins selected us to develop an 8-home block near the hospital. Additionally, we will soon begin construction on a 5-home neighborhood in Severn (Anne Arundel County) plus projects in Howard County, Sandtown, Pen Lucy, and Middle East.

The result of all this is that we have over 60 homes in the planning and construction phases throughout Baltimore City, Anne Arundel County, and Howard County. This type of growth and impact would not be possible without partners like you. Thank you for your passionate support of our mission to put God's love into action, to build homes, communities, and hope.

Thanks for your support,

Mike Posko  
Chief Executive Officer

P.S. Watch for announcements about Habitat's 50th anniversary celebration, and Chesapeake's 45th anniversary.



**Scan the code to sign up to volunteer.** You can play an important role in making a home available to a first-time homeowner! Join us as we build or rehab a home or prepare merchandise for sale at a Habitat Chesapeake ReStore.



## Congratulations, Homebuyer Education Graduates!

In August, we celebrated our newest Homebuyer Education Program graduates! Over several weeks, these future homeowners completed 12 classes as part of their Sweat Equity, gaining practical skills in financial management, home maintenance, community engagement, and navigating the homebuying process.

Now, they're ready to put that hard work into action as they prepare to move into the Orchard Ridge development. We're so proud of their dedication and can't wait to see them turn the keys in their own front doors.



Pictured left to right: Erica, Wanda, Keisha, and Pamela.

## New Opportunities for Future Homeowners

We're excited to announce that recruitment has begun for several houses in Baltimore City. In partnership with the Housing Authority of Baltimore City (HABC), several homes are reserved for their participants, one of which will be part of this recruitment cycle. These opportunities mean more families will not just find housing, but truly find a place to call home.



Join Us  
for a Virtual  
Live Info  
Session!



## BUILDING HOPE IN HONDURAS



From October 18–25, 2025, a 13-member Habitat Chesapeake team will travel to La Esperanza, Honduras, to build safe, affordable housing alongside local families. This is the first step in a 3-year partnership between these two affiliates. Since its founding 50 years ago, Habitat for Humanity has maintained a strong emphasis on connecting people around the globe with the mission of helping everyone live in a decent home.



## CORPORATE HIGHLIGHT



**Baltimore Gas and Electric (BGE)** has been a lead sponsor for the mission of Habitat Chesapeake for many years. Their corporate focus on energy savings and efficiency has led to generous funding to assure that each new home that Habitat builds receives an Energy Star rating for efficiency. In addition to their generous financial support, annually over 100 BGE employees volunteer over 500 hours to support home construction and ReStore operations. As a dedicated corporate sponsor, BGE is strengthening communities and creating hope for families across the greater Baltimore area.



***Habitat Chesapeake works with corporations of all sizes to build partnerships. Scan the code to learn more about becoming a corporate sponsor!***

Contact our Volunteer Department at [volunteer@habitatchesapeake.org](mailto:volunteer@habitatchesapeake.org)

## 50 Years of Habitat for Humanity

In 2026, Habitat for Humanity will celebrate 50 years of building homes, communities, and hope. Plus, Habitat Chesapeake will mark 45 years of service right here in Central Maryland. Stay tuned for special announcements celebrating this legacy!

## HFHC Welcomes New Team Members!

We're excited to welcome Rae Baldwin, Director of Development; Brandon Jerome, Major Gifts Officer; Robbyn Lewis, Corporate Relations Officer; and Madison Kozera, Donor Information Manager. Their talents and passion will help us grow our mission in the years ahead!

Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake  
3741 Commerce Drive, Suite 309, Baltimore, MD 21227  
Phone: 410-366-1250 Email: [habitatchesapeake.org](mailto:habitatchesapeake.org)

