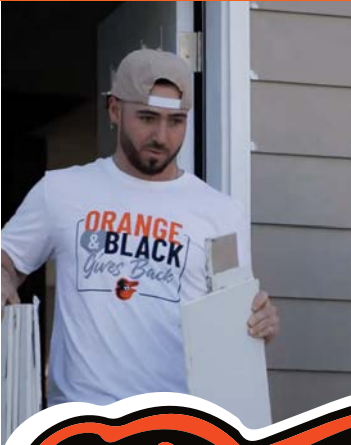




Hearts and Homes

Spring 2023



WARD STREET

Wrap Up

 What do you get when you mix visible investment in the form of new and rehabilitated homes with engaged, long-term residents and community partners who step up to the plate to create stronger, safer, healthier and more vibrant neighborhoods? You get a new narrative for one of Baltimore's most culturally and economically diverse communities – Pigtown. Steps away from Orioles Park at Camden Yards, and home to more than 5,000 residents, Pigtown proudly hosts three public schools, 12 active churches, Paul's Place (a neighborhood staple offering a wide range of programs for the neighborhood), a Head Start community center, a local golf course, and an active community association. However, this bustling, modern community that revels in its unique name and history was a mere vision just two decades ago due to vacant properties and disinvestment.

Since 2004, Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake has worked in collaboration with Paul's Place and other community supporters to revitalize the Ward Street corridor. In that time, Habitat Chesapeake has built or renovated a total of 41 homes in Pigtown, including 20 homes in the 1100 and 1200 blocks of Ward Street.

In 2018, Habitat Chesapeake pressed forward, demolishing seven vacant, burned-out houses using State demolition funds from the Hogan Administration. The plan was simple: replace the derelict structures with three larger homes. The goal? Transform the 1100 block of Ward Street from blight to stability, fostering a stronger, healthier neighborhood where homebuyers find safety, security and the much-deserved opportunity to build a

Continued on page 4

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HAMMERING INTO ACTION Curtis Bay Progress

Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake operates with one vision in mind: building a world where everyone has a safe, decent, and affordable place to call home. Collectively, we saw the power of having a safe place to call home during the pandemic and today, the need for homeownership affordability only continues to grow. Until everyone has a place to call home, our work presses on. Our home building is amplified by each of you who donates your time and resources to help us pave the way for what is to come.

In 2010, our legacy affiliate in Anne Arundel purchased a 12,000 sqft plot of land in Curtis Bay, prior to the merger with Habitat Chesapeake. The neighborhood borders the Anne Arundel County line and is adjacent to the 88-acre Farring-Baybrook Park. For years, our staffing capacity and funding did not allow for us to start work on this land, but I am excited to share that the work has begun.

We are on schedule to break ground within the next few weeks, beginning construction on what will eventually be nine new homes with off-street parking and quick access to the wonderful park across the street. The houses will be in walking distance to Baybrook Elementary/Middle School and Farring-Baybrook Recreation Center. We have been proud to work alongside efforts by the Greater Baybrook Alliance, Curtis Bay Community Association, Filbert Street Garden, and others who make Curtis Bay a great place to live. With a strong coalition of public and private entities and individuals, there is movement forward to secure investments in infrastructure, public safety, youth programming and more.

What excites me beyond breaking ground is our intentional focus on using our work to further enhance the truly notable efforts already happening in this neighborhood. We are grateful for companies like Environmental Quality Resources (EQR) for assisting us in environmental restoration, to the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development for their shared vision of a greater, more affordable Chesapeake, and to the devoted public servants of the 46th district.



Finally, we are grateful to you, our volunteers, who I know without a doubt will be ready, hammer in hand, to bring our hard-working partner families one step closer to home.

Thank you for helping us build a more affordable Chesapeake,

Mike Posko
Chief Executive Officer

RESTORE RIDEALONG

Driving Change & New Beginnings



Have you ever wondered about how a ReStore donation pickup works? Thanks to the incredible ReStore donation team, you can donate new and gently-used furniture and housewares right from your doorstep. ReStore donation specialists, like Darien and Shawn, make the process seamless for donors while giving new life and new homes to your donated treasures.

“When you’ve got a job working with these people, it motivates you to work, because you work in a good atmosphere with good people and for a good cause,” says Darien.

A typical day starts bright and early for Darien and Shawn, who arrive, load and secure items, and deliver them back to the ReStore where 100% of the resale profits help fund Habitat Chesapeake’s programs.

“When you’ve got a job working with these people, it motivates you to work, because you work in a good atmosphere with good people and for a good cause.”—Darien

On one particular Friday morning, Shawn and Darien set out to Catonsville. Their first pickup is a repeat customer who previously donated parts of their kitchen during a home renovation. Thanks to the ReStore Salvage Service, our ReStore team carefully removes items like cabinetry, sinks, doors and windows from homes undergoing major renovations.*

Darien and Shawn’s next stop is a donor who has prepared a beautiful dining set, complete with table, chairs, and China cabinet. Long-loved items like this often have fond memories attached to them; this donor remembered how she bought the beautiful set when her eldest daughter was only a toddler.

“I feel good letting this piece go, knowing that hopefully someone else will get so much out of it as we have over the years,” said the donor.

That’s what the ReStore is all about: reusing, rewiring, and giving old items a new lease on life. Habitat Chesapeake does the same by renovating homes alongside homebuyers that will build a new legacy.

Thank you again to our ReStore donors and shoppers, and don’t forget to thank your donation truck driver!

* For more information on the ReStore Salvage Service email vwagner@habitatchesapeake.org





WARD STREET

Wrap Up

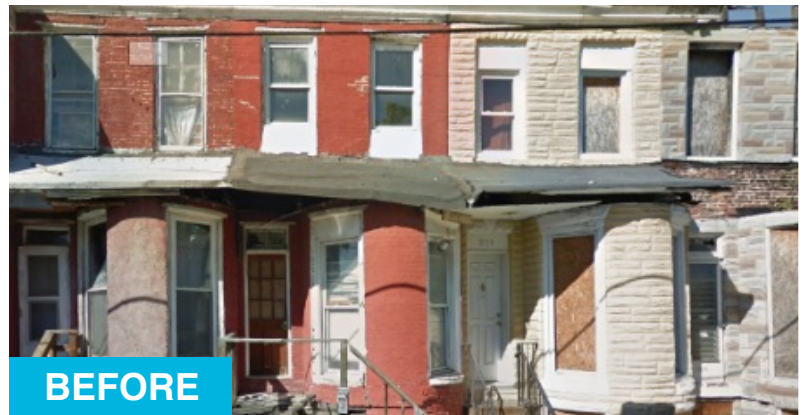
brighter future for their families. To accomplish this, we looked to our dedicated group of supporters including our very own “Home Team”, The Baltimore Orioles, to bring some Bird Land magic to our build site!

Why South B-More?

When Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake builds a home, we want to ensure it is in a neighborhood that families will want to call home for the next 30 years or more. There are dozens of communities across Central Maryland that have significant assets – from parks to transit access, to strong anchor institutions – but need additional resources to realize their full potential. We select where we work carefully, looking for these existing assets as well as engaged residents, businesses, fellow nonprofit organizations and civic groups who are already working on other community development initiatives.

As Habitat Chesapeake brings visible investment in the form of new and rehabilitated homes and engaged, long-term residents, we are also working alongside community partners to advocate for other projects and improvements that create stronger, safer, healthier, and more vibrant communities.

After clearing the debris and breaking ground, we called on The Baltimore Orioles to take a break from the chaos of Baseball season and take a swing at construction! With the support of The Orange & Black Gives Back employee volunteer program and The Orioles Wives, The O's swapped their helmets for hardhats and swung into action on the 1100 block of Ward. Over the course of four build days throughout the Summer, players like Ryan McKenna and Tyler Wells along with The Orioles Wives and executive team rolled up their sleeves to hang drywall, hammer nails, insulate walls and even a bit of frame work!





“Our employees love to give back, and our Orange & Black Gives Back program allows us to do that. We have employees who return [to Habitat construction sites] multiple times because they can’t get enough of helping people and this is just one of the many projects we do throughout the year, but I would say it’s one of the most meaningful in a long time,” shared Jennifer Grondahl, Senior Vice President of Community Development and Communications for The Baltimore Orioles.

This past February, Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake hit the ball out of the park with the completion of these three beautiful 2-story row homes adorned with a custom HFH cornice that adds a subtle Habitat touch that will stand for years to come. Where seven derelict, burned-out shells once sat now stands 1154-1158 Ward Street, with 3 large, 3-bedroom homes with 1178 square feet of living space, a grassy backyard, off-street parking and a parking pad to accommodate the staff and visitors at Paul’s Place. Additionally, the homes are energy-efficient to keep costs down for homeowners.



AFTER

Top to bottom, from page 4: the 1100 block of Ward St before demolition; plans for rebuilding the original historic homes are drawn; the Orioles pose for a group photo after working on the new row homes; Orioles volunteers climb the scaffolding to attach siding and finishing touches; the completed facades feature special cornices; two Orioles players, Ryan McKenna and Tyler Wells, are interviewed onsite while working alongside volunteers.



"It's a beautiful signature piece! We wanted something functional but unique to us that matched the charm of the city."—Steve Bolton Chief Operating Officer



“This is literally our neighborhood and so, the impact is direct in terms of the Orioles presence in this part of [Baltimore] city,” commented Mike Elias, Executive Vice President and General Manager for The Baltimore Orioles.

Home Sweet Home

Three new homebuyers will soon call Pigtown home and The O’s Family are eager to welcome their new neighbors to the neighborhood. A celebration with our Home Team and Homebuyers is in the works as we wrap-up our work on the 1100 block of Ward Street.

We at Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake would like to thank our dedicated supporters including The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, South Baltimore Gateway Partnership, Brown Advisory, University of Maryland Baltimore, Prime AE Group, Chaney Enterprises, Baltimore Orioles, Johns Hopkins Medicine, and The Episcopal Church for their contributions to this transformative project. Three cheers for Ward Street!





DAP GIVES BACK: When mission meets partnership

There is something incredibly powerful when mission meets partnership. From their employee culture of giving, to their manufacturing roots in Baltimore, DAP Products Inc. has made it their mission to bring products to both DIY home renovators and professionals, while supporting the communities where they work.

As a leading manufacturer of home repair and construction products including caulk sealants, and adhesives, DAP, Inc. was founded in 1865 and is headquartered right here in Baltimore with a manufacturing plant in Sparrows Point.



“The Habitat partnership is really a great one. A big part of that is because it's what we do. We're in the home remodeling and construction business, so it's just a really good fit with our industry,” Mark Heird-President, DAP

DAP's team are the living result of mission meeting partnership, proudly wearing the slogan “DAP Gives Back”. The company has fostered camaraderie through construction volunteer days and built relationships with Habitat staff and partner family members along the way. DAP has also been recognized as one of Habitat's 360-degree Partners of the Year for their involvement on Habitat Chesapeake's Board of Directors, unmatched volunteer engagement, and employee giving program. This past December, Habitat Chesapeake dedicated the ‘DAP House’ in Belair-Edison, where Whitney and her family now call home.

“We value the time that we're given and we believe in using that time and service for our community to help others succeed. And we're really proud of that culture of giving back and making a positive impact in the community,” says Erin McGuinn, Senior Director of Human Resources at DAP.

As Habitat Chesapeake looks ahead to another decade of service, these partnerships could not be more important. The national housing shortage, rising inflation, and a dearth of affordable options means that our neighbors are more in need of affordable homeownership options now more than ever, and our partners help us rise to the challenge.

“For us, we recognize the value of home and providing stability and security for families and individuals,” says Erin. “That's what Habitat does, and it's just a really natural fit and it allows us to help improve our community – one house, one neighborhood, at a time.”




**ON THE JOB
SINCE 1865™**



NAILING ANOTHER YEAR Checking in with HabiCorps!



 **Just off the heels** of its sixth anniversary, the HabiCorps Workforce Development Program is stepping into 2023 with hammers swinging! HabiCorps, an AmeriCorps service program, offers 10.5 months of meaningful, hands-on training in construction trades to individuals experiencing employment barriers. Since its inception in 2017, HabiCorps hones skills and prepares trainees for successful careers in carpentry, drywall, framing, construction, landscaping, and professional skills. With six years under its tool belt, there's no signs of slowing down.

It's a big deal when HabiCorps Alums return to our construction sites to catch us up on life after the program. We recently met with 2021 Alum, Carlos, who now works as a project scheduler for Riggs Distler, a subcontractor for BGE.



"From start to finish, you get training along the way. It's honestly a family. That's why I'm personally here to come back to let people know, you can do it. It takes time, it's a process, but you have to keep going. You can definitely succeed with HabiCorps." —Carlos

To date, HabiCorps graduates have finished the program and progressed into a variety of training programs, trade schools, careers, and industries. Terrance, a Baltimore native and Army veteran, works as a carpenter after graduating from HabiCorps in 2021. Shortly after finishing the program, he joined the Mid-Atlantic Carpenters Union,

where he learned additional skills and contracted with a finishing company. Since then, he has completed a variety of contracts, including working on interiors at Top Golf in downtown Baltimore and cruise ships in Salisbury through Aerotek.

"You can come from any background and find your place in the program. We all come from different backgrounds. But at the end of the day when you come to the program, you're going to be accepted for who you are,"

—Terrance



Thanks to partners like Aerotek, the HabiCorps Workforce Development program also helps graduates with job placement upon completion of the program, offering them opportunities to use or expand their new skillset in the workplace.

"Since Habitat, I have taken up carpentry as my career path. It's been great. I do work for myself and I've also had a variety of different jobs," says Terrance. "There's always opportunities out there, it's just about what you want to do."

Graduates from workforce development programs like HabiCorps also serve to fill a dire labor shortage. According to Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC), the construction industry faced a workforce shortage of over 650,000 laborers in 2022 alone. As HabiCorps looks ahead, the program hopes to meet some of that demand while strengthening economic opportunities for job-seekers in Baltimore.

“WHAT DO WE WANT? AFFORDABLE HOUSING! WHEN DO WE WANT IT? NOW!”

Habitat Chesapeake joins hundreds of Habitat affiliates on Capitol Hill to advocate for affordable housing



A safe home. Nutritious food. Health care. Reliable transportation. Which would you choose? This thought-provoking question was proposed on one of the many signs at Habitat for Humanity’s annual Habitat on the Hill. The question was designed to make people consider- which one would be the “best choice” for their own family? In reality, NO family should have to choose between these fundamental needs.

Everyone should have the basic right to these necessities for living a comfortable life. Unfortunately, that is not the case for many families across the country. That is why organizations like Habitat for Humanity exist to bridge the homeownership gap for low-to moderate-income families. Habitat Chesapeake is proud to lead this work on a local level for families across Central Maryland, but also advocate for change on a national level annually at Habitat on the Hill.

This year was the first in-person Habitat on the Hill conference since the Covid-19 pandemic. Hundreds of advocates representing more than 1,000 affiliates from Maryland to California joined together for one mission: to advocate for affordable housing policies



and funding on a national level. Affiliates representatives meet with their state’s congressional offices to discuss how much their support would mean to the livelihood of the countless families trying to achieve the dream of homeownership.

Before campaigning on Capitol Hill, a full day of workshops and plenaries like “Policy Solutions for Closing the Black Homeownership Gap” were held to empower affiliates and help prepare them for meeting with state legislators. Rallying around the lack of affordable housing across the nation, supporters advocated for legislative support on Federal programs, including Neighborhood Homes Investment Act (NHIA), Self-Help Opportunity Program (SHOP), and the USDA Section 502 Direct Loan program.

Habitat Chesapeake is proud to be part of a powerful network of affiliates across the country helping to create homeownership

opportunities for low-income families. Together, we will work to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to build safety, stability, and self-reliance through affordable homeownership.

BUILD A WILL, SECURE YOUR LEGACY: 3 steps to get started

The new year is the perfect time to prepare for your future and all you love, and Habitat wants to help! We’re sharing a free estate planning resource from our friends at FreeWill. Create a will in just 20 minutes and it costs you nothing. Get started today!

STEP
1



Visit
freewill.com/habitatchesapeake

STEP
2



Click the
[Get Started Now](#)
Button

STEP
3



Secure your legacy in
20 minutes and ensure
peace of mind and
security for you and your
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