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Habitat for Humanity partners with very low-income families and provides homeownership opportunities with no-profit, 0% interest mortgages. Habitat for Humanity is a housing ministry providing affordable housing with God's people everywhere. Our goal is to eliminate poverty housing worldwide.

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Habitat Store 507 Main Street (719) 589-8688 | Habitat Office 601 State Ave (719) 589-8678 mailing address P.O. Box 1197 | Alamosa, CO 81101 | www.slvhabitat.org | Winter 2020 Issue No. 49

#### Welcome HOME Stephanie & Paul



It's been quite a year amidst a worldwide pandemic. We enter this holiday season giving many thanks and filled with much appreciation to welcome Stephanie and Paul into their new Habitat Home!!!



We are so grateful for the support of our community, the generous bequest from the Reed Family Trust, the Payroll Protection Program and the assistance of the Economic Injury Disaster Loan which are supporting us and helping to continue our mission during this most difficult time. With the onset of the virus this past spring, our Habitat Store closed for several months and all construction volunteer workgroups cancelled.



For our annual Bike2Build ride, we hosted a virtual event as cyclists pedaled in support for Habitat wherever they were. We continue to be flexible addressing each new challenge in our ever changing environment. We truly appreciate all the efforts of our Board of Directors and our dedicated Store staff who are keeping us going.



We have just started to build Faith's future Habitat Home with Jason, Jonathan and our local construction talents working alongside Lawrence on site. We are hopeful for our future and our world. Blessings to everyone, be safe, be healthy, be happy. ~ Audrey Liu, Executive Director

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# Do You Work for ASU? Or for the State of CO?

You can impact our work through the CCC, Colorado Combined Campaign. From now until Dec 31st, support the causes and communities you care about. It's easy and efficient to donate through workplace giving

**STATE EMPLOYEES** to good works such as Habitat for *Giving. Caring. Sharing.* Humanity. If you give the cost of a cup of coffee per pay check, over the course of a year, this coffee donation can light up a bedroom, paint a hallway or make a doorbell ring. When you donate thru the CCC, you make a difference! When your contribution is combined with those of other state employees, the impact is powerful!

#### Every Home Should Have One



Habitat for Humanity sells reflective house number signs. These signs are recommended by ambulance services, volunteer fire departments, sheriff's offices, and hundreds of other public safety agencies nationwide. Signs are aluminum with fade-resistant reflective green coating. Each sign accommodates 3, 4, or 5 reflective numbers. 3-numbered signs can be horizontal or vertical. The signs are \$12 each and can be picked up at our Habitat Store or delivered via US mail for an additional \$5. Call Don Dustin at (719) 658-0184 to place your sign order. Protect your home and help Habitat raise funds.

#### WeBuild - Vocational Training

I was so blessed to be able to work for ten years building cabinets and roof trusses for so many people while serving my time. That is honestly the most rewarding job I ever had. I would like to say that for my time in prison, and in my experience, the WeBuild program changed my life for the better. I started as a janitor, sweeping sawdust. I had some experience drafting before I arrived in prison and soon became the cabinet designer. Eventually I learned how to design engineered roof trusses for homes using Eagle Metal's Truss Design software. The WeBuild program, unlike most prison industries, is a Vocational Program that requires inmates to learn the industry as well as general studies before building products. Inmates are required to have a diploma or GED before working. I have known dozens of people that got their GED in prison so that they could work in the cabinet shop or truss shop. This gave the motivation needed to get a GED, and without this shop, they may not have ever attempted to. The cabinet shop is a US Dept. of Labor Cabinet Maker Apprenticeship program where a 4 year apprenticeship can be completed that applies to any cabinet shop once out of prison. I met a lot of people in the shop there that learned a new trade and developed skills that they could use for the rest of their lives. Habitat for Humanity's WeBuild program has helped thousands of inmates over the 22 years that it has been in operation. That is the nuts-and-bolts of the program.

But I believe the most valuable benefit is the ability to make a difference in real lives outside of prison. The WeBuild program gave me such a sense of purpose and pride to be able to make a difference in so many people's lives while serving my time. Habitat's work has the effect of bringing people together and stabilizing communities

all over the world.

I am a parolee working full time designing trusses and developing software to design building components for Eagle Metal. I will be traveling to Dallas to visit the office.



Eagle Metal makes the software I used for years while designing trusses. A job that I would not now have if not for my time working with Habitat for Humanity's

WeBuild program.

Once I got out of prison, I contacted Eagle Metal looking for a job and received a great reference that helped me secure the position. I am a success story of the WeBuild program. One of many and I hope there will be more to come. I would not have this job or the experience designing trusses if not for the WeBuild program. Thanks to technology I am able to design trusses from my home in Denver. I received more from WeBuild than I ever did from any other job and I am working in a job that I love because of the program. I am very grateful for the WeBuild program for what it did in my life and what it is

doing in other's lives. I hope it can continue.

I am doing very well and busy as ever. I bought a house with my wife and we planted a garden this year. We have tons of fresh veggies now and this is something I dreamed of while I was in prison. I thank the WeBuild program for making my life better while I was in prison and for continuing to make my life better now, out here on parole. That is what Habitat does, not only for families building affordable homes, but also for inmates and parolees. Habitat for Humanity's work affects everyone directly and indirectly, a helping hand to so many. The WeBuild program definitely changed my life and I will be forever grateful. ~Shane

## SLV Federal Bank \* Spirit of Giving



SLV Federal Bank is hosting the annual holiday Spirit of Giving to donate \$30,000 to the great work of non-profit organizations in the San Luis Valley. Bank customers can cast votes until Fri Dec 18 to share this gift with favorite non-profits, one vote for each account. The program brings out the generous spirit of our community. Fill out a voting card at the bank or vote online at www.slvfed.bank. **Vote Habitat for Humanity!** 



## Colorado GIVES DAY **Tuesday Dec 8** Building Homes Hopes & Dreams

#### www.coloradogives.org/SanLuisValleyHFH

For over 25 years Habitat for Humanity has been serving low-income households in the San Luis Valley with opportunities in affordable homeownership. Since 1994, 22 families have moved into simple, affordable housing through Habitat for Humanity. Over 50 children under the age of 18 have grown up in Habitat Homes. Many of the children have now graduated from high school, some have been the first in their families to pursue higher education and attend college.

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We invite you to make a contribution toward our work building homes, building hope and building dreams. Give online by Dec 8

www.coloradogives.org/SanLuisValleyHFH.

Donations can be pre-scheduled to be given on CO Gives Day. Consider giving to our sustainable venture that is helping our community grow! You could also mail your donation to Habitat for Humanity at PO Box 1197 in Alamosa, CO 81101



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