

## UUAA Habitat for Humanity Team Annual Report 2020-21

Submitted by: Mike Muha and Sandy Simon

UUAA is a member congregation of the Good News House Group, a 30-year ministry of 13-17 area congregations that combine resources and volunteers to support the mission and work of Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley (HHHV).

UUAA's Habitat team does fundraising and recruits volunteers to work on-site, refurbishing foreclosed homes primarily in nearby Ypsilanti. We strive to make a difference in our community, in a way that supports our work on economic injustice, racism and sexism. We do this work with other congregations in the community, an interfaith cooperative effort. All houses we work on achieve energy star ratings, so we are also supporting energy conservation in our county, in line with UUAA's climate action goals.

This year, we were fortunate that UUAA could be of above-and-beyond help to the local Habitat projects as HHHV adjusted to cope with the pandemic safety needs. In July, we took on a new kind of project, constructing a food cart used to distribute local fresh produce at a food bank. A delayed build season began in July, when safety standards could be put in place for sanitizing equipment and providing masked, distanced, outdoor work. This meant limited numbers of site work volunteers and no lunch volunteers for the 2020 season. Many congregations struggled to find volunteers this year, and UUAA volunteers often stepped forward to fill in. The season extended into November to catch up on multiple Habitat houses that had fallen behind. By the end of the season, HHHV did catch up. One of our volunteers, Dale Sniegowski, continued working with HHHV throughout the year.

In 2021 UUAA has sent a small crew to a "Women Build" work day, and 16 volunteers to a neighborhood Spring Cleanup day. Our summer crews will remain small as the pandemic continues, but we hope vaccinations will help increase participation from all congregations.

Committee members: Mike Muha (chair), Sandy Simon, Fran Lyman, Gwen Guthrie, Lucy Graff, Keleigh Anders