

Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley's Response to the COVID-19 crisis

Updated 5/18/20

1. Our office is currently closed, while staff who are able are working from home and construction staff has been deemed essential and working at safe distances on priority projects
2. Our ReStore is re-opening for online sales only on May 5, 2020. Inventory will be posted on the ReStore Facebook page (@h4h.restore) during regular scheduled hours. During this time, customers nor volunteers will be permitted inside of the ReStore and items will be picked up by donations only. Donation drop offs will be available during limited times, beginning Sat., May 9
3. We canceled all volunteer activities in March, April and May, a loss of roughly 700 volunteers during our busiest build and exterior repairs season. This loss of volunteer labor has slowed our project timelines and placed more pressure on our construction team to continue working on priority renovation projects. We estimate volunteers save our organization \$24/hour, meaning we anticipated about \$96,000 in expenses related to the loss of roughly 4,000 volunteer hours over the course of March, April and May
4. Additionally, Habitat has lost expected funding related to the sale of four homes during March – May (average loss of \$130,000 per house sale), expected sales from the ReStore (averaging \$70,000 in sales a month), our Annual Habitat Breakfast fundraiser in March went virtual and raised half of funding expected, Fundraising Builds – such as the Veterans Build, Women Build and House that Beer Built, which all rely on volunteers to fundraise during March – May (projecting a \$20,000 loss in fundraising efforts). Major corporate partners are also postponing or denying funding (expected loss of \$80,000) during March – May.
5. For our Home Ownership Program, we prioritized which houses to complete and close by the end of June (end of fiscal year) based on family needs (rental increases, job changes, etc), progress of renovation and ability to complete, number of sweat equity hours completed by families. We are confident that four houses will close by June and four more in July or August.

6. Many of our Habitat homeowners have expressed that they're experiencing financial hardships due to COVID-19 and are unable to make their regular mortgage payments. So, we created a Mortgage Payment Relief Program that will supply payments to the homeowners loan servicer to be applied for up to two months of their mortgage payments. We are currently seeking donations to supplement this program. **For more information, or to donate to the campaign, visit www.h4h.org/mortgage-relief-fund**
7. The Habitat Education Program moved to all online classes and one-on-one counseling, and continues to work with our partner families remotely
8. We have postponed Family Assessment and Review processes for any new applicants, however we've become inundated with people who are in need of housing now more than ever, and anticipate a surge of homeowner applications as we process through the COVID19 pandemic. We are also currently working on online classes, opportunities and other ways our current partner families can engage and work with us, remotely
9. For our Home Improvement Program, we have suspended all repairs and projects until the Shelter in Place order is lifted. We are still accepting online applications for all HIP programs
10. We created a Volunteer Phase in Plan to resume work with volunteers effective June 1, 2020. We developed **Volunteer Health & Safety Guidelines** to ensure our work environments are safe, including lowering our number of volunteers on site from 12 to under 6, limiting use of tools to specific volunteers and having all volunteers bring their own PPE (face masks, gloves), water bottles and lunch. **For the new Volunteer Health & Safety Guidelines, visit www.h4h.org/volunteer**
11. Habitat donated our supply of Personal Protection Equipment, including masks, Tyvek suits, latex gloves and protective goggles to the frontline workers at St. Joe's ICU. Due to the current shortage of such materials, we are only scheduling volunteer groups who are able to bring their own Personal Protection Equipment (masks and gloves) for the spring and summer months
12. Our Community Development Team partnered with local organizations to convert the Little Free Libraries in West Willow to free food pantries stocked with non-perishable food and household items and masks made by a Habitat supporter. We worked with neighborhood leaders, Ypsilanti Township, and the Washtenaw County



Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley works to enrich Washtenaw County through a legacy of affordable homeownership for low-income families.

Sheriff's Office to bring three neighborhood watch/association meetings online through Zoom meetings.

13. We are working with Washtenaw County to package and distribute cleaning and safety supplies for the Ypsilanti neighborhoods that have been hardest hit by COVID-19 and converted our new Tool Lending Library in the Sugarbrook Neighborhood to help store, package and distribute breakfast and lunch foods to families with school-aged children.

14. We continue to assess and modify our responses daily, including our Volunteer Phase in Plan, and continue to adapt and change as we continue through this unpredictable and trying time



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