



# FORT COLLINS HABITAT **VOLUNTEER IMPACT REPORT** 2023

# THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

## A YEAR IN REVIEW

Every year, the team at Fort Collins Habitat is amazed by the community support that makes our mission possible. From framing walls on the build site to hanging rugs at our ReStore and supporting operations as a committee member, volunteers have done amazing things this past year. You'll get to read more in this report, but here are some highlights from 2023:

- More volunteers served (compared to 2022), and, on average, **rated their experience a 4.7 out of 5**.
- Our organization became a **certified Service Enterprise**, meeting national standards for best practices in volunteer engagement.
- **Youth engagement** increased with our faith community's youth groups hosting lemonade stands and bake sales at the ReStore throughout the summer.

If you volunteered this past year, thank you for giving the gift of time. If you haven't served with us, we hope to hear from you so we can get you involved in 2024. It's going to be a great year and we would love to have you join us!

*Abby Krstulic & Trevor Lewis*

Community  
Engagement Director  
970-488-2610

Volunteer  
Coordinator  
970-488-2711



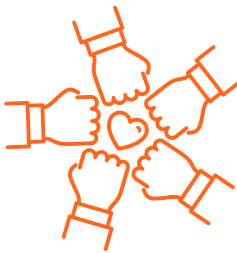
# BY THE NUMBERS



**768**  
Volunteers  
serving across  
the organization



**401**  
Volunteers joining for  
the first time



**52**  
Groups on the build  
site and ReStore



**11,163**  
Hours dedicated to  
making HOME possible



**96%** Volunteers say they would serve  
with Fort Collins Habitat again



# VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS



## NEW SKILLS

"I enjoy working with my hands and doing things I normally don't do in my everyday job. **I feel like I always learn something new on Habitat Build days.**"



## TANGIBLE IMPACT

"**Habitat builds are one of my favorite volunteer events.** They are always enjoyable, and, at the end of the day, have a tangible contribution for families."



## BUILDING COMMUNITY

"I would volunteer again and recommend volunteering to others. [The staff] are all great to work with, so friendly and willing to help. I also appreciate the other volunteers- they are wonderful and gladly help with anything asked of them. **I feel part of a team and everyone makes each other feel welcome.**"



# UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES

The build site and ReStore aren't the only ways that volunteers make a difference. Check out the other amazing ways volunteers got involved in 2023!

## Faith Champions

Faith Champions represent different churches and faith organizations in Fort Collins. They support Fort Collins Habitat by coordinating volunteer opportunities, promoting involvement with Habitat, and raising funds for the Faith Build through a variety of events. Last year, we had a lot of creative partnerships, including:

- Youth group led lemonade stands and bake sales held at the ReStore throughout the summer.
- **Sue** (Heart of the Rockies Church) supports planning and advocacy around our upcoming Heartside Hill development. She also organized a special 30th anniversary congregation-wide volunteer day that had volunteers serving across the organization.
- **Jerry** (Our Saviour's Lutheran Church/FOCOLU) coordinated a Christmas ornament fundraiser, bringing over 30 volunteers together to create Christmas ornaments or gifts. Over 250 items were made and the event raised \$3,800 to support the Faith Build.
- **Dan** (Foothills Unitarian Church) led a fun and impactful project with their church's youth, teaching middle and high school students how to safely use tools. The group then put their skills to the test by building a dog house and planter boxes that were sold at the ReStore.

"Thank you, Faith Champions, for your passion, creativity, and dedication to helping families achieve their dream of homeownership. **We couldn't do this work without you!**" - Sarah Lindsey, Faith Engagement Manager



## Events & Committees

- **Books for Humanity** (pictured to the right), led by volunteer Deanna Ludwin, returned for the first time since 2019. This program is open to homeowners and includes access to books and a bookshelf made by local volunteers.
- Our events committee and day-of event volunteers helped us raise almost \$175,000 at our **30th anniversary Homecoming Gala**. We had so much fun, we're bringing it back in 2024!
- After our homeowner application period closed, 15 members of the **qualification committee** evaluated and interviewed applicants and then helped notify our newest group of homebuyers.
- **Habitat Ambassadors** represented Habitat at community events, sharing our mission and opportunities for involvement.
- The **Hard Hats steering committee** supported and coordinated partners in the construction industry to raise funds and sponsor a Habitat home.



# VOLUNTEER FEATURES



## **Bruce**

*Regular Construction Volunteer*

### **What got you involved with Habitat?**

I have always liked to build things. My dad was my example building onto our house when I was growing up. In college I studied engineering, but really enjoyed the hands-on part of it. While working at several local Fort Collins companies, I always volunteered for Habitat build days and, when I retired, I wanted to devote more of my time on it.

### **Share an impactful moment that you've experienced as a volunteer.**

Working outside the US, [my wife] Ruth and I have enjoyed meeting new people, sharing meals with the families, and working with the in-country Habitat staff. It is amazing to see the extended Habitat family doing essentially the same thing we are trying to do in Fort Collins. Locations are different, but the dedication to helping their local communities is the same.

## **Jackie & Kyleigh**

*ReStore & Event Volunteers*

### **Why do you volunteer with Fort Collins Habitat?**

To help people and to meet people, but also to be part of an organization that provides Fort Collins residents with the most important asset- a home. We also like to organize things so helping out at ReStore is both fun and relaxing! We like events because there's a variety of ways to help and it's an opportunity to meet other volunteers and Habitat families. We have a busy household and volunteering allows us to step away, slow down, and do something meaningful together [through National Charity League].

### **Why is it important to volunteer?**

Giving back to the community keeps our town healthy and growing in a good way. By volunteering we hope it sets an example for other people so they will be willing to also donate their time. It gives us a sense of purpose and connection and we hope our efforts will keep Habitat running strong. We like helping at Habitat because the way the volunteer program is structured it feels like volunteers are the backbone of the organization.



# VOLUNTEER FEATURES



## Elder Stokes

*Regular ReStore Volunteer*

### **What motivates you to volunteer, and why do you volunteer with Habitat?**

I wanted to be a light to people that are in need that they might have joy! This led me to becoming a Service Missionary of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in which my mission leaders suggested me to volunteer with Habitat. Volunteering here follows part of the purpose which is “to help others come unto Christ by serving them as the Savior would.” Habitat’s capacity to care for those that are less fortunate that are dealing with housing cost blesses the lives of the people that are in need and cares for others. I think it is important to volunteer here [because] these lives really matter. These are real people that need the caring support of us to have a better life.



## Halley & Niina

*Future Homebuyers*

### **What is the most meaningful thing about working with volunteers?**

The volunteers always bring amazing energy and make our dream home that much more special. The volunteers shared such warm encouragement and genuine excitement for our homeowner journey that our motivation was multiplied each build day!

### **What is your favorite part about working with Habitat volunteers?**

We love getting to know the volunteers on a personal level. With so many different people gathering together, it's so touching to hear their stories and see how everyone connects through volunteering that day.



### **Share an impactful story of your time on the construction site.**

There was a day where we needed to make a step ladder from scratch. We were a group of 4 with zero ladder skills starting off, but we talked it out and encouraged each other to embrace our strengths. Where one of us shined at measurements and calculating angles, another had a steady hand with the saw, and the other rocked it with the nail gun. The smallest of us could climb into the crawl space to get it into place and with all of our hard work we could make two beautiful step ladders! We felt so accomplished and took a photo to celebrate.

