“We are the type of people who run to the fire and stay through the hurricane.”

From “Koinonia Every Day,”
Charlottesville Habitat’s Statement of Values

April 10, 2020

Units 9 and 10 at Harmony Ridge. Habitat’s Construction staff is working to finish all almost-finished units while practicing social distancing so Partner Families can shelter in place at their new, safe homes.

Dear Friends,

As many of us work from home, almost hourly observing new blossoms on trees and seedlings poking out of our freshly-planted gardens, we are reminded that this is a season of rebirth – both in the natural and spiritual worlds. This week, as many of us celebrate two of the most holy days on the calendar – Passover and Easter – our most sacred texts remind us that we are not the first people to endure hard times.

After Jesus’ crucifixion, the disciples were despairing and lost, but not without faith that from unthinkable loss eventually comes light. It was a faith that was rewarded during the resurrection three days later. At Easter this

Habitat Helps Frontline Workers

When Jade (name changed to protect medical privacy) was hospitalized a few days ago for COVID-19, it didn't come as a big surprise. She has been on the front lines, providing nursing care at an area hospital while most other community members have been able to practice social distancing. She is also a Habitat Partner Family member moving successfully towards homeownership, who needs our support in a whole new way.

Jade and her children have been living with her mother in a nearby rural county for months. Now that she has been hospitalized, her children and mother have been ordered to quarantine with
year, regrettably at home rather than at church, people worldwide will nonetheless be able to celebrate the belief that better days are ahead if we stay faithful to our path of love and service. And, at dinner tables in Jewish homes across the globe this week, families gathered for the Passover Seder to honor the strength of forebears who escaped a life of slavery in Egypt, always propelled forward by the belief of a more equitable future. The *Haggadah* – the text recited during the Seder – issues a reminder that, although we may struggle at times, our most solemn obligation is to invest ourselves every day in work that bends the arc of history toward greater justice and freedom.

At Habitat, as we’ve rolled up our sleeves to serve the community in familiar and in new ways, doing the hard work this week of stabilizing the immediate housing situations of hundreds of families in our region, we’ve also been driven by the belief that our daily work is sowing the seeds for a brighter tomorrow. Our [interim mission and strategic plan](#) guides us as we are...

**Finishing homes**

In the past two weeks, three families have closed on their homes and moved in as our construction team finds creative ways to complete builds while maintaining social distance.

**Supporting partner family homeowners and Southwood community members**

Our staff is on the phone with community members every day finding out what they need to survive this crisis and connect with community resources.

**Adapting our resource deployment**

Among other interim initiatives, we’ve:

- Begun to organize a large-scale mask-making project that will leverage our volunteer network and creative potential.
- Offered the services of our Spanish speaking staff members to United Way and the Charlottesville Area Community...
Advocating

As part of our service on the Habitat International Policy Solutions Task Force, we were asked by members of Congress this week to identify and define the most impactful policies and funding mechanisms necessary to stabilize housing in the next stimulus package.

Working with donors

We understand that some donors may be in crisis right now, while others may be in a position to accelerate their gifts. We are grateful to our donors who reached out this week, some of whom made early gifts and at greater levels than they usually do.

We need your help. Please join us today in attending to the community’s most pressing needs. Even as we rightfully focus on the immediate health and safety of the community, let’s remember to periodically peak toward the horizon so that we can continue to walk together – though temporarily apart -- in the direction of a brighter future where, one day, ALL will enjoy the blessings of stable and healthy housing.

Volunteer

If you know how to sew or are prepared to learn, contact Amy Allamong to join our community mask-making effort.

Advocate

Click here to fill out a letter to your representatives in Congress supporting Habitat’s suggestions for an upcoming stimulus bill.

Donate

We need funding to continue our core functions while also flexing to attend to neighbors with immediate needs caused by the COVID crisis.
Click here to make a donation or call us at 434-293-9066 if you need help identifying other providers in the community doing critical front line work.

In partnership,

Dan Rosensweig
President & CEO

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Charlottesville | 434-293-9066