



**“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

no access to income or groceries. With a toddler in the family, it's a heavy price for a family to pay for helping to protect the rest of the community on the front line.

Janette Kawachi, Habitat's Chief Partnership Officer, says that Jade called from the hospital asking Habitat to help her quarantined family to get food. "This is a really heartbreaking but inspiring case," Kawachi says. "She just got approved for homeownership... She paid off her debt, she worked her butt off for her children."

Situations like this have been reported all around the Charlottesville area. Habitat is committed to intervening in support of our partner families who have received housing or are currently seeking it. Keeping them sheltered, fed, informed and on track for a future of secure homeownership. Kawachi outlined a three-pronged approach Habitat is taking to support families during the coronavirus pandemic.

First, we are helping existing homeowners with mortgages to pay. In all cases, Habitat will work with families to temporarily forbear or restructure their loans. Kawachi wants to reassure those families that "you will not lose your home due to this crisis."

Second, we are reaching out to homebuyer applicant families that have been approved for Habitat partnership but who have not completed the homebuyer education program. Through phone calls and online video,

Foundation to conduct remote intakes of people who have called about emergency relief funds.

## 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.

financial coaching is continuing as well as coronavirus-related crisis intervention when necessary.

Third, applicants who have not been formally accepted into a Habitat program need continued support, and we are reaching out during this crisis to keep them on track throughout the application process. Regularly scheduled meetings and events have been canceled due to social distancing, so Habitat staff have needed to find other ways of moving them forward to safe and stable housing. They may also need help navigating social services and finding other forms of assistance.

Meanwhile, Habitat found help for Jade's family while they are under quarantine. United Way is helping to pay for their groceries and electrical bill, which has increased dramatically while the family is sheltering at home. Carter Myers Automotive will deliver the groceries at no cost.

[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

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