



Greater Muncie, Indiana

**Habitat  
for Humanity®**

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**Shop & Donate**

Tuesday - Saturday, 9 AM - 4 PM

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@MuncieHabitat  
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[www.munciehabitat.org](http://www.munciehabitat.org)

# HOMEPAGE

SUMMER 2020



## Welcome Home, Lyons Family!

After months of putting in sweat equity hours, completing homeowner education classes, saving for down payment, and volunteering around the community, the Lyons' family is finally moving into their new, built-for-them home.

The Lyons worked with Habitat Muncie to purchase a home with a no-profit, no-interest mortgage. Each Habitat home is a collaboration of volunteers contributing hundreds of labor hours, visionary donors providing essential funds, and our partner families, who invest their own sweat equity. Each of these pieces is integral to turning ordinary houses into extraordinary Habitat Homes.



The dedication ceremony is cause for great celebration! Usually, Muncie Habitat hosts an Open House for board members, volunteers, fellow families, and the new neighbors. But due to the Covid-19 restrictions, supporters participated in a socially-distanced car parade to dedicate the home to the Lyons family!

Twenty-five parade participants showed their amazing support by waving signs & honking horns to celebrate Abigail and her children; Hezekiah, Sala, and Joel. The event was documented beautifully by local photographer Amanda Kishel, of Kishel Photography.

“Each home we build and dedicate is a symbol of God’s love in action,” stated Muncie Habitat CEO, Lindsey Arthur. “People from all walks of life coming together to focus on our shared belief - that housing is fundamental to a thriving family! **The Lyons family is a beacon of hope and light in this neighborhood and we are thrilled be a small part of their family story.**”

Another addition to the usual dedication was a Botts Legacy bookcase filled with games, books, and educational materials selected specifically with the new homeowner in mind, provided by the friends of Pat Botts at Northwest Bank. The Botts Legacy was created to provide each new Habitat homeowner with a bookcase filled with unique things to enrich the homeowner’s experience.

Since Muncie Habitat’s inception in 1986, new and improved housing options have been made available to more than 220 families.

# Cleaning out your home, business, or church? Donate your goods to ReStore!

**Drop off:** Tues-Sat 9-4 **OR Schedule Curbside Pickup:** 288-1814

If you're buying new, we'll take the old! De-clutter your space and make an impact on your community by donating your items to the ReStore.

Donations can be dropped off during normal business hours. For your safety, all pickups are modified to curbside or open garage only as we will not be entering homes at this time.



## Popular summer donation items include:

- Bikes
- Mowers
- Patio Furniture
- Living Room & Dining Room Furniture
- Appliances
- Paint
- Cabinets
- Power Tools
- Hardware
- AND SO MUCH MORE!

# 8twelve Coalition Wins National Award

Muncie Habitat for Humanity serves as the convener of the 8twelve Coalition, a neighborhood revitalization initiative serving South Central and Thomas Park/Avondale neighborhoods.



Recently, the Coalition received two national awards from Neighborhoods USA (NUSA); 3rd overall place in the Multi-Neighborhood Partnerships category, which features projects jointly produced by at least two neighborhoods or community organizations partnerships, and 2nd place in the Non-Profit Organization category for the 8twelve Neighborhood Newsletter.

**“We are so grateful for all of the partners who work with residents to realize the change they desire for their neighborhoods,”** stated Jena Ashby, Director of Impact & Programs for Muncie Habitat. **“These awards truly belong to the residents who continue to show up and bring to life the gifts and dreams of their neighbors.”**

Learn more about the 8twelve Coalition at [8twelvemuncie.com](http://8twelvemuncie.com).



## Staff Spotlight: Jena Ashby

Jena Ashby, Director of Impact & Programs, has been at Muncie Habitat for Humanity for nearly 14 years! In her time with Habitat, she has worked in many capacities including working with homeowners, volunteers, property management/acquisition, and neighborhood revitalization.

**“I have loved watching the evolution of this organization since I started working here,”** Jena stated. **“We have always done the building homes part so well, and now we are building communities and hope in exciting ways, too!”**

Jena is a lifelong Muncie resident, living in a little old farmhouse just south of town with her husband and two high-school aged sons. “Our house has been a constant project since we bought it 19 years ago - but luckily, Habitat has taught me lots about home remodeling projects!”

Jena is a Ball State graduate with a Social Work degree. She serves on the Board of Second Harvest Food Bank and as the Missions Coordinator at her church, Corinth United Methodist. “I don’t seem to have a lot of spare time,” she explained, “But when I do, I enjoy camping with my family, hiking, daily walks, and reading.”

**“My favorite thing about Habitat is watching people from all different backgrounds work together on a desired outcome - a house, a repair, a neighborhood project - and build new friendships. Habitat is a great place to work, make connections and make our community better!”**





Photo credit: The Fuller Center  
**Millard Fuller and Clarence Jordan**

**“What the poor need is not charity by capital, not case workers, but co-workers.**  
 And what the rich need is a wise and honorable way of divesting themselves of their overabundance. The Fund for Humanity will meet both these needs.”  
 Clarence Jordan stated.

# Co-Workers in Equality

Do you know about the beginnings of Habitat for Humanity? In 1968, at Koinonia Farms, Georgia, Millard Fuller and Clarence Jordan created what is now Habitat for Humanity. Koinonia Farms stood as a place of equality, peace, and partnership at a time when segregation and inequality were rampant.

Jordan and Fuller believed that partnership and action were the key to a new and complete way of life with God and each other. The Fund for Humanity (the original loan fund) was created with a twofold purpose: 1) to provide inheritance for the disinherited and 2) to provide a means through which the possessed may share with and invest in the dispossessed.

If today you are looking for a way to stand against injustice, whether you want to be a co-worker or to help provide capital-Habitat for Humanity is the right place invest. Together, we can stand against racial injustice and years of redlining by building and creating homeownership opportunities.

We can stand together and say that the color of your skin should not determine your future-your ability to own a home, to gain education, and to remain healthy. We recognize that people of color have been disinherited, dispossessed, and we will not accept it. Our right relationship with God and with others will occur as we stand together against injustice.

- Your co-worker,  
 Lindsey Arthur, CEO

# A 22 Year Legacy

The Community Foundation of Muncie & Delaware County has been a conduit for visionary leaders as a way to assure that one’s generosity will have a permanent impact on our community far beyond the donor’s lifetime.

Muncie Habitat and The Community Foundation’s history of partnership officially began in 1986, then was solidified in 1998 when Dr. Richard and Mrs. Dorothy Burkhardt created a \$25,000 matching gift challenge to their fellow community members to establish the endowment fund at The Community Foundation for Muncie Habitat for Humanity. The community responded with tremendous support, and even after 22 years, the Burkhardts’ passion for serving others in their community serves as a stabilizing foundation for Muncie Habitat.

The steadfast support Muncie Habitat receives from The Community Foundation is instrumental in the longevity and success of our organization.

**“We are thankful for our partnership with the Community Foundation.”** said Lindsey Arthur, Habitat CEO. **“As we look to the future, we are excited to continue working together to create safe, affordable housing options for local families.”**

As both organizations have matured and many changes have occurred, the one constant is the generosity of our donors, and the partnership we share. Donors interested in contributing to the legacy of the Muncie Habitat endowment fund should reach out to Kelly K. Shrock at [kshrock@cfmdin.org](mailto:kshrock@cfmdin.org).

**“The Community Foundation is here to help nonprofits be successful today, tomorrow, and always. Our 35 year relationship with Muncie Habitat is an example of a great partnership and how we can be helpful to nonprofit organizations over time.”**  
 - Kelly K. Shrock, Community Foundation President



Community Foundation’s Women Build team in 2011; Suzanne Small, Roni Johnson, Marianne Vorhees, Mary Dollison, and Cathy Stewart.



Traci Lutton, Jay Julian, Rob Keisling, and Kelly K. Shrock enjoying the Dream Builders Breakfast in 2019.

# Volunteer Spotlight: Our T&T Crew

We are fortunate to have hundreds of passionate volunteers in a normal year, but in a year like this, when not much seems predictable, it is even more important to have a sense of reliability and stability. For Muncie Habitat, our “T&T” Volunteer Team provides just that!



This small group of individuals is central to all we do at Habitat. Every Tuesday and/or Thursday from 9am -3pm you'll find them assisting our construction crew and partner families with skilled labor - and, of course, their great attitudes. These amazing individuals have dedicated countless hours of his time & talents to help our partner families build a healthier, more financially stable life. With our volunteer's help, homeowners receive the extra confidence and support they need to build a better future for themselves and for their families!

The T&T crew volunteers come from a variety of backgrounds. From retired teachers and mail carriers, to seasoned contractors, each brings a different and appreciated skill to our builds.



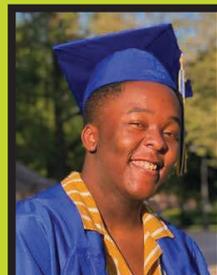
**“I am always amazed at the dedication and skills that our T&T crew brings to Muncie Habitat.** We are very blessed to have such a great group of individuals that choose to spend their time with us and have been a constant for so many years.” - Diann Wellman

Our volunteers who donate their time, expertise and heart exhibit a true servant's spirit, esteeming others more than themselves; and we cannot thank them all enough for their faithful support. If you are interested in individual or group volunteer opportunities with Greater Muncie Habitat for Humanity, contact us at [volunteer@munciehabitat.org](mailto:volunteer@munciehabitat.org).

# Congratulations, Grads of 2020!



Mickaela Joyce



Hezekiah Tyler



Kinley Malone

The 2019-2020 school year was not what most families expected. Keeping on top of homework, making endless meals, and in the case of many families, struggling with financial uncertainty are not challenges easily overcome, especially in unprecedented times.

We are particularly proud of three high school graduates, Mickaela Joyce, Kinley Malone, and Hezekiah Tyler, who are all preparing for college in 2020. These three graduates are part of the Habitat family, their commitment to education, and boldly continuing towards their goals.

We met Mickaela back in October of 2011, as Muncie Habitat welcomed home the Joyce family. This family represented a huge milestone as the 100th family in Delaware County who proudly accepted the keys to their new home in partnership with us. Mickaela recently graduated from Muncie Central High School and will be attending Indiana University and studying Journalism.

This year we welcomed Hezekiah and his siblings into the Habitat family. Through the stress of moving into a new home and graduating this year, Hezekiah continued to show his amazing smile and dedication to his education. Hezekiah is a graduate of Burris Laboratory School and plans to attend Ball State this fall.

Carrie and her two daughters, Keeley and Kinley joined the Habitat family in 2007. The two, gracious little girls who helped hand out cookies at their home's construction site have grown into two bold women who we are so glad to know. Today, we're excited to share that Kinley is a 2020 graduate of Muncie Central HS, and will be attending Ivy Tech focusing on General Studies!

Children of homeowners are **116% more likely to graduate from college** compared with children in families who do not own their homes.

**As our supporters, partner families, & volunteers know firsthand, the benefits of affordable housing extend far beyond shelter.** Partnering with us allows parents to provide one home for the rest of their children's lives. This means stability, security, and confidence in one bus stop, one kitchen table to do homework at, one porch to play on, and one neighborhood to call their own.

# Meet our Community Builders

Amanda Kishel



Will Issacs, Chairman



## Donor Spotlight: Amanda Kishel

Like many of our amazing supporters, Amanda Kishel is an example of someone who truly goes above and beyond for others and her community.

Amanda has always been a strong supporter of Habitat, and is the artist behind our family portraits and dedication events. This spring, she shared with us that she planned to take “Porch-traits” for local Muncie families to benefit other Muncie families.



**In a Facebook post, she shared that “Pictures keep fresh the moments that are often forgotten... for a donation to Muncie Habitat for Humanity I will come to your home for a family portrait on your porch, driveway, yard....wherever you want - on your safe property.”**

From the quirky to the cute, Amanda captured the hearts of families around our area. As more and more requests came in for her to take these photos, we could never have imagined how popular this would be! In the end, her porch portraits have raised nearly \$3,000 for local families who require housing security now, more than ever! We are so grateful for her creativity, talent and generosity.

**Thank you, Amanda,  
for generously providing  
numerous photos for  
this newsletter!**

## Why I Support Muncie Habitat

**“Serving on Muncie Habitat’s board gives me the opportunity to share my time, resources and skills to give back to my community,” said Muncie Habitat’s Board Chair Will Isaacs.**

Will and his family have lived in Muncie for over 20 years. Will’s desire to leave things better than he found them led him to seek out an opportunity to do more for his community. He was introduced to staff at Muncie Habitat where he saw their passion and witnessed lives transform from their work; he was hooked!

**“I believe Muncie Habitat plays a vital role in enhancing the quality of life in our community through affordable housing. We are truly changing the current situations of our partner families, working alongside them, and helping shape the opportunities that future generations will have as well.”**

Along with serving on Muncie Habitat’s board, Will & his wife Kenzie are legacy Dream Builders and have generously donated to Muncie Habitat since 2007.

**“I don’t consider money given to this organization a donation but an investment into the lives of others as well as our own. We have witnessed our lives change as we have broadened our understanding and lens through which we see life.”**

# The Habitat Effect

Every family should have the opportunity to live in decent, affordable housing. However, many working families in our community cannot achieve this by simply working hard. These families are often working two or more part-time, low wage jobs, and after taxes, bring home just \$13,926 per year, or approximately \$1,150 per month.

**\$898**

Average monthly rent for a home in Muncie

**\$273**

Average monthly mortgage payment for a Habitat family

After paying rent, a single working mother could only have \$252 to spend on food, utilities, and basic necessities for her family. More than half of all adults have made at least one tradeoff in the past three years to cover their rent or mortgage, including cutting back on health care, healthy food, or moving to less safe neighborhoods.

Generous Habitat supporters and volunteers provide the opportunity for families to flourish through home ownership and rehab programs. Habitat's model of providing no-interest mortgages and assistance in exchange for volunteerism provides an unconventional opportunity for families to partner with us to become homeowners. In this way, **Habitat provides a hand up and not a handout!**

Our supporters understand that this is a life-changing mission, not simply for the specific families, but for the generations that come after them. **With three homes already in progress and two more to start still in 2020, every helping hand makes a difference. And now more than ever, your donations can make a difference, too.**



**Over 37%**  
of residents live below the poverty line in Delaware County



**Over 31%**  
of children up to age 17 in Delaware County live in poverty



**78%**  
of residents who rent housing live under the poverty level



“Finally, on a cold day in December, surrounded by friends and family, I took the keys to my home and a future for my daughter and me. Week by week, I worked hard to move off all public assistance, pay my bills each month, and enjoy watching my daughter grow up in **our home.**”

- Natalie, Muncie Habitat for Humanity homebuyer



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