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Habitat for Humanity New York City expands to Westchester County

The nation's leading affordable homeownership nonprofit will listen to the community in designing services, working in partnership with local families and leaders committed to safe, decent, and affordable homes for all residents

Habitat for Humanity ReStore donation pick-up area now includes Westchester

NEW YORK (Oct. 28, 2020) – [Habitat for Humanity New York City](#) (Habitat NYC) is expanding its services to Westchester County (Westchester), New York, extending its footprint beyond the five boroughs for the first time in its nearly 40-year history.

“We look forward to listening to and learning from housing professionals in communities all around Westchester County, and ultimately to working with them to increase access to safe and affordable homeownership,” said Karen Haycox, CEO. “Habitat NYC has a proven track-record that includes not only our traditional volunteer-led homebuilding efforts, but also more complex and innovative construction and housing preservation solutions that allow us to reach families at a much greater scale.

We will bring both of these approaches to Westchester, to serve as many families as we can and we will be counting on Westchester county residents from all walks of life to join us in our efforts to assist the more than 140,000 families across the county who struggle to keep a roof overhead.”

Habitat for Humanity International, the umbrella Habitat organization, endorsed Habitat NYC’s plan to establish operations in Westchester County.

“Habitat NYC has built a strong foundation as a builder of homes and community across four decades of service,” said Adrienne Goolsby, Habitat for Humanity International’s senior vice president for the U.S. & Canada. “We have full confidence that Habitat NYC has the strength, credibility and commitment to help tackle the growing housing needs in Westchester County. Habitat NYC presented a comprehensive plan that shows they will listen to the community in designing their services, and work in partnership with families seeking safe, decent and affordable homes.”

"I am pleased, on behalf of the people of Westchester, to welcome Habitat for Humanity back to the County," said George Latimer, Westchester County Executive. "We look forward to working with them to create more affordable housing opportunities. Habitat for Humanity brings with them a wealth of knowledge and experience. They have made significant progress in New York City and we are looking forward to seeing how we might apply some of those models to Westchester."

Habitat NYC's approach in Westchester includes the same patient, listen-first attitude undergirding their success in New York City. Habitat sees the [2019 Westchester County Housing Needs Assessment](#) as an outline of the following opportunities and challenges on which to partner with government, business, and community groups:

- Transit-oriented development (TOD),
- Adaptive re-use of faith-based and government-owned properties,
- Accessory dwelling units (ADU),
- Community land trust establishment, and
- Zoning and land use ordinance reform.

"As a 30-year resident of and affordable homebuilder in Westchester, I am acutely aware of the demands for affordable housing in the county and for ways for residents to get involved," said Peter Murray, board member of Habitat NYC and Chair of its newly established Westchester County Advisory Board. "With Habitat NYC's new service area, we have a true opportunity to meet both of these needs. Having served on the Habitat NYC board for the last decade, I know that we will empower residents who long to participate in solving this housing crisis. Habitat NYC has improved the lives of thousands of New York City residents and is now going to do the same in Westchester."

Habitat NYC will engage with community stakeholders across the county in a listening tour of the affordable housing landscape, of the needs and gaps and how Habitat NYC can best support local efforts.

Over time, Habitat NYC will build on these engagements, seeking opportunities to advance joint ventures and other significant collaborations, to build local expertise and harness the resources of Habitat NYC to serve generations of Westchester residents through strong, stable affordable homeownership and rental opportunities.

"The Housing Action Council welcomes Habitat for Humanity New York City to Westchester and its not-for-profit housing community," said Rose Noonan, Executive Director of Housing Action Council, a leading Westchester-based non-profit that works to increase affordable housing in the county. "By bringing resources, expertise, and a housing delivery system, they will complement the work of others and increase affordable homeownership opportunities. We look forward to partnering with Habitat to respond to Westchester's needs."

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY RESTORE DONATION PICK-UP AREA NOW INCLUDES WESTCHESTER

Beginning today Habitat NYC's donation pick-up area includes Westchester County. Habitat NYC is exploring partnerships for donation drop-offs as they prepare to open a second Habitat ReStore location in the region. Habitat ReStores are independently owned reuse stores operated by local Habitat for Humanity affiliates. ReStores accept donations and sell home improvement items to the public at a fraction of the retail price. The Woodside, Queens ReStore location has been the top-selling

store in terms of dollar per square foot in the nation for the past three years. Made possible by the ReStore's experienced staff and volunteers, Habitat NYC seeks to duplicate this success in Westchester.

[PHOTO OF EMPIRE STATE BUILDING FROM 10/27]

A former Habitat for Humanity affiliate based in New Rochelle discontinued operations as part of Habitat's affiliate network in July 2018. Habitat NYC is an independent Habitat affiliate, and its work in Westchester County is not connected to the previous organization. To learn more about how Habitat NYC will serve residents of Westchester County, including information about upcoming listening tour events, go to www.habitatnyc.org/westchester or email westchester@habitatnyc.org.

About Habitat for Humanity New York City

Habitat for Humanity New York City transforms lives and communities by building and preserving affordable homes with hardworking families—and by uniting all New Yorkers around the cause of affordable housing and homeownership. With the help of thousands of volunteers each year, Habitat NYC builds and repairs homes for families across the five boroughs. Learn more at www.HabitatNYC.org and connect with us on [Facebook](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) at @HabitatNYC.

About Habitat for Humanity International

Driven by the vision that everyone needs a decent place to live, Habitat for Humanity began in 1976 as a grassroots effort on a community farm in southern Georgia. The Christian housing organization has since grown to become a leading global nonprofit working in local communities across all 50 states in the U.S. and in more than 70 countries. Families and individuals in need of a hand up partner with Habitat for Humanity to build or improve a place they can call home. Habitat homeowners help build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage. Through financial support, volunteering or adding a voice to support affordable housing, everyone can help families achieve the strength, stability and self-reliance they need to build better lives for themselves. Through shelter, we empower. To learn more, visit habitat.org.

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