

HABITAT HAPPENINGS



A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT, DAVE HAMMOND

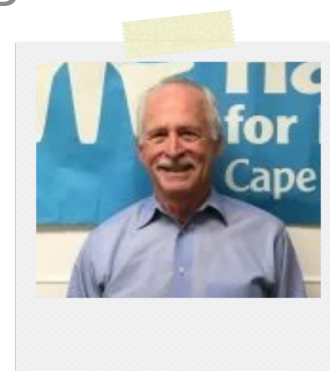
Dear Volunteers,

Like you, the Board of Directors is frustrated by the ongoing obstacles preventing us from building homes. After dedicating the first few years of Sarah's tenure to stabilizing our finances, we were eager to develop the properties we own. Despite our efforts, regulatory roadblocks continue to delay progress. Here's where things stand:

- **300 Wildwood:** The DEP has stalled on our environmental update request submitted in September 2024. Despite multiple follow-ups, no progress has been made since November.
- **Sumner Project:** We own five lots in Whitesboro and initially planned five duplexes, assuming Middle Township's affordable housing obligations would work in our favor. However, neighborhood opposition led us to consider an alternate plan of three houses and one duplex which would be permitted "by right". Given our \$100K+ investment up to this point, we've decided to resubmit the original duplex plan and, if rejected, pursue the alternate plan.
- **Willow Ave, West Cape May:** The property transfer is underway and we just await official documentation. Land clearing will be managed by the borough, but in the meantime, we are in discussion to secure a modular and conducting further site assessment to determine feasibility for a second modular or a stick-built.

We appreciate your patience and commitment. We'll keep you updated as developments unfold.

Dave Hammond, Board President
10-Year Construction Volunteer



SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER

Join us for a fantastic night of food and fun at the Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser hosted by **First Baptist Church of Wildwood at 230 E. Maple Ave!** Taking place on **Friday, May 2nd, from 5-7 PM.**, this delicious event supports a great cause—Habitat for Humanity Cape May! Enjoy a hearty plate of spaghetti while making a difference in your community.

Tickets are just **\$15 for adults and \$10 for children**, with take-out available for those on the go. Secure your spot in advance by calling or texting Judi at **609-425-7808** or emailing **Fbcwildwoodnj@gmail.com** or simply grab your tickets at the door. Don't miss this chance to eat well and help build hope in Cape May County through supporting Habitat for Humanity Cape May.

WELCOME TO THE TEAM, ANDREA!

Andrea Schmidt, born and raised in Atlanta, holds an MBA and has a diverse background in teaching and court clerk work. She married her husband, Greg, in 2021, and his service in the Coast Guard brought them to Cape May in 2023, where she quickly fell in love with the community. Passionate about supporting military families, Andrea serves as a volunteer ombudsman at the Training Center Cape May and directs the Guardian Spouse Program, which helps guide new recruit spouses through their transition into military life.



Andrea is excited to support the Cape May County community through work as the Administrative Coordinator at Habitat for Humanity, helping to further the organization's mission of providing safe, affordable housing.

WELCOME TO THE BOARD, JOHN!



John T. Kelley joined the Board of Habitat for Humanity Cape May County in 2025, bringing his extensive legal and public service experience to support the organization's mission of providing safe, affordable housing. A lifelong resident of Camden County, NJ, he earned a Bachelor of Arts from Siena College in 1970 and served as a 1st Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserve before obtaining his law degree from Rutgers School of Law in 1973. Over his distinguished career, Mr. Kelley practiced in various areas of law, ultimately co-founding Kelley, Wardell & Crag, L.L.P. and earning recognition as a Certified Civil Trial Attorney. He also served as a Municipal Prosecutor for Merchantville for 30 years and as a board member for Lakeview Memorial Park Association. Appointed to the NJ Superior Court in 2008, he presided over Family, Civil, and Criminal cases in Camden County until his retirement in 2018. Shortly after, he and his wife, Anne Marie, moved to their home in Avalon, NJ, where he initially volunteered with Habitat for Humanity before formally joining the Board. With his legal expertise and passion for community service, Mr. Kelley continues to help advance the organization's vision for affordable housing in Cape May County.

STAND UP *Comedy*

THE SHORE CLUB
MAY 16TH 2025 AT 8PM



Comedy Night at The Shore Club – May 16, 8 PM

Get ready for a night of laughs supporting Habitat for Humanity! Enjoy performances by headliner Jeff Norris, feature act Janet Regensburg, and host Terry-Ann Zander. Doors open at 7 PM. Tickets are \$75 and include an array of hot and cold hors d'oeuvres and access to a cash bar. This adults-only event promises comedy and community for a great cause!

get
YOUR
TICKETS



 **Habitat for Humanity**
Cape May County

HOME IN ONE SAVE THE DATE

The Shore Club

Monday, July 14, 2025

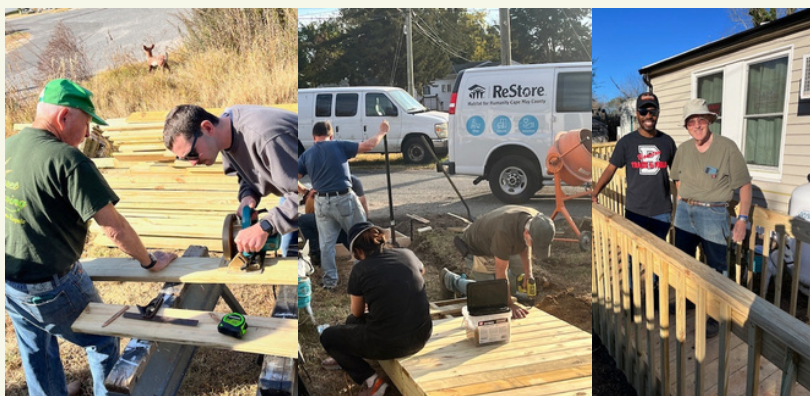
Shotgun Start 12pm
details forthcoming



Ramps are Ready

We have continued to provide accessibility for area homeowners who need to move freely and easily in and out of their homes via our Ramp It Up program.

If you or someone you know has considerable medical needs that prevent them from being able to access their home with dignity, please give us a call **(609-463-0244)** to obtain program information and an application. We recently received an anonymous donation that has increased the number of available aluminum ramps for installation. Just one more way we can help our local community remain in their homes where they are most comfortable.



TO OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS,

We want to take a moment to express our deepest appreciation for your dedication and hard work with Habitat Cape May, especially during Volunteer Appreciation Week. Your time, energy, and unwavering commitment are a significant impact to our mission, and we couldn't be more grateful for the difference you've made. Whether you've helped at the ReStore, been on a build site, supported our events, or contributed in other ways, your efforts have been invaluable. Not just during Volunteer Appreciation Week, but throughout the entire year, we want you to know that your work is not only appreciated — it is celebrated. You are an essential part of our community, and together, we are building a brighter, more inclusive future.

As the ReStore enters its busy season, we ask for your help in reaching out to others who may want to volunteer. As the saying goes, "many hands make light work." And my personal favorite: "One person can make a difference, and everyone should try." Please share our information with someone you know who may want to help make a difference and contribute to our mission.

In celebration of you and all of our wonderful Cape May County Habitat Volunteers, we hope you will join us for "Habi Hour" on April 24th from 5-7PM at South 9 Bar and Grille! Appetizers will be provided and a cash bar will be available.

Cape May Habitat Urges State Leaders to Protect Affordable Housing Funding

Executive Director, Sarah Matthews, recently testified along with other NJ Habitat leaders at a state legislative hearing to advocate for preserving the New Jersey Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF) as a dedicated resource for affordable housing development.

Cape May County faces unique challenges—a high home vacancy rate due to seasonal second homes, limited land for development, and a rapidly aging population driving young workers and families out of the area. These issues make the availability of truly affordable housing more critical than ever.

The AHTF is often the only public funding available for small, 100% affordable homeownership developments—the kind Habitat builds for low- and moderate-income families," Matthews stated. Habitat Cape May has already invested \$100,000 in its largest project to date, which will provide homes for 10 families, contingent on anticipated AHTF support. Matthews urged lawmakers to prevent any diversion of trust fund dollars, especially in light of proposed state budget changes. She emphasized that the AHTF plays a vital role in enabling organizations like Habitat to collaborate with municipalities and the state to create long-term housing solutions that are sustainable, inclusive, and responsive to local needs.

Cape May Habitat stands committed to advocating for the homes and communities our families deserve. Thank you for supporting our mission.

