Barb’s house has been a safe, stable home for the kids of Baker Neighborhood for nearly three decades. In 1993, Barb was living in the bottom unit of a “double decker” rental home on Bailey Street with her 5 children. She was going to college full-time and working nights to feed her family and any other hungry kid who came to her door.

When two Habitat volunteers went to Barb’s street with fliers reading “Wanted: Large Family for Huge House” she knew that it was her opportunity to create a better future for herself and her children. It was her opportunity to buy a house in the community she already called home.

The house was a Habitat Rehab project on Baker Street just a couple blocks from where Barb was renting. She walked over to the house and asked the construction site manager if she could have a look inside. “I’d like to take a look because this is going to be my house,” she told him.

Just two months later, on her birthday, Barb was met by half the neighborhood at her bus stop after work. “They were all so excited and telling me ‘call Habitat, call Habitat.’” She was approved for the Homeownership Program; the house on Baker Street would be hers. “Well, I already knew that,” she said.

Barb has wonderful memories of working on her house with her son alongside other Habitat volunteers. “Habitat just gives you an opportunity. You have to work for it and that’s a good thing . . . The people and the volunteers that you meet while you’re doing it are phenomenal. I never would have known them if it hadn’t been for Habitat.”

“Ms. Barb” and her house are famous in Baker Neighborhood. “My home has been really key and facilitated a lot of things for so many kids . . . A lot of kids came up through that house.” Barb raised 17 kids in her Habitat House: three biological children, two adopted children, three step children, one grandchild, and eight more children she came to call her own. She provided them all with a safe and stable environment. “I know I had a good impact on a lot of kids. A lot of them still stop by from time to time.”

Barb was a soccer coach in the Lansing Police Athletic League and the Lansing Police Department looked out for her “Home for the Neighborhood”. Officers used to stop by to use her landline phone and have a cup of coffee and a chat. She recalls one officer even dropping off groceries at her front door and driving away. “I don’t know how a pound and a half of burger could feed twenty kids, but some nights it did.”

Several years into homeownership, Barb lost her job and was in a legal battle to receive her unemployment for nearly 10 months. She was able to work with Habitat Capital Region to temporarily reduce her mortgage payments until her unemployment check came in. “I really appreciate what Habitat did for me at a critical point in my life. I could have lost everything but they believed in me. It’s nice to have someone who believes in you.” Since then, Barb has paid off her mortgage.

Her house is still “home” for all of her children, her grandchildren, and the kids who came up there over the last three decades. And she’s not going anywhere.

“[Homeownership] meant the world to me because it gave me the security and the stability to take care of the other things in my life – the children.”

– BARB, Habitat Homebuyer
Habitat for Humanity Capital Region's vision is a world where everyone has a decent place to live—that vision is made a reality by the hard work of volunteers who dedicate their time and skills to build solutions for people in need of safe, decent, and affordable housing.

Karen came to volunteer with Habitat Capital Region in the summer of 2017 when a friend invited her to join the ramp crew. She was hooked right away.

“When I got invited to participate I found a bunch of really patient teachers who made me feel like I belonged and that I was capable”. Like many volunteers, Karen had no construction experience when she started. She now has the skills and experience to wield her driver with confidence.

Upon retirement, Karen devoted her newfound time to build a stronger community with Habitat Capital Region. She became a weekly volunteer and this year she has grown from being a crew member to a crew leader. “There isn’t a week I don’t drive away without a feeling of satisfaction or gratitude that I get to be a part of this”.

Karen has made an impact in the lives of dozens of households served by Habitat Capital Region’s Ramp Program in the last three years who now have safe and independent access to their homes. She has made an impact on the people who volunteer alongside her week after week. The impact on her own life has been immeasurable. “To get to be a part of this is really a blessing”.

Together, we can all help build a world where everyone has a decent place to live.

There are many different ways to volunteer with Habitat Capital Region. Volunteers are needed in construction, administration, with advocacy efforts, on special committees, in the ReStore, and more.

To start your volunteer journey, sign up to attend a volunteer orientation online at habitatcr.org or call the office at 517.374.1313 for the next orientation date.

Every volunteer makes an impact.

Thank you all — those in the office and those in the field! Each time I walk safely and without pain up and down my ramp, I think of the gift of love and brotherhood you all shared with me! THANK YOU! I will always remember and treasure your gift.”

— SEAN, proud owner of Habitat Capital Region’s 800th ramp

Turn your spring cleaning into support for affordable housing!

Your donations and purchases at the Habitat ReStore help more homeowners achieve the strength, stability, and self-reliance they need to build better lives for themselves and their families.

The Habitat ReStores also provide a more affordable avenue for home improvement projects and keep tons of good, reusable materials from filling up landfills.

Have a large furniture donation that won’t fit in your car? Call the Donation Hotline at 517.575.8152 to schedule a free pickup!

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Every donation funds the mission.

Follow Habitat for Humanity Capital Region – ReStore on Facebook @HFHCR.ReStore to be notified of sales, sneak peaks, and ReStore Pro-Tips!

Accepted Donations:
Furniture | Flooring | Appliances | Plumbing | Cabinets | Countertops | Tools | Hardware | Lighting | Windows | Doors | Housewares
Habitat for Humanity Capital Region | 1941 Benjamin Drive, Lansing, MI 48906 | 517.374.1313 | habitatcr.org

Lansing ReStore
1941 Benjamin Drive
Lansing, MI 48906
517.374.6235

Williamston ReStore
954 E. Grand River Avenue
Williamston, MI 48895
517.655.1872

Store Hours
Sunday - Monday: CLOSED
Tuesday - Friday: 9-6
Saturday: 10-3

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Habitat for Humanity Capital Region | 1941 Benjamin Drive, Lansing, MI 48906 | 517.374.1313 | habitatcr.org
every woman
has the power to build a better world

Habitat for Humanity Capital Region's Women Build Week has proven to be a valuable and unique opportunity for local women to build a stronger community by repairing, building, and rehabbing homes in the Capital Region for many years.

In 2020 Habitat for Humanity Capital Region wants to give this opportunity to more women by expanding from just one whirlwind week at the beginning of May into a monthly program for women to impact more households in their community. The Women Build Program will now consist of the Women Build Kick Off Week from May 4-8 as well as Women Build Wednesdays on the second Wednesday of each month from May to October.

No experience is necessary. Whether you come alone or with a group, you will leave the work site at the end of a hard day of work with new friends and connections made in this collaborative and friendly atmosphere.

Help build a better world and be a part of the Women Build Program
More information can be found at www.habitatcr.org/upcoming-events/womenbuild

save the dates

- Women Build Kick Off Week | May 4-8, 2020
- Rock the Block | July 13-17, 2020 and September 14-18, 2020
- Home-In-One Golf Outing | Summer, 2020
- Global Village Mission Trip to Vietnam | Fall, 2020

Your financial support, your time and your voice will help bring independence to families in need of a decent place to live.

Let’s build strength, stability, self-reliance, and shelter in the Capital Region!

NAME

ADDRESS  CITY  ZIP CODE

PHONE NUMBER  EMAIL

My check is enclosed, or, please charge my Visa or MasterCard (circle one.)

$1,000 $500 $250
$100 $50 $25
Other ______

☐ Monthly  ☐ Annually
☐ One-time donation

NUMBER  CVC: ________

Exp: ____ / ____

NAME ON CARD

SIGNATURE

Donate online at: tinyurl.com/HabitatCR-Spring2020
Return to Habitat For Humanity Capital Region: 1941 Benjamin Dr., Lansing, MI 48906

Habitat for Humanity Capital Region | 1941 Benjamin Drive, Lansing, MI 48906 | 517.374.1313 | Habitatcr.org
"I was a single mom with a mountain of impossibilities, but they made it possible. They made my dreams come true.”

— BARB, Habitat Homebuyer

**every home**

is a building block

**Would you or someone you know qualify for Habitat for Humanity Capital Region’s Homeownership Program?**

No matter who we are or where we come from, we all deserve to have a decent life. We deserve to feel strength and stability day after day. We deserve to know we have the power to take care of ourselves and build our own futures.

A Habitat Homebuyer builds their own foundation for a strong, healthy future.

**Attend a Homeownership Orientation to learn if this program is right for you!** This program is for people who do not currently own their own home. Sign up for orientation online at habitatcr.org or call the office at 517.374.1313 for more information.