



Greater Albuquerque
Habitat
for Humanity®

E-Newsletter

October 2024



**We build
strength, stability
and self-reliance
through shelter.**

Our Beginning

On August 28, 2024 we had the great pleasure of meeting with one of Greater Albuquerque Habitat for Humanity Founders, Ms. Lynne Peckinpugh, who kindly shared with us the details of GAHH's origins, along with many of her favorite stories.

Ms. Peckinpugh first learned of Habitat for Humanity while her husband was stationed at Fort McPherson in Atlanta, Georgia. She was very impressed with the work Habitat was doing for the community in Atlanta and immediately thought about her hometown of Albuquerque, New Mexico and how wonderful it would be to bring the services provided by Habitat for Humanity to her native community.



When her husband retired in 1986, they decided to move back to Albuquerque. Upon her return home, Lynne shared with the local Council of Churches the news of Habitat for Humanity and their very important work in Atlanta, Georgia. Specifically, the impact Habitat for Humanity had on affordable homeownership and the repairing of dilapidated homes on a global scale. Reverend Shirley E. Greene organized the meetings of various churches to discuss the logistics of forming a local chapter and on March 20, 1987, Greater Albuquerque Habitat for Humanity was born.

Lynne served as the second Board President for GAHH in addition to working on the re-build crew for the first several houses. All the while, she was a teacher at St. Pius High school. In addition to serving as a member for the Council of Churches, she was also a constituent for Historic Albuquerque, Inc.

The first house acquired by GAHH, was actually the restoration of a home as opposed to new construction. It was located on 8th and Mountain. Lynne described the smell of sawdust as her and others performed the remodel for a family in need. While there were hiccups, on August 13, 1988, the home was restored beautifully and to celebrate, Lynne had a local mariachi band play at the Dedication Ceremony; a vision she carried with her since Atlanta.

Our Beginning

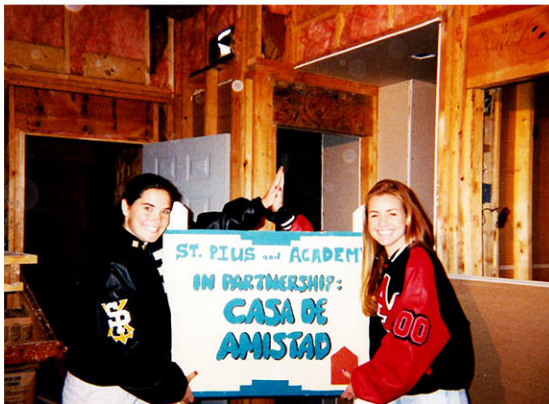
In 1990, GAHH came to the rescue of a family who lost their home in a fire in addition to the life of their young son. GAHH was eager to do everything possible to give some sort of peace and justice in light of this tragic loss. With the help of volunteers and staff, GAHH restored this fire-damaged home for a destitute Albuquerque family.

In 1997, Lynne assisted in the recruitment of high school students as GAHH volunteers from St. Pius and Academy. As a result, the "Cliff's House" was built in 1997 and "the House of Friendship" in 1999. This was also the year Lynne retired from her service at GAHH.

As Lynne and Doug continued to share stories, Lynne congratulated Doug on the affiliates' success and encouraged him to continue doing good by helping local families to help themselves. Doug thanked Lynne for laying the Habitat foundation and sharing her stories, pictures and news articles.



Lynne's inspiration for bringing Habitats' services to Albuquerque can be summed-up in one sentence, "To create a good foundation for the future." In addition to laying foundations, we now offer minor and critical home repair services to homeowners in need and have expanded our services into Southern Sandoval county. We hope to continue Lynne's vision and evolve our impact on affordable homeownership in the Albuquerque area for many years to come.



New Construction Project Announced

As you know, Greater Albuquerque Habitat for Humanity is nearing completion on our Clifton Street development of five homes. Three homes are already owner-occupied with the final two nearing completion in early 2025.

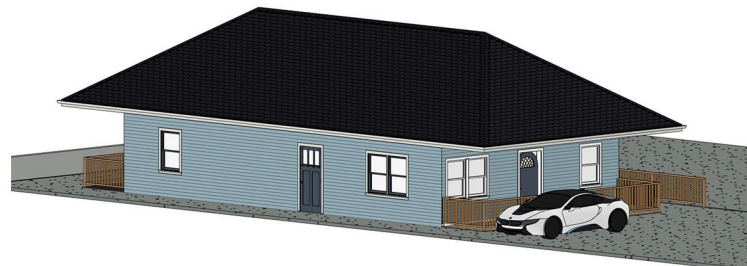
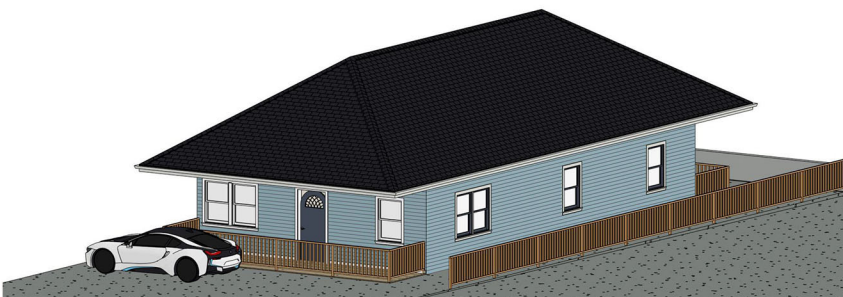
Adjacent to these homes, we purchased a lot on Williams Street in which we originally were to build one home. That plan has changed, thanks to Daniel Gil, our new(er) Land Acquisition and Infrastructure Project Manager. Daniel is very skilled in CAD and devised a beautiful plan for two homes vs. one that will enable GAHH to house an additional family.



“We’re excited as we near completion of the last two homes on Clifton with hope of moving the homeowners in during Spring of 2025,” stated new Executive Director, Bill Bidal. “After looking at all the possibilities, we’ve decided to build two-2/Bedroom homes on Williams Street and expect that project to commence in early 2025. We look forward to celebrating the completion of our Clifton Development in the spring. The ground-breaking for Williams Street will be announced shortly.”

Also in early 2025, we will break ground for our next large development, 10 homes of varying sizes, on 64th Street NW.

New Mexico State Tax Credits are still available for the Clifton project, Williams Street and we will announce 64th Street credits upon NM Mortgage Finance Authority approval.



Giving Tuesday is Late this Year

by Liz Vincent - Director of Development

Giving Tuesday, a global generosity movement, unleashing the power of people and organizations to transform their communities, and the celebration usually falls in November. This year it won't be celebrated until Tuesday, December 2, 2024.

Giving Tuesday is founded on the principle that generosity is uplifting, generative, equalizing, and connecting. It promotes the belief that each act of generosity is a worthy act in and of itself. For those of you who give of your time, talent, or treasure, you know the true depth of this belief.

Having worked in fundraising for more than 30 years, one tenet I hold dearly is that no matter how little we each think we have, we are always more blessed than others, and it is incumbent upon each of us to share those blessings.



I remember as a single Mom early in my career, making so little money per year to support us, but felt it imperative to instill the act of giving and helping into my young daughter. I brought her to shelters to work, we distributed boxes of food to families, we donated our older clothes - anything we could do because I knew we were so much better off than so many other single mothers and fathers out there and I wanted her to be thankful

for what we did have. The act of giving brought pride and gratification to both of us. Thus, she often told me how lucky we were, even as I knew how very little we had and how we struggled. Giving allowed me to change my child's perception from lack to abundance.

The irony in giving is that even if you feel it is a challenge or sacrifice to give, what you receive in return is unfathomable.

This is what Giving Tuesday is all about. Reaching deep into your heart and blessing someone, some organization, some community need, with your help.

This year for Giving Tuesday, we ask that you remember the thousands of families in Albuquerque that cannot afford a place to call home, or the seniors, veterans, and physically

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challenged low income homeowners who need repairs on their properties so that it is a safe and healthy environment in which to live or age in place.

Please - contemplate in your heart what you can provide and make your gift count on Giving Tuesday at <https://habitatbq.org/donate>. You may designate your gift as you see fit.

Thank you for your generosity, your compassion and most of all, for unleashing the power of generosity in our community.



2nd Annual Lego Build

GAHH held the 2nd Annual Lego Build Contest on Saturday, September 29, 2024 from 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM. It was a day filled with colorful creations, learning, friendly competition, and mostly, fun for kids (and adults) of all ages. The event was free for youth ages six thru thirteen.

The main purpose of this event was to raise awareness for what Greater Albuquerque Habitat for Humanity does, including volunteering, and the importance of homeownership. Lego Build is also a chance for our youth to envision and build their own home with Lego bricks. Their Lego build homes can be anything, tree houses, a beachside condo, or even a secluded compound; imagination and ingenuity is key.

Our Lego build competition was held in collaboration with Rick Crouse, owner of Bricks and Minifigs, who graciously supplied all Legos for this event. Youth were divided into specific age categories. Builders had two hours to work on their individual Lego homes and once complete, all master builders placed their creations before a panel of judges which were assessed based on creativity, story telling, and use of materials.



Regina, our Volunteer Manager, and planner of this event, awarded 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners and prizes in each age category. The prizes consisted of gift cards to Bricks and Minifigs, Lego home creator sets, and tubs of Legos. We also held raffle drawings. Miguel Sanchez, one of our panel judges and Manager of our ReStore described his job at this event as, "Really difficult, they (the children) all did such an amazing job and went into great detail explaining what they had built and telling a story about why they had built it."

Even though not every participant went home with a ribbon, at the end of the day, everyone who contributed went home a winner. In addition to the children's competition, our event was joined by Lego pros Kirk who formed NMLUG in 2012 and Tom who is a fellow Adult Fan of Lego. They showcased some of their exceptional Lego creations including a battery operated, spinning pirate ship and several detailed scenes.

2nd Annual Lego Build

