



Greater Albuquerque
Habitat
for Humanity®

for making us the #1 ReStore three years in a row - 2022, 2023, & 2024!

E-Newsletter

August 2025



**IN YOUR COMMUNITY
AND AROUND THE WORLD**

One Planned Gift Underwrote Infrastructure for New Neighborhood

We want to share an exciting story about a donor who left a lasting legacy that will continue to make an impact on the lives of those we serve.

Deborah Yeakel, a smaller, periodic donor to Greater ABQ. Habitat for Humanity, sadly passed away this Spring. She was a widow, living alone for the final nine years of her life since her husband passed.

With no close living relatives, Deborah decided to leave a portion of her estate (house and all contents) to GAHH. The result? A gift worth approximately \$500,000 – enough to cover our infrastructure expenses for an entire neighborhood to be built. This gift is earmarked for our upcoming neighborhood on 64th and Cleghorn.

Deborah's legacy will be to enable six families to realize their dream of homeownership!

What is Planned Giving?

Planned giving is a way to support GAHH beyond your lifetime. By including us in your estate plan, you can make a significant contribution that will help sustain our work for many years to come. Whether through a bequest in your will, a charitable gift annuity, or other options, planned giving can fit seamlessly into your financial and philanthropic goals.

Why Consider Planned Giving?

1. **Leave a Legacy:** Your gift can create a lasting impact, enabling GAHH to continue providing homeownership, home preservations and critical system replacement to your neighbors, well into the future.
2. **Tax Benefits:** Many planned giving options offer substantial tax advantages, helping you to efficiently manage your estate while also supporting a cause you care about.
3. **Strengthen Our Mission:** Your commitment through planned giving enables us to plan for the future with confidence, expanding our reach and effectiveness in the community.



One Planned Gift Underwrote Infrastructure for New Neighborhood

How to Get Started

If you are considering a planned gift to GAHH, we encourage you to consult with your financial advisor or estate planner to explore the best options for your situation. We are also here to provide information and answer any questions you may have about the process.

You may contact our Development Director, Liz Vincent, at 505-359-2423 or liz@habitatabqrr.org. Additionally, our website www.habitatabqrr.org contains valuable resources on planned giving that we invite you to explore.

Join Us in Making a Difference

We invite you to partner with us in this vital way. By considering a planned gift, you become part of a community of compassionate supporters who are committed to transforming lives and fostering positive change.

Together, we can ensure that GAHH continues to thrive and serve future generations.



GAHH Awarded Grant through NM Housing

What began as a new program, funded in 2023 with CDBG monies through the City of Rio Rancho has taken deep roots within the GAHH service area – Critical Systems Replacement.

The program was designed to provide low-income homeowners, especially seniors, with the ability to make critical repairs to their homes, providing safety, health, and security benefits that they could not otherwise afford.

Roofs, windows, heating, and cooling systems all were replaced free of charge by licensed and bonded contractors working with GAHH staff.

An opportune meeting in mid-spring with Secretary Jamison Herrera of the NM Department of Veteran's Services, became the linchpin for an impactful and sustaining way for GAHH to serve our most vulnerable veterans.

There are currently 44,000 veterans served by the department, many of whom reach out in need of home improvements. These improvements can be something expensive like a new roof or something simpler like a ramp to enter their homes. Whatever the cost, however simple or complex the repairs, GAHH is ready to take their homes from a hostile environment to the safe haven they deserve.

NM Housing (Formerly Mortgage Finance Authority) believed in our vision as well, so much so that they have awarded GAHH a substantial grant to be used specifically to repair the homes of our low-income veterans.

The program will roll out in September and GAHH is already conducting outreach to organizations serving veterans, be they nonprofits or civic organizations.

“We are so blessed to be able to provide this type of relief to those who sacrificed so much for all of us,” said Program Manager, Bob Dreyer. “This program will not only replace costly home systems but include retrofits on bathrooms such as replacing a tub with a walk-in shower, raising a toilet, lowering sinks and countertops – even widening doorways in cases where its structurally possible.”

If you are a low-income veteran or know one who could benefit from our program, please contact Toye Adams at toye@habitatbqrr.org for more information or visit this link: <https://habitatbqrr.org/service/critical-systems-replacement/>

Greater Albuquerque Habitat for Humanity continues to change lives every day for families, seniors and our treasured veterans.

GAHH Celebrates Grand Opening of New Donation Center

Saturday, August 23rd, 2025, was an exciting day for GAHH. On this day, we hosted the Grand Opening of our New Donation Center located at 1525 Stephanie Road SE, Unit 207, Rio Rancho, NM 87124.

In addition to celebrating a momentous occasion, this physical location will now more conveniently serve the surrounding communities of Corrales, Bernalillo, North West Albuquerque, Placitas, Algodones, and Santa Ana. Pick-up services are also available from the center, for all of your gently used household items, construction supplies, tools, etc.



ReStore and Office Staff: Bill Bidal, Executive Director; Miguel Sanchez, ReStore Director and his amazing staff; Liz Vincent, Director of Development; Theresa Panciera, Operations/Human Resource Director; and John Lewis, Community Relations, and Advocacy Director.

Attendees who gathered to celebrate included Rio Rancho Chamber of Commerce Council President, Jerry Schalow; Corrales Town Councilor, John Alsobrook Members of the Press, our landlord, Phillip Menicucci; and Rio Rancho Chamber Ambassadors.

Guests, including several GAHH Board Members, Diane Saya, President; Colin Petty, Vice President; Phoenix Nguyen, and Lisa Kruger. started arriving at around 9:00 AM. and enjoyed breakfast burritos, coffee, and

beverages. Balloons were given to the children who attended as well. After a few encouraging words to Habitat staff and the community members, Mr. Schalow led the ribbon cutting ceremony in addition to awarding plaques to our ReStore Director & Executive Director.

GAHH Celebrates Grand Opening of New Donation Center

While presenting our Executive Director with a plaque, Chamber of Commerce Council President, Jerry Schalow, enthusiastically stated, "You guys (GAHH) really fill that need for seniors in (south) Sandoval county as your services are greatly needed here. On behalf of the city of Rio Rancho and the Chamber of Commerce, we thank you."

When asked what he thought of the event turn-out, our Executive Director, Bill Bidal, replied, "It was a marvelous showing, and we are so excited to have the opportunity to serve these communities by collecting ReStore donations for sale at our Menaul retail location. All proceeds we receive from ReStore donations directly contribute to our programs and overall success."

We look forward to our continued partnership with the Rio Rancho community and expanding our services throughout Sandoval county and neighboring communities. Presently, we offer our Critical Systems Replacement Program to homeowners in South Sandoval County.

For additional information, visit:

<https://habitatbqrr.org/service/critical-systems-replacement/>

The donation center is open from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Saturday and closed Sunday. There will be a worker on-site during business hours to help patrons with donation drop-off.

If you would like to arrange a pick-up, please call our ReStore dispatch at (505) 265-0057 or email dispatch@habitatbqrr.org. For a list of acceptable donation items, please visit: habitatbqrr.org/restore.



GAHH Breaking Ground for Two New Homeowners



Having built and sold five homes in the last 18 months, Greater ABQ. Habitat for Humanity is headed for another banner construction year.

Two homes on Williams St, adjacent to our Clifton Ave SE project, will break ground within a month or so. The two-bedroom, one-bath homes already have new homeowners chosen who will begin work on their sweat equity as soon as we break ground. Our construction team

anticipates those homes will be closed and occupied by mid to late spring 2026.

First quarter of 2026 will see an additional neighborhood break ground and begin construction.

Located at 64th and Cleghorn, this six-home project will build three- and four-bedroom homes, for larger families. Potential homeowners could be teachers, hospital personnel, first responders, healthcare workers and other low-to-middle-time buyers who are currently priced out of the Albuquerque housing market.

For reference, the median salary now required to buy in our area is over \$118,000, with the average home cost pushing \$390,000, as of July 2025 (Realtor.com data analysis). These levels make it impossible for so many of our vital service providers to own a home.

“Many single income families or dual income families, each making \$50,000, cannot qualify to buy in our communities. To think that it now requires a salary well over six figures to buy a decent entry -level home is almost criminal,” said GAHH Director of Development, Liz Vincent. “That is why we are reaching out to groups such as first responders – police, fire, EMTS/ Paramedics, teachers, and others. To level the playing field in the home buying experience for these vital servants of our communities.”

