



Timeline 1987-2008

- 1987 Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity is founded as a Chartered Affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International.
- 1988 The first house is built in Chagrin Falls Park, and the affiliate begins discussions with Central Neighborhood residents about an ongoing collaboration. Habitat joins with Presbytery of the Western Reserve to provide service opportunities for the *Inward Bound* summer youth program.
- 1989 Two renovation projects are completed on Cleveland's west side. First office space is acquired – a single room on the third floor of the old Warner Mansion at East 42nd and Prospect Ave.
- 1990 Habitat continues work in Chagrin Falls Park, and starts two new homes in Central. Office moves to third floor of Pilgrim Church at 2592 West 14th Street across from Lincoln Park in Tremont.
- 1991 *"The Miracle on 35th Street"* – a multiple site "building blitz" -- 10 houses are started in 10 days in the Central Neighborhood on East 35th, 36th and 37th streets between Cedar and Central.
- 1992 Affiliate continues to work on the homes in Central and begins ongoing collaborations to fund and build Habitat Partner Family homes with the Cleveland area Lutheran congregations through an annual *"Habitat for Humanity Lutheran Project"*; with the United Methodist Churches of Greater Cleveland's *"Habitat for Humanity Liaison Team"*; and with Bay Presbyterian Church's *"Habitat Mission"*.
- 1993 Celebration of milestones reached to date: 4 renovations on Cleveland's west side; 7 new homes in Chagrin Falls Park; 16 new homes in Cleveland's Central neighborhood; more than 100 people living in Habitat homes.
- Greater Cleveland Habitat helps to form the Geauga County Habitat for Humanity affiliate to take over ongoing building projects in Chagrin Falls Park and begins several new projects in the Hough neighborhood.
- "See Jane Build"* program, in cooperation with Hard Hatted Women, provides women trained in construction to help with Habitat house building.
- "Invest in Humanity"* program, in cooperation with Lake Erie Girl Scout Council, produces the first Girl Scout sponsored Habitat home in the country.
- 1994 Greater Cleveland Habitat starts four homes in Hough and two homes in Central. Habitat Partner Family, Crystal and Kelvin Shepherd, publish *"My Favorite Recipe: Ingredients to a Habitat for Humanity House"* (1 large package of a family in need, 10 spoonfuls of volunteers, ½ cup of pride, 1 ounce of people of all races).

1995 Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity purchases, and begins renovating, the former Forest City Brewery, a seven-story warehouse at 6920 Union Avenue in Cleveland's Slavic Village. Built in 1904, the severely distressed facility provides space for the agency's growing needs and an opportunity to engage the community in the ongoing repair of a long-neglected property.

Affiliate begins ongoing collaboration with *AmeriCorps/VISTA* to provide year-long immersion opportunities for volunteer service in support of Habitat's efforts to eliminate poverty housing. Cleveland is the first and only Habitat for Humanity affiliate in Ohio with an *AmeriCorps/VISTA* program.

1996 Habitat joins the "*Bicentennial Village*" project, part of the City of Cleveland's 200th Birthday Celebration, to redevelop an existing community in the Fairfax Neighborhood, using a mixed income development model. A weeklong building "blitz" provides the framing of six homes. A total of 18 Habitat homes are started that year.

1997 *Bicentennial Village* construction continues and the "*Good Morning America*" program features a live "hello" to the Williams Family on national television.

1998 The *Bicentennial Village* projects are completed and the affiliate starts three homes on Cleveland's near West Side in the Clark-Metro and Tremont Neighborhoods.

Partner Family programs are expanded to include credit counseling.

1999 Volunteers from the Cleveland affiliate join others, from around the world, for the "*Jimmy Carter Work Project*" to build 250 homes in the Philippines.

Habitat for Humanity becomes a member organization of "*Community Shares*", a workplace giving federation emphasizing social justice in Greater Cleveland.

Greater Cleveland Habitat begins a multi-year, comprehensive *Prison Partnership* program with Grafton Correctional Institution to provide volunteer community service hours and job skill development opportunities for inmates.

New home construction begins at scattered sites in Fairfax, Clark-Metro, Tremont and Central.

2000 A Historic Forest Hills home is donated to Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity. Sale of this generous gift provides funding for two Partner Family homes in the Central neighborhood.

Habitat begins a partnership with United Union of Roofers and Waterproofers, Local No. 44 to offer their Apprenticeship Program in residence at Habitat and to help with ongoing repair of the Union Avenue facility's roof.

2001 Cleveland Browns coaches and players provide a day of service at a Habitat project in Fairfax and the affiliate breaks ground on new homes in Central, Glenville and Slavic Village.

2002 A new Executive Director is recruited to lead the organization in the creation of infrastructure, expansion of fundraising, long term capacity building, fostering community partnerships and the development of sustainable programming.

The affiliate secures several substantial grants and begins multiple new projects in Clark-Metro, Central, Fairfax and Union-Miles.

**Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity, 2110 W. 110th Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44102
Phone (216) 429-1299 Fax (216) 429-3629 ReStore (216) 429-3631 www.clevelandhabitat.org**

Cleveland Habitat begins a *ReStore* pilot program to reuse, recycle and resell donated building materials and tools, thereby providing affordable supplies for central city home renovations and repair while diverting tons of usable materials from local landfills.

- 2003 Several foundations and a church group contribute funding for the purchase of Habitat for Humanity's first new commercial construction vehicle, a bright red, fully featured, dump truck with the Habitat and ReStore logos on the doors.

The Cleveland Plain Dealer publishes a multi-page Sunday feature "No Place Like Home" about the ongoing work of Habitat.

WBNX TV 55 "*The WB*" interviews Greater Cleveland Habitat's Executive Director on the "Heart to Heart with Annie and Al" show.

- 2004 Cleveland Mayor Jane Campbell joins Habitat to celebrate sixteen years of service to the Cleveland community, and the completion of 110 Partner Family homes in the Central, Chagrin Falls Park, Clark Metro, Fairfax, Glenville, Hough, Slavic Village, Tremont, and Union-Miles neighborhoods. As part of this celebration, Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity publishes its first professionally produced annual report to acknowledge multiple donors, long-time "regular" volunteers and numerous community partners.

Two foundations contribute funding for the purchase of a new stake bed truck; several businesses and an individual donate used cargo vans, trailers and a pick-up truck; and the affiliate establishes an ongoing maintenance program for its vehicles.

Operating units are restructured, combining Construction, Facilities and ReStore in order to substantially increase the affiliate's capacity to manage multiple projects, to purchase and/or recycle large quantities of material, to develop improved house designs and to plan current and future operations.

Greater Cleveland Habitat's Executive Director is named *Outstanding Alumni for 2004* by CWRU Mandel Center for Nonprofit Organizations Alumni Association; Executive Director and Habitat House Building volunteer are featured guests on Clear Channel's nationally syndicated "*Community Forum*" radio talk show.

- 2005 Greater Cleveland Habitat successfully completes Habitat for Humanity International's *Triennial Review Process*, receiving "Best Practices" status on multiple performance measures.

Affiliate secures multiple Capacity Building and Program Development grants to provide funds to create full time ReStore and Partner Family Support positions and grant-funded interns assist with promotional materials, research projects, and the development of the affiliate's first comprehensive "*Build Book*".

Habitat's Construction Operations Director graduates Suma Cum Laude from the Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University with a BA in Urban Studies.

Washington DC's "*Buildable Hours*" program is imported to Cleveland to engage multiple area law firms in service to the community by sharing the cost of building a Habitat home.

New projects are started in Fairfax, Central, Union-Miles, Clark-Metro, Slavic Village and Detroit-Shoreway. Greater Cleveland Habitat tithing dollars pay for Partner

Family homes in Zimbabwe, Ivory Coast, El Salvador, Guatemala and Bangladesh.

The Cleveland Plain Dealer publishes a front page Real Estate Magazine feature about the growing Cleveland Habitat ReStore.

- 2006 Cleveland Mayor, Frank Jackson, joins Greater Cleveland Habitat to dedicate three homes at Central and East 35th and to celebrate the Mayor's long history of helping Habitat to provide over 40 homes in the Central neighborhood.

Greater Cleveland Habitat brings three additional national programs to Cleveland by being selected to receive funding for local projects from "Thrivent Builds" "Home Builders Blitz" and *Women Build*; Ohio First Lady, Hope Taft, joins Greater Cleveland Habitat to kick off the *Women Build* program with two homes in Fairfax.

Cleveland Habitat receives national recognition for participation in Habitat's "*House for a House*" tithing program and for continued support of Habitat's work in Guatemala.

Groups of Cleveland Habitat volunteers help with post Hurricane Katrina and Rita clean-up, repair and new home construction in Mississippi and Louisiana; local donations help Dayton Ohio affiliate to build a house in Baton Rouge and to provide new tools for the New Orleans Area Habitat.

- 2007 Fox 8 News produces a feature about the National Association of Women in Construction partnership with our *Women Build* program, filmed at a Habitat jobsite, and a second feature piece about the Retired Senior Volunteer Program and their long-time collaboration with Habitat filmed at the Habitat ReStore.

Habitat's Financial Operations Director is recognized by *Who's Who in Black Cleveland* and our *Women Build* Coordinator is named to *Hard Hatted Women's 2007 Women on the Rise*; Habitat volunteers receive Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) *2007 Award for Volunteer Excellence* and Center for Community Solutions' *2007 Commended Volunteers* award.

Habitat house designs are further refined based on universal design principals using optimum value engineering (OVE) techniques, exceeding the highest possible *Energy Star Rating* and incorporating a variety of *Green Building* techniques, thereby lowering energy usage and utility costs for years to come.

Nearly 2,000 volunteers provide 60,000 hours of service and affiliate completes 12 homes that were started in 2006, while working on 12 new starts, for a total of 24 working projects, which is double the historical production capacity.

In addition to building in Buckeye, Fairfax, Forest Hills, St. Clair Superior, Slavic Village, South Collinwood, and Union Miles, Cleveland Habitat also funds Partner Family homes in Bangladesh, Botswana, Cote d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Ghana, and Guatemala.

Cleveland continues to support Habitat's Gulf Coast rebuilding efforts by framing a demonstration house at the prestigious *2007 NCAA Women's Final Four* and providing technical assistance for Texas Roadhouse and Ohio Association of Realtors *Home in a Box* projects.

After a comprehensive investigation of possibilities, The Habitat Board of Trustees votes unanimously to move to a leased facility on West 110th Street that will provide additional parking spaces for ReStore expansion, and improved warehouse and

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office space to increase overall efficiency.

Habitat for Humanity International's CEO, Jonathan Reckford, joins Cleveland Habitat for a Keynote Breakfast event for local constituents and Ohio Habitat Affiliates, then travels to a jobsite to help kickoff the first of a series of projects in collaboration with Cleveland Clinic.

The Cleveland Plain Dealer publishes a full page Real Estate Magazine feature about the *Women Build Program*; Earth Watch Ohio devotes a full page to the Habitat ReStore; Crain's Cleveland Business publishes multiple color photos of Habitat Job sites.

- 2008 The "*Your Home Magazine*" section of *The Plain Dealer* includes a full page feature with a large color photo titled, "Women Build uses Hammers and Hearts to Build Houses."; *WEWS Television's Live on Five Program* airs a feature piece with News Anchor Leon Bibb, filmed at a Habitat for Humanity job site as part of a week-long series in celebration of Black History Month; and Cleveland Habitat's Executive Director is quoted on a National Public Radio story, "Some Positive Sides to the Foreclosure Crisis."

Cleveland Clinic produces a twenty minute video about their Habitat home sponsorship for presentation at their annual meeting and at other public events

Who's Who in Black Cleveland recognizes Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity's Family Programs Manager, Mary Sykes; Habitat receives the *Dominion & Inside Business 2007 Community Impact Award*; and Habitat is named as one of Crain's Cleveland Business' list of "Cool Places to Work."

Greater Cleveland Habitat successfully engages a group of local building professionals in a successful *Home Builders Blitz* project that provides all of the labor and much of the materials for two Partner Family homes on a pro bono basis.

Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity moves its entire operation into a leased facility at 2110 West 110th Street and begins a comprehensive ReStore expansion program.