Dear Morris Habitat for Humanity Friends,

For the last 30 years, Morris Habitat has built simple, decent, affordable homes. We have built strong communities. We have built partnerships, with you — our volunteers, donors and friends. Above all, we have built hope.

Since Morris Habitat’s founding in 1985, the organization has expanded and thrived, but one constant has remained: Our commitment to helping families and individuals in need. We have seen the powerful legacy homeownership can provide. It helps give families a strong, stable foundation and allows them to get on with the business of living.

With your generosity and partnership over three decades, Morris Habitat has built, repaired and rehabilitated homes for more than 330 families — with no foreclosures! Our volunteer site visits totaled more than 75,000 with 500,000 hours worked.

We are proud of how far we have come, but we are just as excited about where Morris Habitat is headed. In September 2015 we unveiled our Strategic Plan, which calls for Morris Habitat to construct and preserve 200 homes over the next four years. While we know this is ambitious, we know that with your help, it is attainable.

There is an African proverb that says, “If you want to go fast, go alone. But if you want to go far, go together.” At Morris Habitat, we have traveled far over the last 30 years. And with our bold Strategic Plan, we have far to go. And with your support, we will get there together.

Thank you for helping hardworking families achieve the dream of homeownership.

With Gratitude,

Blair Schleicher Bravo
Chief Executive Officer

Our Vision:
A world where everyone has a decent place to live.

Our Mission Statement:
Seeking to put God’s love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities, and hope.

1985-2015
By the Numbers:

330 Homes built, repaired and rehabilitated

75,630 Volunteer site visits

503,019 Volunteer hours worked

0 Foreclosures

Build It Now! Event

Jonathan Reckford, Habitat for Humanity International’s CEO, spoke at Morris Habitat’s Build it Now! Breakfast in September about how Habitat improves lives in local communities and around the world. Habitat homeowners “move from needing help to becoming helpers in a community,” Reckford said. “We build self-reliance by building homes.”
Six of our partner families became homeowners in 2015. Homeownership creates vibrant communities, instills pride and brings financial stability and it does much more than that. It gives families a firm foundation and peace of mind. Homeownership creates vibrant communities, instills pride and brings financial stability and it does much more than that.

Gabriel and Dominga Garcia with their two sons purchased a duplex on Willow Street in Morristown last summer. Gabriel is a warehouse receiving assistant, and Dominga works in housekeeping for a hotel chain.

Jasmine Smith worked hard to become a Morris Habitat homeowner, returning to school, paying off her debt and student loans and improving her credit score. Last summer, Jasmine and her daughter, Yanna, moved from their one-bedroom subsidized apartment into their Morris Habitat home on Willow Street in Morristown. Yanna is thrilled to have her own room. “This home is going to be where Yanna grows up,” Jasmine said. “It’s going to be where we make a life together.”

Morris Habitat worked with Family Promise to renovate their Promise Drop-in Center at the First Baptist Church of Morristown. The center helps homeless individuals connect with local services and provides case management, mail, toiletries, clothing and shelter from extreme weather. With our partnership, the renovation was completed for $12,500 — a nearly 70 percent savings over the original estimate.

Morris Habitat’s ReStore had $1.52 million in sales in 2015, netting $551,000 for homebuilding — a 7 percent increase over 2014. It was once again the most successful Habitat affiliate retail operation in New Jersey. Since 2008, Morris Habitat’s ReStore has helped fund 18 homes and kept more than 5,600 tons of usable material from landfills.
Volunteers are the bedrock of Morris Habitat. They participate in all aspects of construction, serve on advisory committees, provide office support and assist customers at the ReStore. Whether they volunteer once a year or once a week, their compassion and hard work help us to help families achieve the dream of homeownership.

In 2015, Morris Habitat had:

- 11,827 volunteer site visits
- 71,821 hours of work donated
- 11,700 hours worked by our Habitat Faithful

Nearly 570 businesses and organizations volunteered their time and talents, including:

- 284 companies
- 122 schools
- 129 civic organizations
- 33 faith-based groups

7 members of the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) volunteered fulltime for six weeks providing 3,200 hours of service. (Photos center)

60 women attended our first Women Build days at our Morristown construction sites. Our Women Build partners included Home Depot and Lowes.

Morris Habitat continued its international homebuilding work in 2015, as 16 adventurous and hardworking volunteers and staff traveled to Armenia for 12 days in June to work with our Habitat Armenia affiliate.

The group was led by Morris Habitat CEO Blair Schleicher Bravo, David Bossart of the Morris Habitat Development Leadership Council and Melissa Ailiff, Morris Habitat’s NRI Program Coordinator. They worked alongside the family of Vachagan and Melanya Yengibaryan to make their home livable.

The group prepared walls in several rooms for spackle and paint. They met Melanya, and son, Narek. But they did not meet Vachagan Yengibaryan. Like many Armenian men, he is a migrant construction worker, who must travel to Russia during the warmer seasons to support his family.
In the fall of 1984, several Morris County residents volunteered in New York City at the first Habitat for Humanity Jimmy Carter Work Project, hammering alongside the former president and Mrs. Carter. Energized by the experience, they set out to duplicate those efforts providing safe, decent and affordable housing in Morris County. A year later, Morris Habitat for Humanity was incorporated.

Powered by volunteers, donors and partners — and inspired by its hardworking homeowners — the organization grew and flourished. Today, Morris Habitat and its ReStore employ 14 full-time and 21 part-time staff and engage more than 11,000 volunteers — from school children and corporate groups, to individuals and faith-based organizations — each year. Over the last three decades, Morris Habitat has helped build, repair or preserve homes in partnership with 330 families.

“Working with homeowners and seeing them and their children grow in confidence as they help to build and move into their new homes is the most fulfilling experience I’ve had in working with Habitat. Working with other volunteers comes in a close second.”
— Mark Bippes, one of Morris Habitat’s longest-serving volunteers and retired Morris Habitat construction manager
2008 Helar and Ada Lanchipa made the difficult decision to leave their home country for different reasons, but both knew they could create a more secure life in the United States. However, with four children it was difficult to maintain their apartment and family on one salary, and they moved to the Sussex Interfaith Shelter. After two unsuccessful applications, their name was selected for a Habitat home in 2008, finally giving them an affordable place to raise their family. Helar works as an electro-mechanical assembler for a medical testing equipment firm, and he is pursuing an associate’s degree in electronics engineering. Ada now owns and operates her own beauty salon.

2015 Akirah Farrell dreamed of a home where her seven-year-old daughter, Imani, would have her own room and a back yard where she could stretch out, ride her bike and be a kid. But even with a full-time customer service job, Akirah could not make ends meet on her own, and she and Imani shared a two-bedroom apartment with her mother in Newark. Akirah was thrilled when she learned she would be a Morris Habitat homeowner. She worked during the day, took MBA classes at night and completed her 300 hours of “sweat equity” contribution to build her house. “With your help, I have been able to provide not just a roof over our heads, but a home, where Imani and I can make a life together,” Akirah said. “I can’t tell you what that means to us.”
2015 INKIND DONORS - $1500+ 

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DO NORS

Home Builder $50,000-$99,000+

J.P. Morgan Chase Foundation  
Habitat for Humanity  
Home Depot Roxbury  
Bill & Susan Hoyt  
Hyatt House Parsippany/Whiteplain  
Jerger Lumber, Union  
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Summit Home Hardware  
New Jersey Natural Gas presented  
NJNG's 20th anniversary.  
Morris Habitat with a $25,000 donation,  
Bob Alimonti  
Riverview Baird  
Newark River  
Bob Alimonti  

For the fifth year in a row, Morris Habitat received the highest rating from Charity Navigator, the nation's largest charity watchdog. This is a testament to the organization's sound financial management, accountability and transparency.

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Morris Habitat had 15 homes in various stages of construction.

Six of these were completed and sold to new homeowners at below-market prices.

In addition, we helped numerous other low-income families in repairing or improving their homes with the homeowners merely paying the cost of our materials.

We recycled $1.5 million in household furniture, appliances and other goods that were donated to our ReStore. We sold these items at discounted prices, often to low-income area residents.

To carry out our mission, in 2015 we raised $934,000 through HUD grants, municipal affordable housing trust funds, and donations from corporations, foundations, congregations and individuals.

We supplemented such fund raising with $664,000 in donated real estate, building materials and professional services that were used in our construction business and related activities.

In addition, after expenses, we generated $496,000 in our ReStore and $168,000 through special events.

Program operating costs were $3.4 million in 2015. Fundraising costs were $444,000, and general and administrative costs were $126,000.

The homes we build and sell to low-income buyers are financed 100 percent by Morris Habitat, at no interest, and thus at the time of sale produce no cash for our use in building more homes.

To supplement our fund raising and other sources of cash, we periodically sell some of the mortgage loans we hold. In 2015 we sold 11 loans for $660,000 over their combined discounted value reflected on our books as required by Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).
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