

**we build HOPE**  
in our community



Mecosta County  
**Habitat**  
for Humanity®



“My faith demands that I do whatever I can, wherever I am, whenever I can, for as long as I can with whatever I have to try to make a difference”  
- President Jimmy Carter

## OUR HOME OWNERSHIP PROGRAM



### Fatima and Darrell Rush

We moved into our Habitat home in November 2003. We were blessed to have our first Thanksgiving dinner in our new home. My sons Terry, Jacob and Paul really enjoyed our home. My boys were very excited to have their own rooms and space. Habitat for Humanity is a blessed program. They helped us out of a bad situation. I would suggest them to anyone who wants a home. I married my husband Darrell in 2007, and we share our home together and we love it! God Bless!

## OUR VETERANS PROGRAM



### Glenn Norton - WWII Army Veteran

Glenn, a former Habitat volunteer himself, knew who to contact when he needed help with his deck. Glenn had the materials to repair the deck but needed the help completing the job. Some of the volunteers who were happy to help Glenn are veterans themselves. Glenn served in the US Army from 1945-46. Thank you Glenn for your service and most of all for sharing your stories with us.

## OUR CRITICAL HOME REPAIR PROGRAM



### We have heat again!

Through the partnership between Disability Advocates (DA) and MCHFH, we were able to provide Doris with a new hot water heater and furnace. As with all our Critical Home Repairs, the expenses incurred are repaid to MCHFH with an affordable payment. With the participation of DA, MCHFH is able to offset some of the expenses and lower the payments. Repayment helps to ensure long-term sustainability of our program and is built on the Habitat model of providing a hand up, not a handout.

## OUR RESTORE



### Genesis Seating

Genesis Seating and Mecosta County Habitat for Humanity have had a close relationship for years. Genesis Seating has donated pounds of scrap material quarterly for Habitat to pick up and sell at their ReStore. This relationship assists Habitat in their fundraising efforts as well as reducing materials that may otherwise end up in landfills. We are honored to partner with Mecosta County Habitat for Humanity and support their vision to build a world where everyone has a decent place to live.

## OUR DONORS - Our Foundation



### A Family Tradition - Lori Stich Obluda and Bernie Obluda

As with so much else in my life, my respect and admiration for Habitat for Humanity and its work were cultivated by my parents, who've given as selflessly of their time and talent to helping strangers as to raising my brother Andy and me. Teachers by trade, they taught us to live by the "Golden Rule," helping others whenever possible — well into retirement, they still walk that walk every day.

My Dad (with Mom's steady support) was on the board when MCHFH organized in the early 1990's and on the construction committee from early on (eventually as chair), building roughly 30 homes through decades of exhaustion, bruises, and broken bones. Though I lack his construction knowledge, skills, or strength, in the mid-90's I decided that if I ever did

anything extraordinary, I should try to make it matter for others as a way of continuing those helping efforts. Trying to qualify for the 2000 Olympic Marathon Trials offered the chance to "Run for a Reason," asking friends and family to sponsor my efforts by donating to MCHFH.

Having returned to live and work in West Michigan, I was excited to "give something back" to the community where I grew up, nurtured my whole life by not only my parents but a whole "village" that has encouraged me at every turn. This community gave freely to build four "Olympic houses." With enthusiastic support by my husband, Bernie (a generous donor in his own right), I'd like to carry on that giving spirit. Bernie and I may not be able to build 30 houses like Dad (and I'm well past my competitive running prime!), but we share a desire to "pay it forward," and we love supporting Habitat in offering "a hand up, not a handout," consistent with my upbringing right here in Mecosta County. We're grateful for the hard work done by MCHFH, humbled by its dedicated volunteers and deserving families, happy to contribute financially, and honored to partner with this great cause any way we can!

## OUR FAMILY NEWS - Keeping Connected



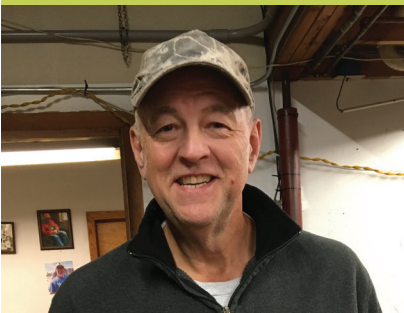
### Volunteer of the Year

Marshal Wied was honored at this year's Habitat for Humanity of Michigan Affiliate in Motion Conference as Volunteer of the Year. He received a beautiful certificate signed by the governor. We appreciate Marshal for all that he has given to our Habitat and many Habitats around the world. Thank you Marshal for your service to this country as a veteran and to our community! Congratulations!

### With sincere sympathy

We mourn the loss of our former board member Wanda Virginia Turner. We extend our condolences to Wanda's family and we sincerely thank Wanda for her generous support to our Habitat.

## OUR VOLUNTEERS - Our Backbone



### Russell Wenci

I have worked with Habitat volunteers for the last 10 years and I am always amazed at how caring and concerned they are about the projects they do and the people they are doing it for! Whether they are experienced in the work task, or learning it for the first time, they show their enthusiasm and are glad to be helping someone to have a nice home. I have been truly blessed to have been accepted by the Habitat coworkers and the leadership here in Mecosta County. Thank you for letting me be a part in your Habitat family.

Our programs depend on the generous support of our community.

Please consider a gift using the enclosed envelope or  
by visiting [mecostahabitat.org](http://mecostahabitat.org)

Mecosta Habitat for Humanity ReStore, 18387 Northland Drive, Big Rapids, MI 49307