



## New Habitat Homeowners!

With June being National Homeowner Month, it's the perfect time to celebrate five new Habitat Kent Homeowners! Halima and Muya (pictured left with two of their daughters) closed on their home on New Avenue this month. Halima in particular was very excited to be handed the new set of keys, and Muya loved the needlepoint they were given with their family's name that he is holding in the photo.

Allison and her family closed on our [first all-electric home](#) (pictured right) through our [traditional homeownership](#) program. She was so excited to move into her new home and create a stable and consistent place for herself and her children! Three other households moved into homes through our [Accelerated Homeownership Program](#), all becoming first-time homeowners, and some even first-generation homeowners.

Thank you for all of your support to help make this happen!



Summer is here! Volunteers and homeowners are busy on-site, we are preparing for the next round of homeownership applications, and we are celebrating and engaging with residents in the Baxter and Roosevelt Park neighborhoods.

We are thankful for these warm times and for the fellowship that follows. While this summer is busy with events and volunteers, I also reflect on all you have helped us achieve – **more than 460 families have realized homeownership!**

Next year, Habitat Kent will celebrate its **40th Anniversary**, and I can't wait to share decades of stories with you and the vision for the decades ahead.

**Thank you for all you do.**

Blessings,



Bev Thiel, Executive Director

## Building Leaders & Community in Roosevelt Park

During May and June, we partnered with [Dwelling Place](#) to host an eight-week course for Roosevelt Park residents. The program works to bring neighbors together and empower them as they learn about community organizing and the power of resident leaders.

Participants spent time identifying gifts and passions, building leadership skills, and talking about the issues facing their community. Each week, neighbors were able to connect with guest speakers who talked about their involvement in the neighborhood and provided tangible ways for them to make the changes they want to see.

Visit our blog at [habitatkent.org/blog](https://habitatkent.org/blog) to read more about it and learn how Habitat Kent homeowners helped lead the way!



*BLBC participants, facilitators and community partners celebrate the completion of the 8-week course together.*

## Community Work in Baxter

Earlier this year we broke ground on several homes in the Baxter Neighborhood on the southeast side of Grand Rapids. As a community-based organization, part of our work includes engaging with the greater neighborhood when doing new builds.

One big way we are doing this in Baxter is by collaborating with other organizations and community members to host the Baxter United Community Summer Series. The first two events, the [Baxter Neighborhood Mixer](#) and Juneteenth Celebration were big hits, featuring a DJ, live art, spoken word, games, food, and fellowship.

The next event (free and open to the public) is:  
**Saturday, July 16 - [BBQ Showdown](#)**

*Top picture: Alfred Fowler, founder of GRUnited and one of the event organizers, grills for the community at the Baxter Neighborhood Mixer at Joe Taylor Park in May.*



**BAXTER UNITED COMMUNITY  
SUMMER SERIES**

**BAXTER BBQ  
SHOWDOWN**

**SATURDAY.7.16.2022 \* 12PM-5PM  
JOE TAYLOR PARK**



## Our Next Carbon Footprint Build

People and organizations throughout our community are working hard to eliminate Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions.

Here at Habitat Kent, we know we have a role to play because residential housing typically accounts for 20% of all GHG emissions.

Visit our blog ([habitatkent.org/blog](https://habitatkent.org/blog)) to learn more about our three-step process to achieving carbon neutrality by 2035.



*Habitat Kent's next Carbon Footprint Build will include three homes that will all be all-electric.*

## Interfaith Youth Day Camp Returns to Habitat Kent

The Kaufman Institute at GVSU is once again conducting its Interfaith Service Day Camp in person! And once again, they will help us help local families.

The program brings together students from a wide variety of faith traditions and worldviews and develops future leaders by visiting sacred sites and building community through service. The group volunteering at Habitat Kent this year will participate in a Justice and Equity Immersion program. After learning about the issues facing the Baxter neighborhood they will be landscaping several Habitat Kent houses in the area!



*The first Interfaith Day of Service group to volunteer with Habitat Kent helped with landscaping in 2018. This year another group will help in the Baxter Neighborhood.*

## Christian Reformed Church Classis East All-Volunteer Workday

By mid-summer, we will have a total of nine homes under construction in the Baxter Neighborhood – an area with a strong and historically significant presence of Christian Reformed Churches. In fact, two of the five individuals who started Habitat Kent almost 40 years ago came from First CRC on Franklin and Eastern Avenue CRC, and Habitat Kent's first office space was in the Baxter Community Center.

How appropriate that on Saturday, August 6, volunteers from the 18 congregations that make up CRC's Grand Rapids Classis East will be onsite to build affordable housing for the neighborhood!



*One of three new Habitat Kent homes on Bemis in the Baxter Neighborhood on the southeast side of Grand Rapids.*

## Join our Bright Future Society to Make a BIG Impact

Monthly donors are members of our Bright Future Society. When you make a monthly gift to Habitat Kent, it's an easy and affordable way to make a HUGE difference in the lives of local families dreaming of owning their home.

Be a part of a passionate group of people who work together —with opportunities to network, volunteer, and more — to make the future bright for all of us!

## thank you to our corporate partners last quarter

- Bank of America Charitable Foundation
- The Home Depot Foundation
- Horizon Bank
- JP Morgan
- PNC Foundation
- Rockford Construction
- SpartanNash Foundation
- State Farm
- Twistthink
- Thrivent Financial
- Warner Norcross + Judd



### mission

seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity of Kent County brings people together to build homes, communities, and hope

### vision

a world where everyone has a decent place to live

### ways to give



gifts of cash, check or stock



shop at, or donate products to, our ReStores



join our Bright Future Society by setting up automated monthly donations



planned giving - join our Legacy Society



contributions from your IRA or Donor Advised Funds



donate a home or property



ReStore