



Newberg Area Habitat for Humanity®

August 15, 2024

A World Where Everyone Has A Decent Place To Live

Vol 1. Issue 5

RESTORE CONTRIBUTES TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING

ReStore embodies the same mission as all affiliates of Habitat for Humanity: *A world where everyone has a decent place to live.* Every



donation transfers into a profit that is used locally in the building of homes in our community. Habitat ReStores can be likened to a home improvement store; you can browse for furniture, home goods, appliances and building materials.

Many of the items are used and must be in good condition. Other items are left over new items from someone else's building or remodeling projects. Looking for lighting or

possibly flooring for a project? You might find what you need by first coming and browsing through the Newberg ReStore.

Buying brand new furniture for your current house or downsizing and moving? If you have extra furniture, artwork, cabinets, or household items that are in good shape, please consider donating these items to the Newberg ReStore. When you shop, donate, or volunteer at the local ReStore, you in turn are helping to build or refurbish affordable housing projects in this community.

Newberg Restore is open Thursday through Saturday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and is located at 801 N. Meridian. Come shop and meet our friendly staff and volunteers.

WELCOME JEROME SPENCER, NEW RESTORE MANAGER

Jerome Spencer was recently hired as the new Newberg Restore manager. He is a native Oregonian who grew up in Portland and left the state for only a year right after his high school graduation. It just took a year in California for him to realize Oregon would always be his home. Jerome has been a resident of Newberg for the last 23 years.

His first job in Newberg was as a grocery clerk at Safeway before accepting a position in the bakery. He worked three years in Newberg Safeway bakery and then transferred

to McMinnville Safeway as a bakery manager. The demands of that position left limited time with his family so he and a friend started accepting contracts with banks to clean and repair repossessed homes allowing banks to resell homes to recoup funds. Initially they were willing to travel across the country until they built the reputation of their company

There were many years that Jerome and his company would repair 120 homes or more every year. The business yielded good money, along with long hours, and cross state trips. As the business grew so did the demands leading Jerome and his business partner to hire more crews. Jerome said he learned a lot during this period of his life but once again felt the tug of family and Newberg. He sold the business and decided to look locally in Newberg for his next career.

Jerome answered an ad for the position of car salesman at Lanphere Ford in Newberg. He would sell during the day and then do paperwork in the evenings. There was unlimited pay potential selling cars, and he was good at it because of his outgoing personality. After seven successful years, he left to take a position at Credit Yes Auto in Portland because he wanted to help people realize their need of owning a car even if they had bad credit. That agency sold cars with the mission of helping people.

Habitat Office
620 N Morton Street
Newberg, Oregon
Monday - Friday
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
503-537-9938



Habitat Staff

Shannon Selah - Executive Director
Libbie Bailey - Administrative Assistant
Jeff Council - Construction Supervisor
David Reeder - Healthy Homes Repair Manager

ReStore Staff

Jerome Spencer - ReStore Manager
Joel Ricks - Assistant ReStore Manager

Officers of the Board of Directors

Norm Daviess - President
Paula Kriz - Vice President
Chandler Schur - Secretary
Storr Nelson - Treasurer

He realized that he was at a crossroads in his life again. "At this point in my life, a job is not about the money. I wanted to do something that was about how I would feel at the end of the day. I wanted to make a difference - what could I do to make a true difference?" Jerome was happy he was called for an interview for the ReStore position and after the interview, he could imagine himself working for Habitat. "I have learned, in a short time, Habitat is an amazing and strong community. People that are working and volunteering want to be there."

Jerome's goal is to make the ReStore staff a collaborative team that can be cross-trained and be ready for more responsibilities. "I am in the mode of watching, listening, and learning in my first few months. Before we add anything, we need to maximize what we already do. People have options to take used items to Goodwill or to the dump. We need to find ways to direct that traffic to us!"

When Jerome is not working for the ReStore, he is spending time with his family. His three daughters and two sons range from 24 years old to 17 years old. If he is not enjoying family game nights with them, he can be found working outside in his garden or playing with his dogs.

Stop by and introduce yourself to Jerome. He is a good addition as the leader because he listens and wants to make lasting relationships with the customers that walk through the door of the store. "I have been impressed with all the staff of Newberg Area Habitat for Humanity. I am excited I will be a part of that team on the frontline of helping people and helping raise funds through the ReStore to build more homes in the Newberg community."

MEET JOEL RICKS, ASSISTANT MANAGER

If you have visited the ReStore, you probably have seen Joel Ricks helping with donations, working on the floor, or possibly cleaning donated items. He has helped manage the store and use his skills to assist customers for the last four years. He likens the ReStore to a giant garage

sale since there are so many treasures that can be found throughout the store. Unlike conventional stores, the ReStore can be more flexible when dealing with customers. "We can offer items on sale when we think it is necessary because there are no strict codes about when and how many items can be on sale at a time."

Joel had other jobs before joining the staff at ReStore. He helped his father with his wallpaper hanging business but realized that that was not his calling. Then he worked for Fred Meyer as a cheesemonger for a stint. In that position, he cut and packaged cheese, cut and displayed samples, and he refined his own taste about different cheeses so he could serve customers. When he wanted a change, he did not know what he really wanted. His grandmother, who was volunteering at the ReStore, encouraged him to visit the ReStore and apply for the assistant manager opening.

"Most people want to be here whether they are a paid employee or a volunteer. This is a fun place to work because we really treat each other like family." In fact, Joel stated that he does get to work with his grandmother and even an uncle since they continue to volunteer at ReStore.

Joel voiced that the ReStore has helped him hone his skills in working with people. "The skill I know I have gotten more confident with is communicating to people when a donation is not usable. It is important to only accept items that we can resale." He understands that being close to George Fox brings many college students through the door. "Students can find items for their dorm rooms, and people who want to

find a bargain at a fraction of the price come and take a look to see what we have."

During his free time, Joel draws and enjoys

playing disc golf. He throws the disc at the three courses in or close to Newberg: Hoover Park, Champoeg Park and Ewing Young Park next to the skate park. And before finishing my time with Joel, he reminded me that being a previous cheesemonger helped him with one of his hidden talents - preparing a mean cheese fondue!

LUKE JEFFERY ACCEPTS AND INSPECTS DONATIONS

If you are dropping off donations for the ReStore, your first point of contact is Luke Jeffery. He sits outside under the awning helping customers and answering their

questions about the items that are on display outside. Stacked on the shelves behind him or to the side of him were unopened boxes of flooring, pieces of wood, dining room chairs, and boxed shelves or

small furniture items. He reminded me, "We can only accept building materials, like flooring, only if there is enough to do a small project."

Luke pointed out that there is a lot of moving merchandise especially at the donation station. "I'm the hired muscle who helps people when they might not be able to move something. I like to think of myself as a 'smarter not harder' working guy! Most of my job is accepting donations."

Almost half of the donations that are brought to ReStore are rejected. Sometimes it might be a good quality item like a couch, but at the time of the donation there is no room for it on the floor. Other times an item is rejected because it is not in good enough shape to resale. "I do not know how many times people have said to me, it would just take a



bit to fix. We do not have the manpower to fix items. Our job is to clean them and get them ready for resale.”

Like Joel, the assistant manager, Luke has gained the ability to turn down people who bring items that just cannot be sold at the ReStore. He talked about how that is not an easy skill. He likened it to a clash of wills. “I learned to be more assertive for the sake of the ReStore. We act like a filter. We cannot take in items that will actually cost us more in the end because we need to throw them away. That does not help us gain money for the Habitat’s mission. That has to become my focus when accepting donations.”

Luke has had some varied employment. Before coming to work at Newberg ReStore, Luke worked a job at a Thrift Store in Idaho. During his year there, he was promoted to the clothing department. He also spent years baking scones when Coffee Cottage was operating in Newberg. If he is not working at the ReStore, he spends his time reading, playing video games, working on his writing and editing character development for others.

“We appreciate people who come into the ReStore. Our customers need to know that every time they come in and purchase something from the store, they are helping build houses for citizens within our community.”

A HOME VISIT HOME INTERVIEW CHANGED MIGUEL HERRERA’S LIFE IN SO MANY WAYS

Miguel’s parents filled out an application for a Newberg Area Habitat home early in the year of 2023. When his family was interviewed in early March of 2023, he learned more about the mission of Habitat and also the ReStore. After his family was selected as the recipient of one of the homes to be built on the College Street site, he was determined to help with the 500 sweat equity hours. It



was that April he started volunteering at the ReStore every Saturday for about eight hours. Between the hours his dad was assisting at the work site and the hours he was recording at the store, they were well on their way of tallying the needed hours.

His volunteering at the ReStore led to a paid position after a year. Miguel’s ability to speak both Spanish and English fluently, allows him to lend support to all customers who shop at the ReStore. As he stated, “Working at the ReStore is a smooth process. We receive items, clean them, and put them out for sale.” Miguel works at the check out desk and an integral part of his position is interacting with the customers. “I have become more social as I have to greet and help customers that enter the store and it is also my job to answer the phone. I have learned how to strike up a conversation with customers.”

The last year has been filled with milestones for Miguel. He recently graduated from Newberg High School and hopes to fulfill his goal of becoming an electrician. He is thankful for a teacher at the high school who helped guide him towards this path. It might not happen until a year from now as he contemplates the benefits of working two jobs to save money before entering a trade program.

Being chosen as a Habitat homeowner became his and his family’s high point. “I was one of the lucky few to be given a home. It is a blessing because our family has been so crowded living in a small apartment. This opportunity gave my family the vision of more space, will give me a room of my own for the first time, and it also led me to this job.”

Miguel has a strong understanding of

family and community. He spends much of his off time with his family and helping his younger brothers with their wrestling skills. As the big brother, he feels the responsibility of

serving as a role model. He grasps the concept that families in partnership make a more vital community.

He recognizes that Newberg Area Habitat for Humanity lives their mission.

“Habitat people are people in our community who can be trusted. They

are working for a good cause - helping families change their lives.”



Volunteer on the Build Crew or Repair Work For Healthy Homes



**Mondays and/or Wednesdays
9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.**

For more information, contact us:

Email: info@newberghabitat.org
Phone: (503) - 537-9938

Habitat ReStore
801 N. Meridian Street
Newberg, Oregon
(971)-832-8153
Thursday, Friday, Saturday
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

