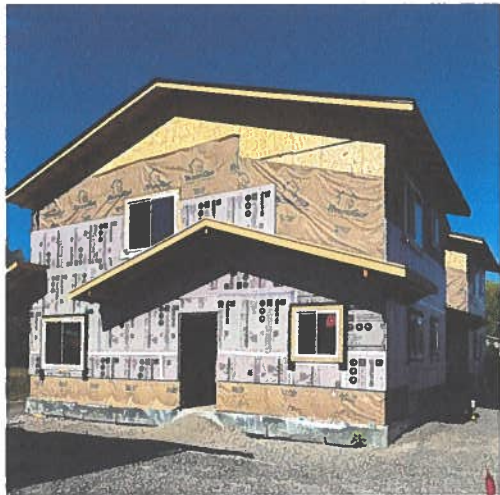


NEWBERG AREA HABITAT FOR HUMANITY RECEIVES LIFT FUNDS

The Local Innovation and Fast Track (LIFT) program was created by the Oregon Legislature in 2017. This year the Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS), who sponsors the LIFT funds, announced the approval of nearly \$23 million toward creating affordable homes across the state of Oregon. The primary goal of the LIFT program is the encouragement of new affordable family-sized homes for both renters and those having the dream of becoming a homeowner. The funds are also specifically earmarked for communities of color and rural communities throughout the state of Oregon.

In May of 2024, Newberg Habitat for Humanity was one of ten developments awarded funds. Of the ten projects receiving LIFT funds in May, six of them were to Habitat affiliates across the state. The size of the project and how many units being built becomes a key factor in the



amount awarded. Newberg Habitat for Humanity received \$400,000 to help fund a two unit proposed dwelling. Funds awarded can be used for land acquisition along with site and infrastructure work.

LIFT funds are an important revenue stream that has been important to Habitat home building in Newberg. In fact, Newberg Area Habitat for Humanity has successfully been awarded LIFT funds from OHCS once each year from 2022 - 2024. LIFT funding was instrumental in

the building that is currently in progress at the College sites where three homes are being constructed.

LIFT applications must submit the amount of funds requested, describe the building location, outline the financial proposed budget showing all sources of funding, the construction budget, and resumes of Habitat employees. The applications are then scored by the following criteria:

- Development capacity
- Development experience

- Equity and Community Engagement
- Financial Viability
- Project Details

The awarded funds will be used for the administration and the payment of the land for the project planned for 1201 East 5th Street in Newberg. Site work will probably start in the winter and then construction later in the spring of 2025. The projected design will be a duplex with a ground floor home and a second floor home. The main floor unit has already been designated as a home for a veteran, otherwise known as a Veteran's Build.

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 Office
620 N Morton Street
Newberg, Oregon
Monday - Friday
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

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

MEET KELLI SMITH, HABITAT BOOKKEEPER

Kelli applied for the McMinnville bookkeeper position five years ago after taking a hiatus from work while caring for her mother. Once her mother was relocated to Idaho, Kelli started looking for a bookkeeping position again.



“The McMinnville Habitat position was the first I applied for and I was happy it was part time and close to home.”

When Newberg Area Habitat (NAHFH) was looking for a 10 hours per week bookkeeper in the winter of 2023, Katie Curry, executive director for McMinnville Area Habitat, and Shannon Selah, executive director of NAHFH, once again entered into a partnership. Kelli’s professional expertise would be utilized by both affiliates and the directors allowed Kelli flexibility in her days between the two offices and also the flexibility of working remotely. Not only have the two Yamhill County Habitat offices benefitted from her bookkeeping skills, but Kelli has been called as a substitute in the Forest Grove Habitat office when their bookkeeper resigned and they needed a stop gap until they could hire a full time employee.

During her 38 year marriage, Kelli has lived in ten different states. She has fond memories of the places she and her husband have lived, and she voiced that Oklahoma was one of her favorite places because of the group of friends she met. Her husband worked on construction for hospitals so the two of them would move every two or so years. In 2014, they decided it was time to settle in one place and buy their own home.

Since her husband’s mother lived in McMinnville, they decided Oregon was the spot they would call home.

In Kelli’s spare time she plays slots in Oregon casinos, travels to the beach and enjoys camping with her husband. She is also an active member of the Elks Club and Legion in McMinnville. Kelli and her husband will be attending the Elks 3rd Annual Northwest Rally which starts on July 10. It is a four day camp trip at the Polk County Fairgrounds that brings Elk members together from many different chapters. They play games, have catered dinners, and build community together during this time.

HOMEOWNERSHIP BECAME ATTAINABLE

Becoming a Habitat homeowner changed Lisa Foster’s life in so many ways. She remembers how her mother had encouraged her to apply two years before she actually did. Lisa concentrated on the obstacles that might be in her way - was her income too much or would they consider a single mother with one child - instead of the challenges she could overcome. One day when pulling out the information sent home in her son’s elementary school bag, there was a flier about seeking applications for the next Habitat build in Newberg.



When she looks back on the experience, she remembers the strong support that walked along beside her. Staff at Joan Austin sent two different build teams on different Saturdays. The school district office and the high school, where she was employed as the test coordinator, also sent teams. Lisa’s dad, an electrician completed all the wiring throughout the house while her mother babysat Lewis. Family

and friends helped Lisa log well beyond her 500 hours of sweat equity.

Lisa remembers entering volunteer time sheets and planning the meals for the builders using the meal network already established by Newberg Area Habitat. The connection with one specific volunteer resulted in a scholarship for her son to attend Twin Rocks Camp the summer after they moved in. “I realized I had touched many lives who wanted to give back to me.”

“Owning a house changed my life. What I thought was unattainable became possible. I was always thinking about the obstacles. If this could happen in my life, then maybe I could go back and get my teaching degree.” And within the year of moving into her new home, Lisa

enrolled at Portland State at nights and then later was accepted to George Fox’s Intensive Masters Plus Program. For the last ten years, she has been employed by Tigard-Tualatin School District as a special education teacher.

She has learned owning a home means keeping it maintained - cleaning gutters, mowing the lawn, and performing repairs. You have to budget for it. On a single income that can sometimes be difficult. “It’s not always easy owning a home, but it is worth it. You also meet a lot of great people through the path of homeownership with Habitat for Humanity.”

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

 **ReStore**
Newberg Area Habitat for Humanity