

NEWBERG AREA HABITAT AWARDED HOMEOWNERSHIP LANGUAGE GRANT

Oregon Housing and Community Services Department (OHCS), awarded a Homeownership Language Access and Community Outreach and Engagement Grant in mid-July to Newberg Area Habitat for Humanity



("NAHFH" or "the affiliate"). The funds outlined in the grant will be used to address the racial disparities and language barriers in the affiliate's service area (Newberg, Sherwood, Dundee, Dayton, and St. Paul) by increasing the visibility and assistance to our Communities of Color and the Underserved Populations. In other words, the grant awarded will assist with facilitating language access to local residents with limited English proficiency or a language-related disability.

In 2018, the State of Oregon organized a taskforce to study the trends of homeownership and then compiled data that outlined the barriers Communities of Color and Underserved Populations experienced when starting the homeownership process. During the 2020 legislative session, this taskforce set forth recommendations that included technical and financial assistance that needed to be developed for nonprofits and culturally specific organizations.

It was recommended that these organizations provide services towards homeownership that would support these populations. Therefore, OHCS and the State of Oregon developed the Language Access and Community Outreach and Engagement (LACOE)

Grant to provide funds to these nonprofits.

To be eligible for the LACOE Grant, the recipient had to be a nonprofit organization, a

housing authority, a local government agency, or a federally recognized Indian tribe that owned land within the state of Oregon. Also the recipient had to sponsor or manage homeownership programs and services that assisted households with income at or below 100% of the Area Median Income (AMI). NAHFH builds homes for those within 25-60% of AMI and repairs homes for those under 80% of AMI.

Eligible activities were outlined in two categories: Language Access and Community Outreach Engagement. A list of eligible activities included but are not limited to the following:

- Translation programs and outreach materials
- Interpretation Services
- Informing the public about availability of language
- Developing a language access plan

- Promoting homeownership through culturally responsive marketing
- Building and strengthening relationship within Communities of Color and Underserved Populations
- Training to increase organizational knowledge and skills

These eligible activities will allow the affiliate to purchase signs for the NAHFH office and the ReStore in Spanish and allow for translated signs within the store. Written materials, the Habitat website and social media will also be translated to be more culturally inclusive. For example, the affiliate intends to add website functionality allowing for translation into multiple languages and accessibility for those with disabilities (e.g. visual impairments). NAHFH will have the opportunity to partner with local media providers to create video, audio, and printed materials that will allow culturally inclusive communication to all populations within the affiliate's service area.

The maximum amount of each awarded grant was \$70,000. Newberg Area Habitat for Humanity was awarded \$60,670. There are two limitations attached to the grant funds: 1. The administrative cost limit is 10% of the grant expenditures and 2. The staff time costs are limited to 13% of the grant expenditures. This ensures



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

that the majority of the funds are used to assist the Communities of Color and Underserved Populations in navigating the pathway to homeownership.

The grant funds are divided quarterly throughout the year. Each quarter the affiliate will be required to spend funds and then report how the funds were spent. Examples of questions that are part of each report:

- Describe the work done on Language, Community Outreach and/or Engagement.
- How often did the organization use an interpreter?
- What languages were used?
- Share your challenges.

Watch and stay tuned. There will be service implementations quarterly.

Volunteer on the Build Crew or Repair Work For Healthy Homes



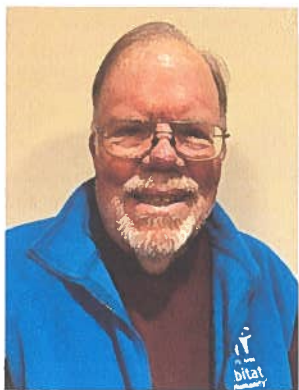
**Mondays and/or Wednesdays
9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.**

For more information, contact us:

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

**MEET NORM DAVIESS,
NEWBERG AREA HABITAT
BOARD PRESIDENT**

When Norm Daviess lived in New Mexico in 2000, he saw an article in the local newspaper that was asking for citizens to volunteer to help build a house in the local Habitat affiliate. At the time he was working for the Air Force as a computer specialist but wanted to do something worthwhile on his weekends. That first weekend of volunteering led to being a crew member



for Habitat for Humanity that completed 40 houses in Alamogordo, New Mexico over a ten year span.

As he says, "I was hooked as a volunteer. I got to know the family and helped them build their house. I might have come home tired and my muscles were sore, but I felt so good because I was also giving back. During my work week I looked forward to getting back to the build site the following weekend."

Norm retired in 2015 and since his wife had willingly moved to each assigned base throughout his Air Force career, Norm promised her that he would take her home. She was from Salem and since one of their daughters lived in Beaverton, it was the couple's mission to find a new home halfway between Salem and Beaverton. There was also another important aspect to their house search - they needed to settle in an area that had a Habitat for Humanity affiliate so Norm could continue his work building houses to better a community. Norm blocks off his calendar to be at the build site on Mondays and Wednesdays.

In 2022, Rick Rogers, the previous NAHFH director, asked him to join the board to help spearhead a project. By the next year, he was president of the board for the Newberg affiliate. Norm highlighted the important tasks handled by the board to keep the affiliate functioning:

1. Provides policy and funding for operation to ensure the mission is completed.
2. Oversees decision making as the governance body.
3. Assists in resource development and obtaining resources.
4. Selects and supports the Executive Director.

"As a board member I am called on to help with the day to day functions of the affiliate. But when I am on the job site, I am a volunteer again. The Construction Supervisor is in charge, and I follow his lead."

In the last few years, the NAHFH board has worked to increase the availability of land and increase their resources.

The Newberg affiliate currently has two homes under construction and owns land to support seven more families. In fact, Norm mentioned how the board had just selected the third family that will buy and later occupy the next home to be built on the current College Street build site.

"We are in need of more volunteers. I would like our Habitat affiliate to get back to the pre-COVID status. Volunteering is a way to help your neighbors. We need to remember the barn raising philosophy of our forefathers as a way to come together. We live in a small community and helping our neighbors locally is a way to come together to build a house that makes our community stronger."

As the NAHFH affiliate transitions to a new software system, Norm is at the forefront volunteering in another capacity. He is assisting by doing data entry from the old system to the new system. This can take hours and his years of being a computer specialist is just another gift of his giving back to Habitat and our community.

Within the last year he and his wife have moved from their Dundee home to Sutton Terrace at University Village across from George Fox. As he says he doesn't have to cut the grass anymore, and he and his wife have made good friends with other residents. He is close to George Fox activities, walks around town to keep in shape, and can still enjoy trips to wineries. He is proud and grateful to still be volunteering for Habitat for Humanity and has recorded 24 years of service in the organization.

"I initially worked at my job so I could go on the weekends to help build houses for Habitat. It is part of who I am. Our build crew even worked through COVID on the work sites. I know my work and dedication with Habitat for Humanity has given my life purpose."

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

