

**NEW CONSTRUCTION
 SUPERVISOR BUILDING KEY
 RELATIONSHIPS**

Miche McCausey was a self-employed interior painter and handyperson before they started as Newberg Area Habitat for Humanity's Construction Supervisor in October. Miche had not thought about working for Habitat or applying for a job in Newberg until a friend pitched the idea. Since they had remodeled a house previously in Newberg, Miche became familiar with the town and was open to the prospect. Knowing this work would help people within the community who needed assistance when overcoming life's hurdles meant that it fit within their core philosophy.



Although Miche has painted murals, installed floors, done trim work, and completed finish work on remodeling jobs, it is other professional work outside the construction sphere that has shaped their life around working with people. For the last three years, Miche has volunteered at the Dougy Center - a place for families to work through the grief of a loved one. They facilitate peer grief support groups every week alternating between a 4-8 year old group one week and then a 6-12 year old group the following week. They

are also a certified end-of-life doula who specializes in pediatric death. "I believe my work in these areas has helped me build rapport with others. I can use my communication skills to build relationships with the businesses in Newberg. By building rapport, it will connect them to Habitat and also provide them the opportunity to give." This has been realized at least with one business in town already. Sherman Williams Paint Store donated \$200 worth of free supplies, extended a 15% discount on other supplies, and also granted a 55% discount on all paint.

Miche was quick to commend a group of longtime, dedicated building volunteers. "They are skilled regulars who have been doing this for a long time. They are six people I can call or text to ask questions. They are teaching me as I start in this new role, and this is an added compensation." Miche also emphasized that building a Habitat home is a real team effort. "The build crew are volunteers who have their needs met and their cups are full. They give of their time helping others

who have extra hardships within their lives. To witness this is significant."

Every build day has its own rhythm. Miche has learned that the pace of a Habitat home has its ebbs and flows. Some days it is all volunteer workers and other days it is all paid contractors on specific projects. Another skill is learning to team with the city on permits and architectural changes. There are times that Miche has been asked to help with the A Brush With Kindness program. "I have torn off a small deck and built another for a homeowner. At another residence, I have built a wheelchair ramp."

Saturdays are typically family build days where the Habitat homeowners work alongside the construction supervisor and other volunteers to fulfill their required 500 sweat equity hours. Miche said these days are the best part of the job so far. "To see their faces when they have walked into the house to see drywall instead of just studs, or the day they saw the outside of their houses painted - those are special days. Every new step is making it real, and the new owners can start imagining moving in and creating a life here." Two houses are currently being finished on the College Street site with the third soon to be started. "These families have their hands in each other's houses. They and Habitat are literally and physically building community together."



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
 Miche McCausey - Construction Supervisor
 David Reeder - Healthy Homes Repair Manager

ReStore Staff

Jerome Spencer - ReStore Manager

Officers of the Board of Directors

Norm Daviess - President
 Paula Kriz - Vice President
 Rus St. Cyr - Secretary
 Storr Nelson - Treasurer

HABITAT FULFILLS A FAMILY DREAM

Newberg Habitat helped the Dittman family realize their dream of home ownership. They lived in a small apartment with a toddler and another baby on the way. Since Sarah was a stay-at-home mom, they did not have the financial means to buy a house. With two children with special needs, they also knew their children needed a yard and outdoor space to play and explore. That was not part of their current living conditions.

Ben and Sarah recall the application and family selection process. They had to be vulnerable and talk about their lives and their children. They were both nervous, but they saw this process as a way to achieve the goal of having more security for their family. Sarah talked about how she had missed that security growing up since they moved often and were always renting.

Each family is required to contribute 500 hours of sweat equity during the building. They have fond memories of George Fox students, Newberg Rotary members, Latter Day Saint missionaries and Newberg Habitat volunteers on construction days. Ben remembers all the pavers

he laid for his driveway and he said, "It was long since we lived on a back lot."

Their Habitat home was a 1917 two-bedroom house that was moved from George Fox and then remodeled. They love the history and the features that make it feel like home - 9-foot ceilings, crown molding, and oak hardwood floors. They are grateful for the rebuilding of the cabinets and the addition of the fence and gate that allows for an exploration area for their children. They felt Habitat rescued their family and planted them in a community that includes two other Habitat families surrounding them. "This is the only house my youngest son knows and every room has history," Sarah stated.

Owning a home means taking responsibility for maintenance, and both Ben and Sarah said it took some getting used to. A former Habitat employee wrote a handbook for homeowners that was a helpful resource outlining the details of maintaining roofs, windows, appliances and the location of the shutoff valves. They have a few projects on their to-do list - refinishing the old oak floors and making the backyard more suitable for their children, but they can do them on their own time and do not have to ask



permission from the apartment manager. "Owning a home creates a sense of pride of ownership - and this is real!"

Owning a home opened up other options for them. "We were able to save up and took our first family vacation. It was a road trip through the National Parks of Arizona, Utah, and California. Habitat for Humanity helped create a home, a safe space and a sense of belonging for this family of four. In turn, Ben and Sarah have put down strong roots in the community.

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



Newberg Area Habitat for Humanity Position

Bi-Lingual Family Service Coordinator Needed Full Time Position - 32 Hours a Week

Skills Needed:

- Fluent in Spanish and English is required
- Excellent Communicator
- Ability to create strong relationships
- Capacity to learn needed skills

Benefits

- Health Care Stipend
- Hourly Wage - \$26.17

Newberg Area Habitat for Humanity ReStore

Restore Donation Coordinator Needed

Skills Needed:

- Ability to work with the community
- Good Communicator
- Ability to be a team player
- Capacity to learn needed skills
- Valid Oregon Driver's License

Work Schedule:

- Thursday - Saturday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
- Hourly Wage - \$19/hr DOE