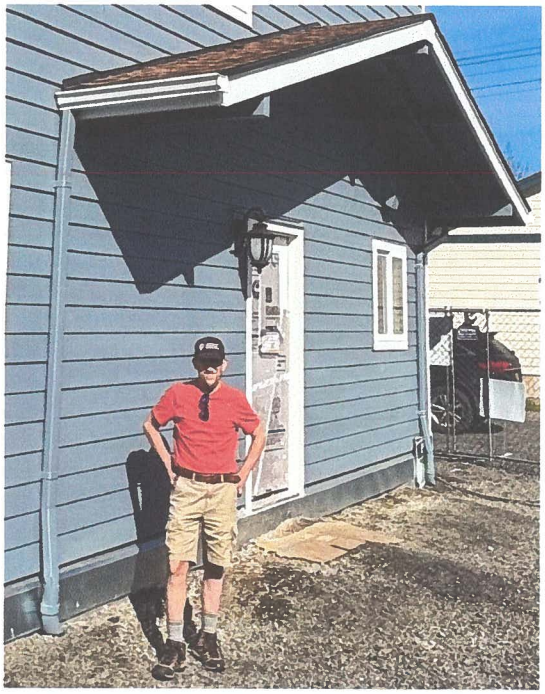
Newberg Area
Habitat for Humanity®

April 15, 2025 *A World Where Everyone Has A Decent Place To Live* Vol 2. Issue 4

JACK KRIZ'S BLUEPRINTS BRING DREAMS TO REALITY

One of our most valuable volunteers of Newberg Area Habitat for Humanity (NAHFH) does not swing a hammer at the build sites or clean and shelf items at the ReStore. Jack Kriz, a retired architect, donates his architectural skills of designing and drawing blueprints for the homes that will be built for our chosen Habitat families. He knew of the vision and mission of Habitat for years but just could not commit to volunteering because he was a co-owner of Mildred Design Group based in Lake Oswego and was just too busy. He could help every once in a while, if Habitat had issues with permits or found troubles with a house design, but those times were limited.



During Jack's architectural career, he gained skills in both home and commercial design as well as mastering digital design tools. After college he started his career at a big architecture firm in Portland but left for Alaska when the economy took a turn and he lost his job. He packed his bag, and his bike, and headed for Alaska even though he knew no one. He found a position in a small firm and worked on a hotel project and later transitioned to a medium sized firm building schools.

When his parents experienced health issues, he returned to Portland and became a member in an elite team that did Computer Aided Design (CAD) work at his old Portland firm. It was here that he then became the lead of the computerized part of the company. "Because I liked the whole range of tasks in a firm - clients, design, and drafting - I decided to quit the large firm and join my friend in partnering in a small firm. I worked twenty-eight years in that firm doing strictly commercial projects." A few of the projects are buildings located in Newberg: Black Bear Diner, Newberg Urgent Care, and Action Equipment.

When Jack finally retired in 2020, he had the time to volunteer for Habitat. "I love the Habitat model. It is not a handout, but it is a partnership with families where people come together and learn how a building comes together. I also like how Habitat teaches families basic economics and families have to put in effort to own a home," said Jack. Jack was the architect for the two homes currently being built at 717 N College Street in Newberg. He is finishing plans for the third house to be constructed on the same lot and will be the architect for the four homes on an adjacent lot behind the current build site. In addition, he has drawn up plans submitted for approval to the City of Newberg for two homes at 1201 E Fifth Street in Newberg.

A typical house plan will take close to 200 hours per project which includes 30 hours schematic design, 55 hours drafting construction drawings, and 15 hours permitting and other miscellaneous tasks. One third of the time is set aside for home development. In other words, Jack needs to talk with the city, the fire department, and PGE. "There also needs to be thought put into essentials to make the home the most livable." Jack pointed out yard size and the inclusion of a driveway are essential as is the placement of windows in the design to allow enough light from outside in the living areas. The architect must also work closely with the structural engineer before all these development ideas are included in the

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 + Support Staff

Jerome Spencer - ReStore Manager
Armando Juarez - Bilingual Family Coordinator
William Troyer - Community Outreach Coordinator

Officers of the Board of Directors

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

drawn blueprints. Then Jack added, "Even after all the careful planning, most of the time there is some type of hiccup."

It was because of his expertise with city codes and variances that he knew the four houses could not be duplicates of the three front homes. "We needed to make sure there would be access in case a fire truck ever needed to service the back four houses. That changed the arrangement and the design of those homes. Knowing that in advance helps fulfill city code requirements before the project design process is completed."

Jack has advocated for the completion of wheelchair accessible homes. Jack has lived with Ectodermal Dysplasia - a disorder that affects the development of tissues derived from ectoderm, such as skin, hair, nails, teeth and sweat glands. He is open about how it has affected his eyes, sweat glands, and his hands. In fact, he proudly talks about his involvement in the National Foundation for Ectodermal Dysplasia as a current board member. Jack has created awareness before each national conference by biking a long- distance ride to fundraise for the organization. In fact, last summer he and his daughter, Delaney, completed a 400-mile bike trip over two trails - The Gap and The E & O Canal - to the Washington DC conference and raised $25,000 for the foundation.

"Habitat has a fabulous story to tell. There are many areas where individuals can volunteer. You can help at the ReStore. You can help frame the walls since that takes a lot more people. You can help paint the interior of homes being built. You can help with landscaping and design a planting regiment. Volunteer to be an errand person at the build site. Maybe you are a lawyer who can help educate new owners about the rights of being a homeowner. You do not have to commit on a permanent, weekly basis. Maybe you are willing to volunteer a day or two a month. The emphasis is to use your talents to strengthen Habitat in a way that works for you."

NAHFH never advertised for architecture design as a volunteer activity, but Jack knew his skills could be used to save the organization funds. NAHFH is extremely grateful for his expertise. Jack designs the house plans and his wife, Paula, can be found at the build site every Monday and Wednesday to help put those blueprints into reality. In their own ways, Jack and Paula Kriz are a Newberg power couple who donate hundreds of hours to make dreams come true for one deserving family at a time.

Volunteer on the Build Crew or Repair Work For Healthy Homes

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

For more information, contact us:

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

RESTORE WELCOMES GRIFFIN EOFF AS NEW DONATION COORDINATOR

When the ReStore assistant manager resigned from the ReStore, the job was replaced instead with a Donation Coordinator position. As the new Donation Coordinator, Griffin Eoff is tasked as the point person to communicate with citizens who want to donate items. If the items are too large for that donor to bring to the store, Griffin schedules and then drives the ReStore truck to accommodate a pick-up.

Griffin graduated from Newberg High School in the spring of 2020. It was a senior year he will not soon forget because it was the year of COVID. His graduation ceremony was a drive-through in the school parking lot after a year of learning on-line so students lined up in cars to pick up their diploma instead of having a ceremony with a student procession and a crowd.

He had planned to apply to college, but he had no interest in taking classes remotely for another year. Instead, he joined the workforce and in the last five years has had varied experiences from mowing lawns as an employee at the local golf course to machining parts at ARE for ADEC to working at Napa Auto parts before landing a job at a Ford dealership. He also spent some time with his father in Eastern Oregon where he landed jobs at a local Dominos Pizza and later at a plywood mill.

It did not take him long to realize that none of these were long term career moves. Yet he was quick to state, "All of these jobs gave me the opportunity to work with co-workers and customers. I now know how cars work and can do repairs on my own car. And working at Ford also gave me some experience of driving bigger vehicles which has come in handy now that I drive the ReStore truck to pick up donations."

When he applied for a part-time HVAC position in Salem this year, it was advertised for three days at the beginning of the week. Therefore, he started looking for a position that would fill the latter part of the week, and since the ReStore position was Thursday through Saturday, Griffin applied. "This position fit the schedule with my other job and gave me the chance to finally work for Habitat."

Griffin is enjoying his time as an employee at the ReStore and expresses his gratitude for the store's employees, both paid and unpaid. "Jerome is a very good boss. We have become a team when pricing items from deliveries, and he allows me to take some initiative." He also

was quick to compliment Miguel Herrera who also assists with donations. "When I encounter a family who only speaks Spanish, it is nice that Miguel is right there to help me."

The ReStore has a high number of volunteers and Griffin laughs, "I'm working on remembering all of their names!" And just after working at the ReStore for one and a half months, he knows he is working in a positive atmosphere with good people who trust and value him. "I'm learning to process information quickly, keep schedules in my head, and have some control in a working department. I haven't had that before." Griffin also pondered that maybe after working in this position for a while, he might find other Habitat positions that might be a good fit.

Griffin wants to remind the community that the ReStore is unlike Goodwill. Both accept donations and then sell those donated items. Unlike Goodwill, the ReStore accepts large furniture, appliances, building supplies, and lighting. "All items have to be in good condition. There can be no scratches or stains. Items cannot be broken and anything mechanical must be in working condition. If it is not up to the standards we accept, it is my job to let the donor know we cannot accept it." He encourages citizens to come in and browse while doing a remodel. The ReStore has doors, wood, windows, sinks, and faucets. The money made from all donated items also goes towards building more homes in our community.

Sundays are Griffin's only day off. He uses that day to catch up on his reading and also get out to run and train for his next race. "I ran cross country in high school. I am getting ready for the Camellia Run on April 12. Both my mom and I are going to do it together." Griffin understands the importance of Habitat and the ReStore and he is happy to be part of the team that helps with the mission of both. "Both my parents were involved with Habitat for Humanity when I was growing up. I wanted to volunteer when I was out of high school, but I couldn't fit it into my schedule." We are lucky that this young man is also a part of our Habitat family and the Newberg community.

31 YEARS OF BUILDING HOPE, DREAMS & STABILITY

Did you know that Newberg Area Habitat for Humanity has been building homes for 31 years? During this time we have helped 33 families move into affordable housing in the community of Newberg. Homes have either been refurbished or are new builds for families in need.

NAHFH opened their ReStore in 2009, and it was located on Main Street. They moved into a brand new bigger structure on Meridian Street in 2016. ReStore's donations have helped generate funds that support the vision and mission of building affordable housing. The three-day period of Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at the ReStore averages between $5000-$7500 in sales each week. It is important for citizens who come shopping for furniture, household items, or building supplies to realize their purchases have a direct impact in building, rehabilitating, and repairing homes for those in need.

Newberg Area Habitat is proud of their current accomplishments. Three new homes are currently being constructed on the lot on College Street with four more to be added on the back lot. A duplex with a bottom floor Veteran build is being planned for 5th Street. Four existing homes have been repaired in the community. In fact, existing homes continue to be improved through both the Healthy Homes and Brush with Kindness programs. The Dundee Commons project is being planned in partnership with Newberg First United Methodist Church and Head Start of Yamhill County. It will include four family dwellings and two first floor classrooms.

Throughout these 31 years, Newberg Area Habitat for Humanity has rallied hundreds of volunteers logging thousands of volunteer hours each year. Designing, framing, building, painting, organizing and filing, cleaning donated items, and arranging donations on the floor are just some of the ways our volunteers have helped us fulfill our mission. Behind the scenes volunteer hours also include serving on the board, performing duties on a committee, and participating as a member of the Family Selection Process. Volunteers are the lifeline of the organization.

The home building projects would not be possible without the grant money secured through the state and federal government. NAHFH has received funds from Rural Ready Funding, the Oregon Association of Realtors Home Foundation grant and Oregon Housing and Community Services Department LIFT funds. The LIFT funds are a vital funding source since the purpose of these grants is to build affordable homes for purchase.

Make 2025 the year you learn more about Habitat. Make 2025 the year you stop and shop at the ReStore on Meridian Street. Make 2025 the year you decide to come and volunteer for NAHFH for a day or two to start. We will make you a Habitat believer!

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