

Newberg Area Habitat for Humanity®

May 15, 2025

A World Where Everyone Has A Decent Place To Live

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HABIT/AMERICORPS VALUABLE PARTNERSHIP IN PERIL

The federal government's AmeriCorps agency started funding a partnership with Habitat for Humanity in 1994. This partnership connects individuals with affiliates of Habitat who want to aid in tackling community issues within the mission of providing affordable housing. Since this partnership started, 12,000 members have served in Habitat AmeriCorps positions and have helped engage 4.5 million volunteers. During 2024, Habitat AmeriCorps' 321 members were located in 34 states, engaging 83,000 volunteers while supporting 836 housing projects.

Currently, there are eleven (11) AmeriCorps members working with affiliates of Habitat for Humanity in Oregon. Most of these members are either serving in Portland or Bend, but Newberg Area Habitat for Humanity was fortunate to secure an AmeriCorps member in early 2025. In Oregon, these Habitat AmeriCorps members have completed eight (8) repair projects, eight (8) new build projects, and are currently repairing one (1) additional project

and constructing seven (7) new building projects. AmeriCorps only partners with non-profit organizations, and its members desire to work in service-focused



roles. In other words, the Habitat AmeriCorps partnership provides members with hands-on experience while they work in local communities. In exchange, Habitat harnesses the energy of AmeriCorps members at a reduced cost to further the organization's mission.

At the beginning of January 2025, Newberg Area Habitat for Humanity (NAHFH) added a Community Outreach Coordinator position and brought on William Troyer through Habitat AmeriCorps. The job was added as part of the affiliate's Three-Year

Strategic Plan. The goal of building four homes per year by 2026 would not be feasible without having William within the office dedicated to marketing, outreach, and recruiting volunteers. Habitat AmeriCorps pays a monthly living allowance to the member equal to \$18,700 over the 10 ½ month contract period. NAHFH was able to bring on William for a nominal \$1130 monthly fee paid to Habitat AmeriCorps. Small stipends totaling \$300/month for groceries and housing are part of the benefit package as well, but the main goal of these members is community service. The remainder of the member's living allowance, plus costs related to the coordination of Habitat AmeriCorps members, comes from an AmeriCorps grant to Habitat for Humanity International.

Like other AmeriCorps members, William graduated with a four-year college degree. He, like other AmeriCorps members, wants to use his skills to improve the lives of citizens within a community and has a passion for civic engagement. His interest is to serve his country through direct service. William voiced those reasons for applying and starting



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
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

his service at the NAEFH office. During his short tenure that started in mid-January, he has recruited 16 new volunteers and coordinated 62 NAEFH volunteers among the construction site, ReStore, and main office. He has arranged group build days with four local businesses: the Eaton Group, Newberg Rotary, Jackson Family Wines, and A-dec.

William has collaborated with an Arts and Design class at George Fox University regarding marketing ideas for NAEFH, an assignment in the students' portfolios for their final semester project. Every week, William posts on NAEFH's Instagram and Facebook pages and updates the organization's website. All these tasks have been needed at the small NAEFH office, but with mostly part-time staff, there was not enough manpower to see them completed regularly. William's outreach, management of volunteers, and coordination of timely media posts are essential in advertising and recruiting new volunteers.

With all the recent federal cuts, AmeriCorps and its partnership with Habitat are facing an uncertain future. As of the middle of April, 15% of the 500 employees in the national office lost their jobs. During the weekend of April 26-27, over 1000 organizations across the country received notices of termination of their AmeriCorps grants effective immediately, however, Habitat AmeriCorps was spared at that time. Local Habitat AmeriCorps members reach out to their AmeriCorps Engagement Specialist on a regular basis for guidance and advice. Currently,



there are only three specialists who coordinate with all VISTA (Volunteers In Service to America) and National members throughout the United States. With such drastic cuts, there will be ripple effects through the Habitat AmeriCorps partnership.

It is vital that AmeriCorps members have the opportunity to continue to contribute to communities nationally. You can show your support by contacting either Senator Ron Wyden, Senator Jeff Merkley, or Representative Andrea Salinas (www.senate.gov or www.house.gov). When writing or calling an elected congressional official, introduce yourself and the community where you live. Then give a specific example of how William Troyer, our AmeriCorps member, has contributed to Newberg Area Habitat for Humanity. You might express your concerns that further staffing cuts will continue to impact the Habitat AmeriCorps partnership and end your communication with a call to action for continued funding. Habitat for Humanity and AmeriCorps will appreciate your support and advocacy during this uncertain 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**

HABITAT HOMES NEARING COMPLETION

The two houses under construction on the College build site are near completion and hopefully families will be able to move into their new homes some time this summer. A dedicated crew of Habitat construction



volunteers have been working every week for months to finish the two-story, three bedroom homes. You have seen the outsides of these two houses from framing to wrapping to painting in previous



newsletters. Here are some pictures to give you a glimpse of the inside of these homes.

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