



Chipola Area Habitat works in partnership with God, and people from all walks of life, to build and renovate houses, so that there are decent houses in decent communities in which every person can experience God's love and can live and grow into all that God intends.



At Chipola Area Habitat for Humanity, we are proud to serve our communities and we recognize the important role our organization plays in providing essential services to our customers. We know that this includes a responsibility to safeguard the health and safety of our staff, volunteers, homeowner partners, and ReStore customers. With that in mind, both our ReStores and our affiliate offices will remain closed until further notice in response to the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) global pandemic. We are closely reviewing information received from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Florida Department of Health, Jackson and Washington County Governments, and Habitat for Humanity International regarding the potential spread of the virus and will reevaluate this decision on an ongoing basis.

During this closure, we ask that you hold all item donations. Should you need to contact our staff, we ask that you reach out by telephone or email, as many questions can be handled in this manner. Our Chipley Restore can be reached at (850) 415-5600 and the Marianna ReStore at (850) 482-7997, and the affiliate office at (850) 482-2187 or via email to [officeassistant@chipolahabitat.org](mailto:officeassistant@chipolahabitat.org). Messages will be returned as quickly as possible. A dropbox has been placed by the front door of the affiliate office for mortgage payments.

Our administrative staff will continue to monitor the recommendations of public policymakers for best practices in mitigating risk to our employees, volunteers, customers, and community partners. Thank you in advance for your understanding. We are working hard to act in the best interest of the public to help prevent the spread of this virus within our community.



Spring means the start of build season, and Chipola Area Habitat for Humanity has already switched into high gear! We began 2020 building two new homes-and this is just the beginning! By the end of this year, we hope to help ten local families achieve their goal of being homeowners. As you may already know, that means that we have a lot of work cut out for us. If you or anyone you know is looking to volunteer, we have tons of opportunities in our ReStores or on build sites. We do ask our volunteers to be at least 16 years old to donate their time.





The second week of February was quite exciting at our affiliate offices as we welcomed a group of RV Care-A-Vanners, retired volunteers that travel the U.S. and help Habitat affiliates across the country build homes. The organization was founded 31 years ago and, in addition to helping on builds, the RV Care-A-Vanners are Habitat advocates. Many donate their time to speak to churches, civic groups, and the media about the importance of everyone living in a safe affordable house. While here, a member of the group accompanied the Executive Director to speak at the Chipley Kiwanis Club.

After a fun welcome dinner, these extremely passionate and skilled volunteers got to work on two locations in Marianna. In their brief stay with us, they transformed the build on Booker Street, taking it from a foundation to a home ready for electric and plumbing installations. Around the corner on Oak Street, they installed ceilings and hung drywall, leaving the home prepped for paint.

Originally scheduled to return mid-March, their adventure has been put on hold by Habitat for Humanity International as the organization cancels travel programs in light of the coronavirus. We hope they'll be back as soon as the travel ban is lifted.



This spring, we've been building more than houses! Thanks to a strategic partnership with Integritive, a full-service digital marketing, web design, and SEO agency, we are closer than ever to launching our new website! Expected to go live April 29th, the website gives us the ability to better serve our communities through more efficient data sharing and streamlined processes. We've also been working hard to get more social.

Chipola Area Habitat for Humanity is excited to announce the launch of our new Twitter account, as well as an Instagram account! Find us on both @ChipolaHabitat. We've created a Facebook page dedicated to sharing information on our affiliate and highlighting our advocacy efforts ( [fb.com/ChipolaHabitat](https://fb.com/ChipolaHabitat) ), and have redoubled our efforts to keep our ReStore page up-to-date ( [fb.com/ChipolaReStores](https://fb.com/ChipolaReStores) ), sharing both general information on our stores and great new items for sale in both the Marianna and Chipley ReStores.



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## Chipola Area Habitat for Humanity dedicates new home

Chipola Area Habitat for Humanity has been enjoying a lot of attention of late! On January 30th, we rang in the New Year with Local news channel 7 at a house dedication for our newest homeowner Selena Godwin and her son. Godwin and her family received the house after putting in hours of sweat equity and building the home together. [View the story here.](#)

The Dothan Eagle also featured Chipola Habitat in an article focused on our work with the RV Care-A-Vanners. The article also highlights the organization's plans for the year. [View the article here.](#)

We were also fortunate enough to receive donations from the Sunland Center FUEL Team food drive. We want to reiterate our thanks because this donation was very important to our volunteers. [Read more about it here.](#)

Finally, a bit of a brag! At the 92nd Annual Chamber Banquet, our Executive Director Carmen Smith was rewarded with the Excellence in Leadership Award. We are extremely proud of all the work she does and are thrilled to see it acknowledged.



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