

Volunteer Spotlight

The Volunteer Spotlight is here to honor those who have gone above and beyond for Habitat for Humanity-MidOhio! Thank you to each and every individual and group listed below for your amazing dedication and support of Habitat MidOhio. We are a better organization because of you!

Habitat wants to shine a special light of thanks on... Ben Freudenreich and Barb Loar!



Ben Freudenreich - Construction Volunteer, Former Board Member

Ben Freudenreich began volunteering with Habitat MidOhio near the end of 1994. Throughout his time with Habitat, Ben has contributed to the mission in many ways, and has played a major role in the success of the organization. Ben has served on the construction committee, was a member of the Board, served as Chair of the Board, volunteered as a house lead for five years, and is currently a regular volunteer on the Tuesday and Thursday Crews.

Ben is passionate about Habitat and believes in its philosophies. He also enjoys the comradery with the other regular volunteers and site leads.

Outside of Habitat, Ben is Emeritus on the Credit Union Board, President of the Neighborhood Civic Association, volunteers with Friends of the Library, and takes part in Jimmy Carter Work Projects. His hobbies include genealogy, the Columbus Symphony Orchestra, and trains. He's even had an article published in the Pennsylvania Railroad Technical and Historical Society.

Ben's personal life is just as exciting. He and his wife Karen recently celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary.

When asked to share his words of wisdom, Ben said, "It's satisfying to do a days' work and look and say, "I did that". Always make the best of your life."



Barb Loar – Construction Volunteer, ReStore Volunteer, Special Events Volunteer

Barb retired from teaching in 2013 and knew she wanted to volunteer with Habitat. She loved knowing that Habitat empowers families by acting as a hand up, not a hand out. She began as a construction volunteer with Thrivent in the summer of 2013. She was amazed at how patient everyone was in teaching her how to build a home. She learned so many new skills and got walked away with a whole new level of confidence. After the Thrivent house was complete, Barb wanted to continue volunteering, so she began donating her time to the ReStore. Since then, she has taken on too many projects to count. She works with ReStore customers, helps price items, sets up store displays, repurposes ReStore furniture and materials, helps with the flower sale, and aided in the first annual Arts and Crafts Festival. Barb enjoys working in the store because, "it's something different every day." She is continually challenged to take on something new and enjoys having the opportunity to meet such a wide variety of people.

Outside of Habitat, Barb is involved with Jericho's House where she provides meals to the homeless. She also utilizes her teaching skills by volunteering as a tutor. Barb enjoys gardening, reading, traveling, and repurposing. Her daughter recently moved to Austin which gives her a great reason to visit Texas on a regular basis.

Barb has a few words of wisdom for future volunteers. "Just take the first step and try it. There are so many diverse opportunities. They will find something that's right for you."