

the builder



7 new beginnings with the completion of Hamilton 7

Sometimes when we get to the end of a project it can be hard to remember what it was like at the beginning. Looking at northwest corner of Hamilton Avenue and Summer Street now it's hard to remember the abandoned homes and blight which occupied the corner just a few short years ago. The entire Paterson Habitat family, our staff, homeowners, volunteers, subcontractors, and vendors, have worked tirelessly over the past year, overcoming many obstacles, to complete the Hamilton 7 development. These 7 homes are opening doors for new beginnings for 7 Habitat homeowner families and we hope they will usher in a new beginning for the surrounding neighborhood, in the years to come.

Among the 7 homes, the lives of 15 children have been forever changed.

You may remember meeting Dafani and Ramon several months ago. Their family was the first to move into Hamilton 7 in April 2020.

Dafani and Ramon have helped Paterson Habitat mark several firsts. They were not only the first family to move into Hamilton 7, they were our partners for the very first 'virtual' move-in and key toss, as the pandemic descended upon us all last spring.

We recently caught up with Dafani and Ramon about their experiences as new homeowners over the past year.

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Paterson Habitat for Humanity has received 3 consecutive 4-star ratings from Charity rating!

A Note from Scott

“Every moment the patches of green grew bigger and the patches of snow grew smaller.” C.S. Lewis

In many ways it feels like time has stood still for the past year, and yet so much has happened. As the weather begins to change, and the hope of spring blooms once again, we can begin to see not just the patches of literal green grow bigger around us, but also the patches of metaphorical green signifying the hope we will soon exit the long covid winter which descended on us last spring.

Spring is a season of celebration. Passover, Easter, Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, graduations, etc. In addition to all these celebrations, this spring we look forward to celebrating the completion of the Hamilton 7 development. We hope you will be able to join us for our New Homeowner Day celebration on May 1st where these seven homes, along with eight others in our 4th Ward focus area will be dedicated.

Spring is also a season of planting. This spring we will be planting seeds for 18 new homes, as we break ground on our next three housing developments, as well as the new Clinton Street Park. Planting seeds of hope for 18 future homeowner families and planting hope for the entire Northside neighborhood.

We could not have completed everything we have over the past year without you, and we won’t be able to complete the plans we have for our next building cycle without you. Building 18 homes over the next 15 months represents the most ambitious building schedule Paterson Habitat has ever undertaken and we need your support. The snow from our long covid winter is beginning to melt and as it does, it is revealing an affordable housing crisis larger than we have seen in a generation.

A larger crisis compels us to mount an even greater response. As we enter this season of hope will you help us build hope for these 18 future homeowner families?



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When thinking about the stresses and uncertainty of today’s circumstances, Dafani shared, *“Since the mortgage is affordable and the house is low-consumption we have been able to be economically stable.”*

As Dafani reflected on how things have changed for her children, she said, *“Before moving here we were living in a small apartment, it was frustrating for our children because we did not have the space for quiet and space for them to concentrate during virtual learning.”*

One of the children’s favorite features of their new home is their home garden. *“For the first time in our lives we were able to plant tomatoes, strawberries and other fruits and vegetables. It has been a unique experience and my children are always amazed at seeing the harvest.”*

Dafani and Ramon say they have found friendships, and built bonds, with fellow Habitat homeowners and volunteers since becoming a part of the Habitat community. Dafani exclaimed, *“I can’t ask for more, I am blessed!”*

“But when we moved here everything changed, their performance in school is better, each one has a space to study and do their activities.”



Dafani and Ramon are just one of the over 300 families who have found hope and security through homeownership in the Paterson Habitat program. Homeownership opportunities which are made possible by your faithful support.

In partnership with their neighbors, and community organizations, Paterson Habitat homeowners have begun to “build” a new quality of life in this revitalizing neighborhood. Numerous community initiatives are underway in our 4th Ward focus area such as: the Green Acre Community Garden, which provides residents access to fresh produce, community events promoting local public safety efforts through the 4th Ward CPTED (crime prevention through environmental design) initiative, and the beautiful Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Park on Auburn Street which was completed in the summer of 2019. In 2021, we will be bringing a new park, community gardens, and CPTED initiatives to the Northside neighborhood.

What's next? For decades, a 12-block section of Paterson's 4th Ward was a location where homes were abandoned rather than built. A neighborhood in need of significant investment and healthy growth. This is the same 12-block section Paterson Habitat identified as our 4th Ward Focus Area. In partnership with 4th Ward community leaders, we committed to reviving this neighborhood as a place where families could build their futures. The core of the revitalized neighborhood will be 75 homes built by Paterson Habitat and filled with homeowner families committed to the area's success. This has been the most ambitious undertaking in the history of Paterson Habitat, and thanks to our donors, homeowners, staff, and construction volunteers it's nearly completed, with only 13 homes left to build.

The Harrison 8 and Governor 5 developments, breaking ground this spring, will transform two large vacant lots which were previously an eye sore, a dumping ground for trash, and sites for illegal activities, into 13 newly constructed houses. **Your gift today will make a lasting difference in the lives of 13 families in need of a safe, affordable place to call home.**



Harrison 8 Development



Governor 5 Development



Our first virtual House Dedication

Despite all the challenges of the last year, we continue to build houses for families in need of a place to call home. On Saturday, May 1st, we will celebrate with 15 Paterson Habitat families' whose dream of homeownership has become a reality. None of this could have been possible without your support.

Home dedications are a time to celebrate the community that comes together to build affordable, stable homeownership opportunities. These houses are the collective achievement of the entire Habitat community.

The dedication of these homes, including the Hamilton 7 development, is a significant milestone in our goal to help revitalize the 4th Ward Focus Area, marking over 60 homes now completed in this neighborhood.



Hamilton 7 homeowners Albania & Ronny / Jochy & Jennifer

We are excited to recreate and reimagine the magic of our home dedications as we continue to recognize the homeowners, volunteers, staff, sponsors, and all those who have enabled us to keep building homes, communities, and hope during this challenging time. Thank you to all who support us, and for turning these 15 houses into homes. Reserve your virtual spot by visiting patersonhabitat.org/springdedications

BuildUP Northside Job Training Program

Paterson Habitat for Humanity has partnered with St. Paul's Community Development Corporation (SPCDC) to offer a new construction job training initiative for 24 residents of Paterson's Northside neighborhood. Through the 10-week course participants will gain valuable training towards a career in construction while receiving a weekly stipend.

"We are pleased to be working with Paterson Habitat on this new, targeted training opportunity for Paterson's Northside residents. The only true recovery is one in which all our city's residents have the knowledge and skills necessary to seek out and obtain steady employment that will support themselves and their families." Richard Williams, Executive Director of SPCDC shared.

Steve Kehayes, Director of Community Development, agreed saying "this job training program fits into Paterson Habitat's mission to improve the quality of life by helping to build strong and healthy neighborhoods."



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Registration
opens:
May 10, 2021



Save the date
for Paterson
Habitat's
6-week fitness
& fundraising
challenge
5/31 to 7/4



As you run, walk,
hike, or bike this
summer, log
your activity
& encourage
friends and
family to join you



Your activities
will help
build homes,
community,
& hope while
achieving your
fitness & wellness
goals



Go the extra mile
as we come
together to help
families build a
place they can call
home while
building better
community

Learn more by visiting: patersonhabitat.org/walkhome

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