



Annual Report Fiscal Year 2016-2017

During the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year, Habitat for Humanity of Gunnison Valley, Inc. continued to make progress as noted in the following achievements:

- Completed construction of a two-bedroom, single family home on Parcel 2, Wills Way Community (WWC).
- Sold Parcel 2 WWC to an income qualified family.
- Approved family for the USDA 502 Direct Home Loan Program.
- 242 volunteers donated over 2,000 hours on the construction of Parcel 2, WWC.
- Received over \$35,000 worth of donated and discounted materials for the construction of this home.
- Received just over \$11,500 in donations from board members and private donors.
- Secured \$30,450 in grant funds from private foundations.
- Received just over \$3,000 from local businesses and churches.
- Raised just over \$3,000 from the following fundraisers:
 - 2nd Women Build "I'd Rather Build It Than Clean It" fundraiser
 - 5th annual, "Houses of Hope" fundraiser
 - Virtual ReStore Sales

Habitat for Humanity of Gunnison Valley, Inc. (HFHGV) completed construction of the second home to be built in Wills Way Community. This home was the fourteenth affordable unit built by HFHGV since 1998. The home was sold to an income qualified buyer that was approved for the USDA 502 Direct Home Loan Program.

Wills Way Community will support the development of nine single and multi-family building lots. HFHGV's goal is to build one new home every other year.

Habitat continues to receive financial support from dedicated individuals, board members, churches, and local businesses. HFHGV received support from four private foundations; The Anschutz Family Foundation, Bike and Build, Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley, and the El Pomar Foundation. HFHGV also received one government grant from the Colorado Division of Housing in the amount of \$10,000.

Habitat hosted two successful fundraisers this past year; our 2nd successful 'Women Build' fundraiser and the 5th annual 'Houses of Hope' Sugar Plum Festival fundraiser.

In addition, we secured a storage unit and launched a 'Virtual ReStore' where construction materials are stored, recycled and sold to support construction costs for future projects.

Habitat has an active, responsible and hard-working Board of Directors who take seriously their responsibility to plan, execute and monitor Habitat's fundraising needs. In conclusion, Habitat continues to achieve awareness and support for the need of affordable housing in Gunnison County.

Application Process Opens For a Two-Bedroom Habitat Home

The application process will open in late September, 2017 for a two-bedroom Habitat home. If you know a deserving family in need, please encourage them to apply. All Habitat homeowners are expected to complete 300-400 hours of "sweat equity" in the construction or recycle process of their home as a form of a down payment. In addition, all applicants must qualify for a USDA loan and complete a homeowner education class. Families who qualify are selected on the basis of need, ability to pay and willingness to partner with Habitat for Humanity.

Habitat for Humanity Gunnison Valley, aided by community volunteers, builds houses with, and then sells them to, people who could not otherwise afford them. Because Habitat homes are built with primarily volunteer labor and discounted and donated materials, mortgage payments are affordable for low-income, qualified buyers. All of our homes are deed restricted, and we hold a right of first refusal on all of our properties so we can buy them back and re-sell them to new qualified buyers, promising affordable housing options for future low-income Gunnison County residents.

To date, we have built a total of fourteen affordable units, consisting of eight single family homes and three duplexes. We have provided housing for 22 families; 33 adults and 40 children have benefited from our efforts. We have exercised our right of refusal in the past and purchased homes back from Habitat homeowners that have successfully moved on from the program, but we have never had to buy a home back from an owner's estate. On July 3, 2017 Habitat homeowner Wanda Reed passed away. Habitat homes are deed restricted and only the equity in the home can be passed down to a surviving family member. Although this is a new dimension for us and we are sad to lose a Habitat homeowner, we are happy that Wanda's equity and legacy can be passed down to her children. We know she would be honored to see her home become a new place for a deserving family to call home.

Applications can be downloaded from our website at www.hfhgunnisonvalley.org or contact our office.

~ Our Mission ~

Habitat for Humanity of Gunnison Valley, Inc., is a non-profit housing organization that serves our local community by providing affordable homeownership opportunities to individuals and families in need of simple, decent shelter.

Letter from the President

Gunnison Valley is a wonderful place to live and thrive. How fortunate we are to have the opportunities to enrich our lives with art, culture and recreational pursuits, all while surrounded by incredible beauty! There is a terrific shortage of affordable housing in our valley, one that impacts our welfare and our economy in ways that are not always clear-cut and obvious. If our Habitat for Humanity Gunnison Valley (HFHGV) board of directors had a magic wand, we would wave away this problem, filling available land with homes as quickly as possible. While we work on acquiring that 'magic wand', we often struggle to meet our own expectations of the responsibilities that come along with being an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI).

We are one of the smallest affiliates of HFHI in the country, and while we pay dues to both HFHI and Habitat for Humanity Colorado, we alone are responsible for fundraising and finding the support we need for each build we undertake. This process can be a daunting concept when taken in all at once. However, it happens every time we face this challenge. Why? It happens because of YOU! YOU are our 'magic wand' that has brought us this far in being able to provide home-ownership to deserving and qualified families. YOU are always there in our time of need! YOU get us to that finish line every time and there are no words to say how very grateful we are for your support.

To borrow someone's advertising slogan, HFHGV, like the Gunnison Valley itself, is "small but mighty". We are 'small but mighty' because we enjoy the tremendous support of the surrounding community who join with us in sustaining our mission to provide the pride of home-ownership to deserving families. Let's continue to work together in the challenging times ahead!

Sincerely,

Joy Wills



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“Everybody...should have at minimum a simple, decent place to live so that every child will be able to fulfill his or her highest potential.”

- MILLARD FULLER -
FOUNDER OF HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Board of Directors

Joy Wills	Fred McCaleb
Dale Nielsen	Sharon Mills
Ronda Connaway	Michael Vieregge
Vikki Roach Archuleta	Joel Watson
Peter Harding	

Committee Members

Julie Robinson, Executive Director

Annual Habitat BBQ in September to Honor Wanda Reed & Mario Wells

Two of our long-time Habitat homeowner's, Wanda Reed and Mario Wells, passed away this summer. Wanda passed on July 3rd and Mario on August 6th. This has been a devastating loss for our Habitat families and our small community.

Wanda lived in her Habitat home since December, 2000. Wanda and her husband George qualified for the Habitat program in the fall of 1999 and spent the summer of 2000 building their home on 12th street in Gunnison. This home was the third project Habitat for Humanity Gunnison Valley (HFHGV) had completed since applying to become an affiliate in 1996. George only lived in the home for two years before he passed away in November of 2002. Wanda took pride in maintaining her home. She was appreciative of having a roof over her head and a mortgage she could afford on a fixed, limited income. Wanda didn't drive and relied on many friends and neighbors in the community to help her get around and help her with home maintenance tasks like mowing the lawn and shoveling snow. She really appreciated that and always looked forward to her weekly trips to the food bank on Seniors Day to visit with friends and receive their generous support. Wanda was able to live on her own, in her own home, until the end of her life. She was always grateful for the opportunity that the Habitat program provided for her.

Mario and Penny Wells applied for the Habitat program in the fall of 2005 and spent the summer of 2006 building their Habitat home and achieving their dream of becoming homeowners. Mario is survived by his wife Penny, his four children, grand-children and extended family. Mario was the victim of a hit and run car accident that ended his life prematurely. He had so much to live for and was so excited about the future. Mario loved sports and being involved with youth wrestling and was an avid gardener. If he wasn't watching or coaching sports, you could find him in his yard planting veggies or building a flower box. Mario loved his family and helping others. Mario was a cancer survivor and had recently grown his hair out to donate to an organization that makes wigs for cancer patients. He will be missed by his family and friends.

Anyone who knew Wanda and Mario are welcome to join us on September 14th at 5pm at West Tomichi River Way Park. Potluck, please bring a side dish to share. HFHGV is providing the hamburgers and hot dogs. Please RSVP by September 11th to gunnisonvalleyhabitat@gunnison.com or call the office at 970-641-1245



Mario Wells



Wanda Reed

Contact Us!

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Like Us on Facebook!

