habitat’s history in anne arundel county

First as Habitat for Humanity of Anne Arundel County, and later, following a merger, as Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake, we have been deeply involved in the home of our state’s capital. Since 1986, we have built or renovated 138 houses, providing over 450 Anne Arundel County children and families with safe, stable homes and brighter futures.

the need

Although median income is well above the statewide average, the county suffers from so-called “pockets of poverty” – neighborhoods with a high concentration of low-income families struggling to make ends meet. Among the most shocking statistics:

- Rent/mortgage costs are 19% higher than the state average
- Median home values and median rent rose 98% and 90% from 2010-2013
- Half of low-income residents spend more than 50% of earnings on housing
- More than 10,000 people are on the wait list for public housing
current habitat projects: clay street community

The Clay Street Community was once a prosperous African-American neighborhood, full of middle-class black homeowners and businesses. Unfortunately, the neighborhood struggled through civil rights-era riots and later the crack epidemic. In recent years, determined residents, public agencies, private developers and nonprofits like Habitat for Humanity have invested tens-of-millions of dollars to restore it to its former glory.

To date, two public housing complexes have been revitalized. In addition, more than 150 owner-occupied units have been repaired and infrastructure, including repaved roads, better lighting, and signage has been improved. Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake alone has created 23 new single family homes – both new construction and rehabilitation of vacant properties.

looking ahead

In 2019, Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake will dedicate its most recently completed home, 1876 Hawk Ct. in Severn and begin work on another, 123 Clay Street.

Habitat will also renew work in Greater Baybrook, which straddles the Baltimore City-Anne Arundel County line. As rent and home prices rise in the city, more and more low-income families are being pushed to the fringes and into neighborhoods like Brooklyn Park and Curtis Bay where 14% of families live below the poverty line. But these communities have tremendous potential. Much like the Clay Street Community, Habitat will be working with a coalition of community groups, public agencies, corporations and other nonprofits on revitalization efforts, including affordable housing, infrastructure upgrades and other amenities like a planned youth athletic center.

The story of these and all of Habitat Chesapeake’s projects – is one of partnerships. Together, we are building homes, communities and hope.