

Habitat COVID – 19 Update May 30, 2020

ReStore, Virtual Spring Walk to Build and More

Dear Habitat Friends,

Our team is excited to share some new things that are happening at your Habitat. We also want to let you know that we must all be patient for a bit longer before our programs and services can fully resume and be safe for all. Habitat for Humanity/7 Rivers Maine will continue to take appropriate steps to protect our volunteers, staff, customers, and the people we serve during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our decisions continue to be based on the most recent guidance from national, state and local public health authorities, and Habitat for Humanity International.

New and Expanding Habitat Activities

ReStore

As an essential service, our ReStore has found new ways to serve our customers and donors over the past two months. More options for shoppers and donors are being added in June. The COVID-19 crisis has shown us that the need for safe and affordable housing is even more critical than before. Habitat for Humanity is needed now more than ever. And now more than ever, Habitat ReStores need your donations and purchases to ensure we can serve our community and those among us who need a hand up.

Ways to Shop

As of Tuesday, June 2nd our Topsham ReStore will be open to five customers at a time.

The ReStore hours are 10:00 am to 3:00 pm Tuesday through Saturday.

Special hours are being made for our high risk customers to shop from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. Tuesday through Friday.

Staff will be at the door to monitor the safe flow of customers in and out of the store. Our front counter and register have been cleared and a Plexiglas shield installed. The ReStore staff will be wearing protective masks, eye gear, and gloves, and all surfaces will be appropriately cleaned and disinfected on an ongoing basis. As currently required by the State of Maine, Habitat encourages shoppers and donors to use their own protective face coverings when out in public settings where physical distancing measures are difficult to maintain. The ReStore is not currently selling upholstered furniture and other cloth items.

Our ReStore Online Marketplace is available for shoppers on an ongoing basis. You can see items currently available. Customers can continue to shop online, pre-pay for their items, and schedule a curbside pick-up time. No face to face interactions are required. To access the ReStore Online Marketplace please follow our Face Book page: Habitat ReStore/7 Rivers Maine.

Restore Needs Donated Appliances and Other Essential Items

The ReStore has begun accepting donations at the back of the store during hours of operation. The ReStore truck has resumed scheduling the pick-up of donated items. This will be limited to donated items that have been placed outside of a home or business or from an open garage or barn. The ReStore is seeking new inventory and donations are needed. If you have recently cleaned out areas of your home or business, or had saved up donations for other events or sales that are not happening this spring and summer please call 207-504-9340 to arrange a pick-up.

Virtual Spring Walk to Build

This critical annual fundraiser is now a virtual event! We need you help to make it a big success. Click here to learn more about how you can participate [https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/habitat-spring-walk-to-build-2020.](https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/habitat-spring-walk-to-build-2020)

Affordable Housing Programs

Our housing programs will slowly resume in June. Weatherizing & Repair teams will begin to provide limited services for homeowners and our New Home Construction program will be getting back to work on our current project in Boothbay Harbor. Both will operate under new safety guidelines for the protection of our homeowners, volunteers, and staff.

Given the current circumstances in the state and our local area, these changes will remain in place:

- Doors to Habitat's administrative offices remain closed to the public for now. Staff will continue to work remotely as much as possible and will respond to your emails and phone calls as soon as possible.
- All community meetings are cancelled and our Board and Committees will be meeting remotely

We are grateful for our community's support as we work to move forward and resume activities and fulfill our mission.

In partnership,
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