



Habitat Builds Fund To Build Futures

Habitat for Humanity of Sangamon County builds houses. It also teaches, trains and recycles.

In an effort to shine greater light on its lesser known endeavors, Habitat for Humanity recently established the **Habitat for Humanity of Sangamon County Endowment Fund** through the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln.

“We’re absolutely excited,” said Dana Plummer, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of Sangamon County. “We want more people to know about Habitat for Humanity and the options we have and the programs we have.”

Habitat for Humanity of Sangamon County is in its 18th year of operation and has built 76 houses for families throughout the area. The organization typically builds six houses a year with one of the homes being outside of the city of Springfield, but in Sangamon County.

There are many facets to the Habitat for Humanity program outside of the actual house building, including an extensive financial education for potential homebuyers. Only one of the 76 houses built by the local Habitat for Humanity has ended up in foreclosure. It’s a number Plummer believes is a testament to its educational process.

“Education for us is a big deal,” Plummer said.

The education isn’t only for those who are applying to have a house built by Habitat for Humanity. The organization is focusing efforts on improving the financial knowledge of younger citizens, including the liabilities associated with credit cards.

“We’re training the youth, so they understand the impact the choices they make now have on their long-term credit score,” Plummer said.

Habitat for Humanity also operates a home improvement store. The “ReStore” sells new and recycled building material to the public.

“It is a major force of the recycling effort for Springfield. We save thousands of tons of stuff every year,” Plummer said.

It’s the knowledge of these types of programs that Habitat believes teaming with the Community Foundation will increase among the public.

Habitat for Humanity isn’t ready to stop at those endeavors. The organization eyes increasing its financial education programs and is eager to begin a repair program for seniors and low income residents in the area.

“That’s a need that isn’t being met in our community right now,” Plummer said.



Habitat for Humanity of Sangamon County office and retail store to 1514 West Jefferson in Springfield.