



Kittitas County
Habitat
for Humanity®



When we build together,

we build a stronger future.

There is a strong sense of community in Kittitas County. It is one of the things I love about our area. We pull together in times of need and find the time to help our neighbor. We take pride in being there to lend a helping hand.

However, the last year has left our community struggling harder than ever before. Families are working longer hours to make ends meet and living with the day-to-day challenges of an extended global pandemic. Uncertainty has become the norm, and that is a difficult place to raise a family from or plan for the future. Families need our help.



The hard-working families in Kittitas County are struggling financially, further straining already tight budgets during the pandemic. Families are working harder and making less, based on the most recent Employment Security Department Kittitas County Economic Update. (Aug. 27, 2021)

The **average annual wage in Kittitas County decreased to \$46,406** (60.4 percent of the state average and below the 2019 Kittitas County average wage of \$56,004)-

Yet, in the same time frame in Kittitas County, the **average sale price of a home has increased** from \$365,000 to \$454,000.

The dream of homeownership; the economic stability of owning a home and building generational wealth, is still very real, it is just not currently affordable.

At Kittitas County Habitat for Humanity, along with our sister affiliate, Seattle-King County Habitat for Humanity, and the City of Ellensburg, we believe our families deserve the dream of homeownership. We believe that everyone deserves a decent place to live and call home. And together we are doing something about it. In December of 2020, the City of Ellensburg awarded Kittitas County/Seattle-King County a three acre parcel of land and \$765,000 from the 2017 Affordable Housing Tax Fund to create an affordable housing community called **Stuart Meadows**. An 18-home neighborhood set to start infrastructure construction this winter. Giving families the opportunity to help build their own home and start to build a more stable future for their family.

Working side-by-side with volunteers, community members, and donor partners, our homeowners know the value of community and strength of a helping hand. With many often giving back themselves, continuing to volunteer with Habitat programs on other projects.

If you want to help us build this future, please contact me at kelle.vandenberg@kchabitat.org or at 509-818-1988.

*Kittitas County Economic Update, Employment Security Department, by Donald W. Meseck, Regional Labor Economist, LMEA, Washington State ESD, August 27, 2021

*Zillow, data based on the average home sale price for Kittitas County, Sept. 2021

All the best,

Kelle Vandenberg, Area Director

Kittitas County Habitat for Humanity

Repairing a home and building a life.

Meet our Kittitas County Home Repair Superintendent Tahania Peratrovich

Life has come full circle for Kittitas County Habitat for Humanity's newest staff member Tahania Peratrovich. As a Habitat Homeowner partner family, she honed her construction skills building her own home and continued to develop them over her professional career. We are excited to have her on board and know that she is going to be a great advocate for our Home Repair Program and our families.

Read below to learn a little more about her.



Kittitas County Home Repair Superintendent, Tahania Peratrovich, (in the Santa hat) and her wonderful family.

"Being selected as the Habitat for Humanity's partner family for the 9th home built in Ellensburg changed mine and my daughters lives! I was renting a very tiny house that we just could not grow into. Once in our home we got a dog, Oakley. Now 11 years later the girls finished schooling and are all in college with two being at Central Washington University. I take pride in my home and I think all of my work shows. Almost every time I'm outside mowing or leaf blowing someone stops and tells me that my home is beautiful/or looking good. The best part of all is that I'm a grandma now and the home is called "Grandma's house". I could not have ever made such a wonderful family home without the hand up of Habitat for Humanity. Now that I'm employed by Habitat for Humanity I hope to help others and bring such joy into their lives."—
Tahania



The team working on a repair project in Upper County.

Need help with a home repair project?

Habitat's Home Repair Program works with homeowners who need assistance with critical repairs that will alleviate health and safety issues. Habitat also offers Home Preservation as a component of the Repair Program to address minor home maintenance and repairs to the home and Aging in Place services for seniors and those with physical or mental impairments to better enable people to live and age safely in their homes.

Learn more about our Home Repair program [here](#).

Reuse, repurpose, and rebuild.

The Store Works Hard to Help Families in Kittitas County



The Habitat Store in Ellensburg has had quite the year! The store itself has gone through a big makeover, our store staff spent weeks cleaning and resetting the floor in order to open up the space and make room for all of the amazing donations. This has also allowed us to carry new and exciting inventory like GreenSheen paint, luxury vinyl flooring, butcher block countertops, and rain barrels. We were also able to secure a new box truck and streamline our donation pickup process with a new online scheduling portal. Our store management also underwent a change in January as we said farewell to Nick and welcomed Jason to the Habitat family! Jason has helped to increase sales, optimize the sales floor area, and increase the efficiency of the donation area and drop off process. New updates to look for in the coming months are an expanded inventory and a new online shopping site where you will be able to purchase items online and pick them up at our store! If you would like to be notified when the site launches, you can head to www.KCHabitatStore.org and subscribe to our store newsletter.



Did you know that The Store will pick up your donated items from anywhere in Kittitas County?

Click here to [Schedule your pick up today.](#)

Your donations to The Store go directly to help fund our programs here in Kittitas County like our Home Repair Program and our New Construction Program.

[Volunteer at The Store](#)

We love our Store volunteers and can always use the help. Sign up with [Volunteer Hub](#) today.

Advocate.

Changing Policy. Changing Lives.



One of Habitat for Humanity's goals is to influence adequate affordable housing solutions by changing systems, policies, and attitudes to achieve decent housing for all. Home is more than just a place where you rest your head. A home is a sense of stability. A sense of safety. A sense of accomplishment. It's a place where people reconnect with family, friends, and their community. Through advocacy, Habitat volunteers and supporters can amplify our impact and increase access to decent, affordable housing.

Join our Advocacy Alerts Team

Want to help build a world where everyone has a decent place to live? [Sign up](#) to receive HabitatSKC-KC Action Alerts!



Kittitas County
Habitat
for Humanity®

Building programs.
Building hope.



Program Timeline

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