Juma Yowin left his country during the war between North and South Sudan. He struggled to survive for four years in Egypt until he had the opportunity to come to Canada in 2005. He then moved to London and had three beautiful daughters with his wife. The couple separated in 2011, and Juma is now a single father with sole custody of his girls. He works full-time at Cargill Value Added Meats Canada to take care of his family. Additionally, Juma is attending St Patrick Campus for Lifelong Learning.

The Yowin family’s current living conditions demonstrate a strong need for housing. In an area of high crime and drug related dangers, Juma tells us, “Every day that I leave my children to go to work is another day I worry about their safety.”

When asked what a Habitat for Humanity home will mean to him, Juma says, “The opportunity to own my own home would mean the world to me and my family. This would be another accomplishment in my life and it will give me peace of mind knowing that my children and family will have a place to sleep without hearing gunshots, drunk fights, and missing out on their childhood because of where they live. Since I came from South Sudan to Canada in 2005, I have worked hard for this opportunity for my children and I want to have a safe place and future.”

The EXCITING NEWS is that we have plans to build two homes side-by-side in Woodstock this coming Spring! The land has been purchased and the families have been selected. The next step is selecting our Steering Committee for Woodstock, who will oversee this project. If you, or someone you know might be interested in this volunteer role, please contact Julie Frick, Community Liaison at 519-455-6623, ext. 229 or jfrick@habitat4home.ca.

TEAM DAY HIGHLIGHT

TD Canada Trust was on the Major Street build site the week of January 6-10th. Their very generous donation to Habitat helped support the building of the Garcia Vaca family home. Their volunteers braved the frigid temperatures all week long. Without them we wouldn’t have made as much progress in the basement of the home. Big thanks to TD for all that they have done to help this family get one step closer to home ownership!

Two TD employees on-site at the Garcia Vaca family build location.
Volunteer of the Month

Joan Turner

Joan is one of our truly amazing volunteers! She is one of our go-to people who we know we can call on for anything from administrative support, to registering volunteers on our build sites, to helping us run our community events. Thank you Joan for your ongoing support – it’s people like you that allow us to do what we do!

Inside Scoop

Something exciting is coming up! Our Youth Build! A build that will be solely driven by youth!

A committee consisting of members from UWO, Fanshawe, Ivey and area high schools is being created to oversee this project. They will do community outreach, event planning, fundraising and volunteering on-site to actually build the home. Stay tuned for more information! Contact Jamie Lee, Volunteer Coordinator if you or someone you know is interested in getting involved!

London ReStores

Hats off to the volunteers in the workshop at our Pacific Court location! What a great job they do for us repairing damaged products that come in. They manufacture products from what has been donated. For instance, beautiful framed mirrors, repurposed from cabinet doors and old mirrors.

Don’t forget, if you are a landlord or a tenant, the ReStore should be your first stop for refurbishing your unit.

Stratford ReStore

Bill Chan is a volunteer extra-ordinaire. Twice a week he “stages” the household sales area of our ReStore. The welcoming floor design and ease of viewing the items has resulted in higher sales. He also takes care of our Facebook page, and we now get many more “hits” and inquiries!

Bill says, “I really appreciate that you think of me as a valuable volunteer, good enough to be featured in the publication. I really enjoy the time at the ReStore. Knowing that my help makes a difference is definitely something I am especially proud of.”

Woodstock ReStore

After a successful launch in January 2013 and a wonderful performance over the past year, there are significant expectations on the new Woodstock ReStore for 2014. Manager Barb Ransome is proving to be a tremendous asset to the affiliate and is supported by a very hard working staff led by Dave Wall. We also welcome Sharon and Nelson, recently added to our part-time staff. Blessed with a growing contingent of skilled volunteers, Barb and company have created a great shopping experience in a fun and creative environment.

The excitement for the Woodstock Builds will only serve to fuel the potential for a successful 2014 at the ReStore.

Upcoming Events

All Net Proceeds go to Building Homes in Local Communities

May 31, 2014

Jeans ‘n Classics: Shower the People

The Music of James Taylor

A symphonic rock orchestra concert featuring the music of James Taylor! This event will be held at the London Convention Centre. For more information see www.jeansnclassics.com and for tickets call Mary Anne Wainright, Fundraising Coordinator at 519-455-6623, ext. 228.

Calling All Volunteers

We are always looking to engage volunteers! Currently, these are the main roles that we’re looking to fill:

• Woodstock Steering Committee Chairs and Members – to coordinate our two upcoming Woodstock builds.
• ReStore Artists – to repurpose ReStore items in a creative, artsy way! They can then be featured on social media and sold!
• Youth – to do event planning, community outreach, and fundraising for our upcoming youth build (see the Inside Scoop section).
• Skilled construction volunteers – always needed for our many builds.

If you’re interested in volunteering in any way or have questions, please contact Jamie Lee, Volunteer Coordinator at 519-455-6623 ext. 207 or Jarseneau@habitat4home.ca

Third Party Events

Support from the Community

March 7, 2014

Genworth Bonspiel: Curling for Habitat Fundraiser

Register a team, or come and cheer one on and join us for lunch and silent auction. The cost for curling and lunch is $40/pp and just lunch is $20/pp – Genworth will be matching all money raised and donating it to Habitat! RSVP to Sandra.thompson@genworth.com or cmorely@ctc.ca

Thinking of hosting a fundraiser for Habitat...

We can help you by…

• Supplying information flyers/Speaker
• Working to create a unique event based on your groups skill set
• Supplying Volunteers if required
• Giving you social media support

Contact: Julie Frick, Regional Community Liaison 519-455-6623, ext. 229

Contact Us – Habitat for Humanity Heartland Ontario

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Pacific Court ReStore

Unit 5, 40 Pacific Court, London, ON  t: 519-659-1949, ext. 225  e: ReStore.North@habitat4home.ca

Adelaide Street South ReStore

371 Adelaide Street South, London, ON  t: 519-659-1949, ext. 231  e: ReStore.South@habitat4home.ca

Woodstock ReStore

1058 Parkin Road, Woodstock, ON  t: 519-519-273-7155  e: ReStore.Woodstock@habitat4home.ca

Stratford ReStore

245 Griffith Road, Stratford, ON  t: 519-519-273-7155  e: ReStore.Stratford@habitat4home.ca

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