



# Building Connections

Spring 2016

Welcome to the first issue of **Building Connections**, Habitat for Humanity Portland Metro East's homeowners' quarterly newsletter. Our goal in producing this newsletter is to keep Habitat homeowners informed on what is happening at our affiliate, and provide home maintenance tips and information about community resources that can enrich your lives. We want the newsletter to be as relevant as possible for our homeowners and welcome your input and ideas.

## Helpful Spring Home Maintenance Tips

Springtime means warmer temperatures, rainy weather, and blossoming flowers. As the seasons change, take some time to make sure you are keeping up with regular home maintenance to ensure your home will stay in top shape for years to come. Use the handy checklist below to keep track of common, easy repairs you can do to maintain your home.



### Spring Repair Checklist

- Clean gutters; make sure they flow properly.
- Inspect roof for damaged shingles.
- Check flashing, and re-seal as needed.
- Re-nail any loose siding or trim boards.
- Check house for any rotting wood, and repair as needed.
- Check porch flooring, and repair as needed.
- Check and replace any bad caulking around windows, doors, siding joints, or anywhere else needed.
- Scrape loose window glazing, and replace as needed.
- Clean windows and their frames when installing screens. Wash and repair screens at this time.
- Trim trees, bushes, and shrubs. (Wait until spring-flowering shrubs have finished blooming.)
- Clean flower beds out around the house.
- Drain off sediment from hot water tank and steam heating system.

## Stretch Your SNAP Benefits

The Fresh Exchange is a program that provides SNAP shoppers with a dollar-for-dollar match (up to \$5 per week) to spend at participating farmer's markets. To access the Fresh Exchange program, SNAP participants simply swipe their Oregon Trail card at the market information booth in return for tokens to be used at the market. For every \$1 of SNAP funds redeemed at the market, a matching \$1 Fresh Exchange token is provided (up to a \$5 match each visit) to purchase fresh food from local farmers and producers. To find a participating market, visit [portlandfarmersmarket.org](http://portlandfarmersmarket.org).



## Homeownership Education Center to Open in Habitat Office

Habitat for Humanity Portland Metro/East is delighted to announce the summer opening of our new Homeownership Education Center. This new meeting facility has been made possible by remodeling underused space at our current location in the same building as our offices at the corner of NE Killingsworth Street and NE 15th Ave.

During the past 34 years in Portland, Habitat has lead in the movement to keep Portland affordable for all working families. Habitat couldn't do it alone and our mission is to be one spoke of a wheel, where we are working together with other organizations toward our shared goal of ensuring that Portland is a great place to live for all of its residents.

Our goal for the new Homeownership Educational Center is to provide a comprehensive pre and post purchase homeownership training program that offers relevant and timely resources, strengthens homeowners' financial health and connection

to their community, and a centralized teaching/meeting space for Habitat partner families and community partners.

All Habitat homeowners will be invited to the Grand Opening Celebration scheduled on July 16th, 2016. Be on the lookout for your invitation to the Homeownership Education Center Celebration coming in the mail in June.

Please take a moment to complete and mail back the post card survey included in this newsletter. By completing the survey you can share with us which education programs are most relevant and beneficial to you. Thanks in advanced for your feedback.

*SAVE THE DATE*

**Saturday, July 16th**

Homeownership Center  
Grand Opening Celebration

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## Reianna Says Goodbye

Dear Homeowners,

After five years of work with Habitat for Humanity Portland/Metro East, I have decided to shift directions and move on. My last day with Habitat was March 31st. I am excited about my new endeavors, but I am also sad to be leaving behind all of the wonderful people I have come to know here. I wanted all of the people and families who have been a part of my Habitat experience to know that they have been a huge part of what gave my job meaning and joy. Thank you so much for being a part of my life and I hope that each of you will have peace and happiness always.

In friendship,  
Reianna DaRosa  
Homeownership Program Manager





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## Upcoming Habitat Events

### **Eat, Drink, Build** — April 6th, 2016

Eat, Drink, Build is a one-day event where hungry Portland Habitat supporters dine out at participating restaurants who donate a portion of their proceeds to Women Build. Invite friends and dine out on April 6th, 2016 at any of the participating restaurants to help Habitat build more homes for deserving families.

For a list of participating restaurants, visit Women Build at [habitatportlandmetro.org](http://habitatportlandmetro.org)

### **16th Annual HopeBuilder Breakfast** — April 27th, 2016

Join us for our most inspirational event of the year at the 16th annual HopeBuilder Breakfast. Enjoy a free breakfast during this one-hour program that includes an update on Habitat's involvement in the Portland Metro area, an inspiring speech from international motivational speaker Lou Radja, and testimonials from families who are on their way to homeownership.

RSVP at [habitatportlandmetro.org/hopebuilder](http://habitatportlandmetro.org/hopebuilder)

