



Portland/Metro East

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habitatportlandmetro.org

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### Next Homeownership Classes

#### February 9th

9:30-11:30am **Understanding Income Taxes**  
12:00-2:00pm **Document Organization: Tame the Paper Monster**

#### March 9th

9:30-11:30am **Container Gardening**  
12:00-2:00pm **Green Cleaning for Healthy Homes**

#### April 13th

9:30-11:30am **FAFSA and Financial Aid 101**  
12:00-2:00pm **Stocks and Investing: Grow your Money**

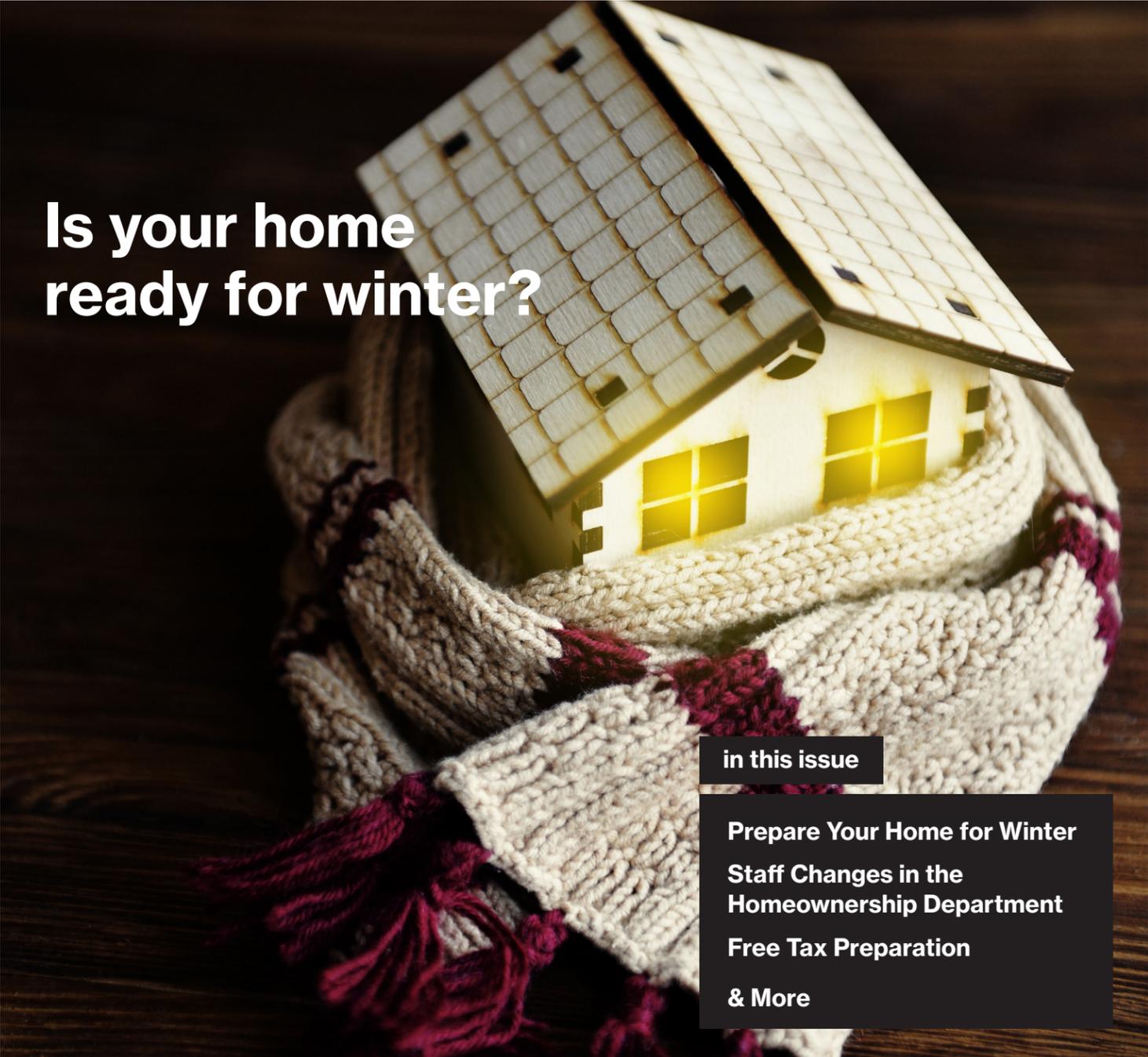
For full descriptions of upcoming classes, visit Habitat's Facebook page, watch for Habitat's Education Program postcard and reminder emails. All class attendees must be 15 years old or older; no childcare is provided. Please contact us if you need interpretation services. All classes are held at our Homeownership Education Center at 1478 NE Killingsworth St. Portland 97211. RSVP required. Call 503-287-9529 x36 or [homeownership@habitatportlandmetro.org](mailto:homeownership@habitatportlandmetro.org)



A quarterly newsletter for Habitat for Humanity Portland/Metro East homeowners.

# Building Connections

Winter 2018



Is your home ready for winter?

#### in this issue

**Prepare Your Home for Winter**  
**Staff Changes in the Homeownership Department**  
**Free Tax Preparation**  
**& More**

## Updates to Homeownership Department Staff!

In November, as a result of organizational expansion, Habitat's homeownership team grew! We are excited to announce that we have added one new team member, Monique, and shifted the roles of two existing members.

Monique Smiley joined the team as the Homeownership Program Coordinator where she will be coordinating all sweat equity, class attendance, and working with homebuyers as they move through the homeownership program. She recently worked at Welcome Home Coalition where she coordinated efforts to raise awareness of the need for safe, stable, and affordable housing. Using an equity lens is a central tenant in her work to increase housing resources for all communities.

Samuel Eckhart joined the Homeownership Department and is now managing the Home Repair Program. Sam has been working at Habitat since 2015, first as an AmeriCorps VISTA and then as Construction Coordinator. He is very excited to make a positive impact in the communities Habitat serves by restoring and maintaining homes through the program.

Shelby Pierce transitioned from pre-purchase to post-purchase support as the Homeowner Support Coordinator/IDA Specialist. In her new role with Habitat, she is the main point of contact for questions from Habitat homeowners. She looks forward to getting to meet all of Habitat's homeowners and continuing to provide stewardship and support.



## Free Tax Preparation

It's Your Money. You Earned It. Go Get It! As much as \$6,444 could be waiting for you when you file a tax return and claim the earned income, child, or education tax credits! Every year CASH Oregon and AARP partner up to provide free tax preparation for low and moderate-income households. To find your nearest free tax prep locations, go to [cashoregon.org/free-tax-sites/](http://cashoregon.org/free-tax-sites/) or call or visit the CASH Oregon office at 2027 Lloyd Center, Portland, OR 97232, 503-243-7765.

## Learn, Advance, Achieve 2018 - 2019

Career Pathways are short-term education and training programs (programs range from six to nine months) in high-demand occupations. Career Pathways provides additional support that enables students to work on reading, writing, math and/or language skills at the same time they study towards college-level certificates or degrees.

- › **Assistant Teacher** Child Development Associate (CDA)
- › **Accounting Assistant** Career Pathway Certificate
- › **Office Clerk** Career Pathway Certificate
- › **Nursing Assistant** Certificate of Completion; Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)
- › **Automotive Maintenance and Light Repair** Less Than One Year Certificate
- › **Machinist** Career Pathway Certificate
- › **Welding** Career Pathway Certificate

### For Students Who:

- Want short-term education and job training
- Tested below college level in reading or math
- Need additional academic and support services, or
- Are non-native English speakers requiring language support

For more information contact:

**Angelique Kauffman-Rodriguez, Career Pathways Specialist**  
**Angelique.Kauffman@mhcc.edu 503-660-1444**

## Prepare Your Home for Winter

Snow and ice can create hazards and liabilities for homeowners. Here is what you can do to reduce your risk.

- Clean out the gutters, disconnect and drain all outside hoses. If possible, shut off outside water valves.
- Repair roof leaks and remove tree branches that could get weighed down with ice or snow.
- Portland City Code requires property owners to remove of snow, ice, slippery leaves, and other debris from the sidewalk in front of your home. Homeowners who fail to clear debris may be liable for injuries suffered by passing pedestrians.



## Hope Builder Breakfast

Join us for our most inspirational event of the year at the 19th 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 message and testimonials from families who are on their way to homeownership. This event is a way for us to explain what Habitat is accomplishing in Portland and it helps us expand our network of advocates for affordable housing in the city. Please consider joining us and inviting a friend!

Wednesday, April 24th, 2019 7:30-8:30 am Oregon Convention Center Portland Ballroom, 777 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Portland

If you would like to attend this event, host a table, or have any questions please contact Shelby Pierce at (503) 287-9529 ext. 19 or email at [shelby@habitatportlandmetro.org](mailto:shelby@habitatportlandmetro.org)

## Paid Summer Internships for High School Students

Student Leaders is a wonderful leadership and resume building opportunity. The program helps current high school Juniors and Seniors gain a greater understanding of how nonprofits create impact in the community and connect Student Leaders to tools and resources that will help them make communities better.

Student Leaders will:

- Work as a paid intern at a local nonprofit for eight weeks
- Attend the weeklong Student Leaders Summit in Washington, D.C.
- Develop leadership and career skills
- Connect with like-minded students from your own community and across the country



The deadline to apply for the program is February 1st, 2019. To apply, visit: [www.bankofamerica.com/studentleaders](http://www.bankofamerica.com/studentleaders)