Eight things you may not know about Habitat for Humanity

1. Habitat for Humanity is a grass roots organization. Each affiliate is started by people in the community. In Columbia County, people from Scappoose, St. Helens, Columbia City, Rainier, Clatskanie and Vernonia worked together to establish our affiliate.

2. Columbia County Habitat for Humanity (CCHFH) is not funded by Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI). Money sent to HFHI does not build homes in Columbia County. If you would like to support building and repair efforts in Columbia County, please send donations to: CCHFH, PO Box 921, St. Helens, OR 97051.

3. CCHFH also builds ramps and does exterior home repairs for low income disabled veterans and seniors. In the last five years CCHFH has completed a dozen projects of this type.

4. Every year CCHFH contributes to HFHI projects throughout the world. Since the year 2000, CCHFH has contributed enough money to build eight houses in third world countries. You can designate your donation for local projects only or worldwide projects only if you wish.

5. CCHFH provides a “hand up not a hand out.” We believe in helping people be more self-reliant.

We do this by building simple homes and offering affordable mortgages. Donations from the community and volunteer labor allow us to offer subsidized mortgages to open up homeownership opportunities to low income people. Families that qualify work hard to build their homes.

6. Habitat for Humanity is a Christian organization that believes in being “radically inclusive inviting people of all faiths and no faith to join us in working to eliminate poverty housing.”

7. The ReStore in St. Helens raises funds for CCHFH, but also diverts material from the landfill, provides a drop off site for recycling paint and metal and provides job training and community service opportunities. Currently the ReStore is open five days a week, but could be open six days a week if we had more volunteers.

8. CCHFH exists because of your support. Because of the increasing complexity of what we do, some smaller Habitat affiliates across the country have shut their doors. We are thriving and making plans to increase our capacity to help more people in all areas of the county. So many people have contributed to our success. Thank you!