

Building Connections

Fall 2022

**Offices are now open to the public again!
Appointments are encouraged to best serve you but not required.**

In this issue

- New Staff Introductions
- Education Classes Returning Soon!
- Fall Check-in
- Student Debt Relief
- Monthly Resource Emails Coming Soon





New Staff Introductions

ABIGAIL WATKINS As Habitat's Homeownership Program Coordinator I work closely with homebuyers as they get ready to purchase their homes. This includes completing sweat equity and homeowner education classes and maintaining program income requirements. Through this process, I advocate for homebuyers as construction is completed and make sure the needs of both homebuyers and construction staff are met. Outside of work I enjoy staying active however I can – I actually teach fitness classes during the week in Hillsboro! I also love spending time with my family and traveling when possible.

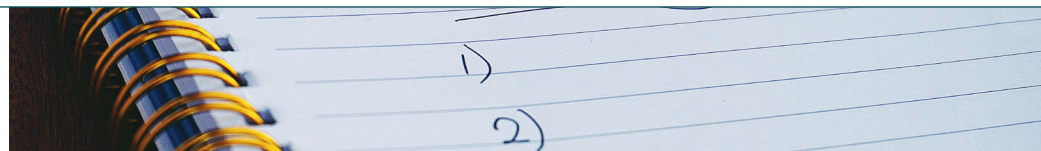
JENNIFER SANCHEZ Hello Everyone! I am the Loan Processing Coordinator. I provide support services and assistance with the home-buying process. Since starting at Habitat for Humanity in January, I have had the pleasure of meeting some of you at your homebuyer orientations and handing you the keys to your new homes. I look forward to assisting future homeowners (and some of your new neighbors) to make affordable homeownership a reality for themselves and their families. Outside of the office, I enjoy gardening, cooking vegetarian cuisine, and bringing joy to my living space.

TIFFANY COLEMAN As the Homeownership Program Manager, I coordinate the application process for homeownership program applicants, organizing outreach and making sure things go as smoothly as possible during the application process. When I'm not doing that, you can find me adventuring throughout Oregon, exploring the vibrant food scene, or just catching up on my favorite book.

MATTHEW MISLEY Hello! I'm happy to join the team as your Education and Post Purchase Manager. I look forward to using my experience as an educator to expand our homeowner education program, in addition to helping and supporting our homeowners in a variety of ways. In my spare time I enjoy attempts at gardening, cooking, cycling and spending time with my family.

CANDACE YUSUF Hi! I am the Office Coordinator for Habitat for Humanity Portland Region. I am excited to assist guests with gathering more information about the homeownership process, as well as providing information on community resources. Habitat for Humanity is providing amazing work to the community, and I am happy to be part of a team working to transform neighborhoods and lives. In my free time I enjoy writing, studying spirituality, baking, and learning history.

Fall Check-in



The change in seasons is a great time to do a quick check-in with your home. Did you know you can find an annual maintenance checklist as well as eight helpful videos on our website? Learn how to maintain your energy recovery ventilator, clean your dishwasher filter, and keep your exhaust fan working well in

short videos starring Portland Habitat staff! Other videos include how to change a doorknob, plunge a toilet, operate your water shut off valves and maintain your smoke detector in working order. Find those resources from the homeowner resource section of our website or at <https://bit.ly/pdxhabitatvideos>

Education classes are relaunching soon!

We're excited to announce that Habitat education classes will be returning! Previous topics have included Design on a Dime, Emergency & Disaster Preparedness, Estate Planning, and much more, with experts from the American Red Cross, Oregon Food Bank and your own Portland Habitat staff pitching in and sharing expertise. We want to provide classes that you're interested in and that meet your needs whether you're a new homeowner or have lived in your Habitat home for many years, so look for opportunities to share your input. In the meantime, you can always reach Matthew with ideas at Matthew.Misley@habitatportlandregion.org. Stay tuned!



Student Debt Relief

You may have heard about the one-time student loan debt relief plan in the news. Who is eligible? The Department of Education states the plan “will provide up to \$20,000 in debt relief to Federal Pell Grant recipients and up to \$10,000 in debt relief to non-Pell Grant recipients. Borrowers with loans held by ED are eligible for this relief if their individual income is less than \$125,000 (or \$250,000 for households).”

If you are eligible, there are steps you will need to take. To stay on top of deadlines and get the most accurate and up to date information, go to studentaid.gov.



NEXT STEPS FOR LOAN FORGIVENESS

1

A simple application will launch by

early October

2

Once completed, borrowers can expect relief within

4-6 weeks

3

Fill out application

before Nov 15th

to receive relief before payment pause ends

Sign up at StudentAid.Gov/DebtRelief to be notified when application is available



Portland Region

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Monthly Resource Emails

To supplement our quarterly newsletter, we will soon begin sending out a short resource email to all homeowners once a month. These brief updates will help us provide more timely information on community resources, upcoming classes, including a focused “top tip” for homeownership and more. With a promise to not take more than a few minutes of your time, we hope this will be a useful, connection building tool! Need to provide your email or have other questions? Contact Matthew.Misley@habitatportlandregion.org. See you in your inboxes soon!



We continue to be here to support you! If you need assistance, please reach out.

Who to Contact *Need to know who to call for classes, payments, warranty or general info?*



Payment questions?

Loretta Kelly

loretta.kelly@habitatportlandregion.org
503-287-9529 ext. 1320



Warranty questions?

warrantyconstruction@habitatportlandregion.org
503-287-9529 ext. 1314



General questions?

Matthew Misley

Education and Post Purchase Manager
Matthew.Misley@habitatportlandregion.org