



CHARITIES Committee

Ralph Orleck, Chairman



The RISAA Charities Committee exists to lend a helping hand to others in need, and is a way of giving back to our community.

THIS MONTH'S CONTRIBUTION



South County Habitat for Humanity

Report by
**TOM
MEADE**



Habitat for Humanity builds and restores affordable housing for families in need.

In addition to money that the South County group needs for construction, it is seeking donations to make up a big loss to thieves who stole tools worth more than \$20,000.

Sometime between the evening of Sept. 24 and the morning of Sept. 25, thieves broke into a Habitat construction trailer, taking over \$20,000 in tools and equipment. Habitat had recently started construction of a duplex home in Exeter and the theft was discovered when crews showed up to work on the house. The theft not only caused an unplanned financial burden for the organization, but also created a delay in construction of the home for two families in need of decent and affordable housing.

"It's very disheartening when something like this happens," said **Colin Penney**, executive director of the South County charity. "It makes a tremendous impact on our efforts of helping families find affordable housing in the area. It's hard to build a house without any tools or equipment for our volunteers to use, but we are focused on minimizing the delay and impact on these two families that the house is for."



Most of the stolen tools and equipment were marked with "SCHH" on them. **Accepting the RISAA donation was Colin Penney, Executive Director of South County Habitat For Humanity.**

South County Habitat for Humanity is dedicated to eliminating substandard housing locally and worldwide through constructing, rehabilitating and preserving homes; by advocating for fair and just housing policies; and by providing training and access to resources to help families improve their shelter conditions, according to a statement from the group.

In 2017, 399 volunteers gave 21,813 hours of work to Habitat. Their services ranged from office help to construction. Some volunteers made box lunches for construction volunteers. Other volunteers come from "Team Build" a habitat program that includes corporate and civic groups who donate time to Habitat projects.



The projects build teamwork while providing much needed labor - without previous experience.

Habitat also runs **Re-Store, on Route 2 in the village of Shannock**, that accepts appliances and fixtures that can be put to use in homes of people in need.

More information about South County Habitat for Humanity, and about donating and volunteering, is available online at southcountyhanitat.org or by calling (401) 213-6711.

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