

Legacy Project Summary

We spent a day at our local Habitat for Humanity (HFH) Restore for our Population and Global Health class. While we were there, we learned about the mission and impact of HFH. Community members donate time to set up and run the store, which provides money to help people become homeowners. HFH homes grant safe, affordable housing with no-interest payments to residents who previously resided in unsafe, unclean, or homes outside of their financial means. HFH Danville builds two brand new homes each year for people through monetary donations and money raised through Habitat Restore. Residents who want to own a home must be able to pay a \$1,000 down-payment and have the financial ability to pay between \$400-\$450/month. They must also put in at least 350 “sweat-equity” hours helping directly to build the home. This involvement provides a sense of empowerment and pride to the new homeowners. In addition to a new home, HFH provides education on home maintenance and cleaning. People learn to change water and furnace filters and keep houses clean to promote health and prevent pests.

Eight students, including myself, went to the HFH Restore and helped merchandise eight pallets of Christmas decorations donated over the past year. We met with the manager, who told us that our help would impact HFH’s ability to build an extra home for a family next year. Annually, HFH builds two homes. Next year, the organization plans to build three new houses. The day was a success, and we made an impact on a worthwhile cause in our community.