



*Building
houses,
building
hope*

Volunteer Spotlight: Denise Maestri

Pay it forward. It's a simple yet powerful concept, one that spurred affiliate volunteer Denise Maestri to donate 2 – 3 weekends of her time every month to help build our latest HFH home in Hightstown.

"I am grateful to have a roof over my own head and really wanted to pay it forward," explained Denise.

Popularized by a film and novel of the same name by Catherine Ryan Hyde, to pay it forward is when the recipient of a favor, or a person like Denise thankful for her blessings, does another good deed for a third party rather than paying the favor back.

Denise initially learned of the affiliate in a St. Anthony of Padua Church bulletin article. Her first volunteer experience was a number of years ago on one of the Evan Avenue HFH homes in East Windsor.

Besides wanting to volunteer because she considered HFH to be a good cause, she also was fairly new to the area and thought it would be nice to meet other local residents.

"When I started I never thought I would be using the circular saw or measuring and hanging sheetrock and siding," said Denise. "The real credit goes to the core team of builders -- the guys who are there every single week who take the time to teach someone who has a willing spirit to learn and help out."

Denise encourages other women to get involved in the build process and not to be intimidated. She said there are always people available to answer questions and help when needed.

"Just show up with a willing spirit and I think you'll find success by the end of the day," said Denise. "You might really be surprised by what you learned and accomplished."

To get involved with our next project, contact Volunteer Coordinator Michael Caputo at volunteercoord@habitatmba.org.

Building Houses with God's People in Need