Habitat for Humanity Choptank at the CAN Meeting by Donna Towers

The Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity Choptank, Joann Hanson, presented at the CAN meeting on Oct. 10, 2023 at the Dorchester County Library meeting room. She talked non-stop for an hour, covering every aspect of the organization’s mission to build durable, accessible, and affordable houses in Dorchester and Talbot counties. This is a topic for everyone who lives in our town and I wish you had been there to hear the presentation. Instead of writing a boring report, I’ll bet you would rather visit their website. Right?

Everything you ever wanted to know about Habitat for Humanity International, as well as locally can be found on the internet OR you can go to Wells St. in Cambridge and see up close and personal what this organization is all about. Actually, the new street, servicing the 12 new houses on Wells is under construction right now so that may not be a good idea. But, there are 30 other houses in Cambridge that you can ride by. Many are located on High, Pine and Wright Streets.

Habitat Choptank is a 501c(3) nonprofit organization that is one of 1100 affiliates in the country. Joann cleared up the biggest misnomer about the organization right away. Habitat for Humanity does not give away houses. They build beautiful, three-bedroom houses that the qualifying buyer can live in for his/her lifetime. The houses are comfortable, attractive, efficient to run and designed to be low maintenance. With the combination of donors, and volunteers plus sweat equity hours put in by the buyers, these 0% mortgage houses are built on land purchased by Habitat, who holds the mortgages, providing affordable housing for hard working people. Over the years, this basic model has been improved by adding USDA 502 Direct Loans for rural areas, a rehab and repair program, and the neighborhood approach which is in the future for a 12-house neighborhood on Camper Street as well as a 33 acre project off of Mace’s Lane.

How can you get involved in this exciting organization? No skill goes unused. There is much to do: Building and Safety, Programming, Site Selection, Family Selection, Partnership Development, Coaching, and The Restore. You will make great friends, have fun, while helping individuals and your community.