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Warren County Habitat for Humanity Welcomes 25th Homeowner Family

By Brittany Krug

PHILLIPSBURG N.J. - Jacob Werkheiser and his three young boys, Coltin, Lincoln and Jacob Jr., became Warren County Habitat for Humanity's (Warren County Habitat) 25th Homeowner Family in 25 years. On Saturday, November 9th, 2024, they were officially handed the keys to their new home in Phillipsburg, one with enough rooms for everyone to live and sleep comfortably in.

Prior to moving into his new Habitat home, Jacob and his three sons lived with his parents in a small home they rented. The six family members slept in a two-bedroom home, with a third "bedroom" that was just bigger than a closet. They would utilize their living room as a bedroom. When they were accepted as a partner family in May of 2023, having their own bedrooms was a dream that was no longer out of reach.

As with all Habitat Homeowners, Jacob was required to perform over 250 hours of sweat equity: time spent volunteering on the build site or other various volunteer sites with Warren County Habitat. By the time his home was complete, he had performed over 280 sweat equity hours.

Warren County Habitat for Humanity was graciously joined by an integral community partner for this project: NORWESCAP. "This is what it's all about – working together," Mark Valli, CEO of NORWESCAP mused. "NORWESCAP, our investors, the Department of Community Affairs, the town, all coming together to make sure Jacob and his sons have an amazing experience and have a future they can be proud of. So, thank you Habitat for Humanity, thank you for all of you who support Habitat.... We're grateful for this work, but nobody's more grateful than the three little boys who are going to absolutely destroy this basement the second they move in."



Jacob Werkheiser and his boys smile as Keith Matlock Warren County Habitat Project Manager (right) hands Jacob the keys to their new home.

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LVEDC Honors 3 Staff Members for Milestone Anniversaries



L-R Stephanie Wean, Jarrett Witt, Jennifer Weighknecht

By Paul Muschick

LEHIGH VALLEY -Three longtime members of the team at Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation (LVEDC) were recognized by the organization for their combined four decades of service to the Lehigh Valley community.

Jarrett Witt, Stephanie Wean, and Jennifer Weighknecht perform roles ranging from helping new businesses find locations, to obtaining financing, to managing central administrative staffing services to various economic development financing organizations, the Lehigh Valley Partnership, and the Industrial Training and Education Consortium of the Lehigh Valley (iTEC). They handle important details that make a big difference, helping set up companies for success. That success increases the Lehigh Valley's prosperity, which creates employment opportunities for people of all skill and education levels.

Witt joined LVEDC in 2004. In his current role as Director of Business Development, he directs prospects who are interested in locating or expanding their operations in the Lehigh Valley by assisting them with site selection and

the acquisition of incentives. He provides relevant demographic and economic data and connects them with various public and private resources.

"Jarrett is one of the first contacts that companies have as they consider entering the Lehigh Valley market," said Don Cunningham, President and CEO of LVEDC. "Jarrett's extensive knowledge of the Lehigh Valley and the many relationships he has built with brokers, developers, and others in the real estate community are invaluable."

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