

Habitat ReStore launches online in Peterborough and Kawartha Lakes

Barbara-Ann MacEachern

Learning how to adapt to stay afloat during mass closures and physical distancing has been a challenge for Habitat for Humanity Peterborough and Kawartha Region.

But adapt they have, launching an online version of their three ReStore locations in the Kawarthas this week.

“We’re really excited about it,” says Christina Skuce, director of philanthropy and communications.

Shoppers can browse the same quality items they could normally find at the store and arrange for contactless delivery to their home. Additionally, Habitat will begin accepting donations again, by appointment, for those using this time for some spring cleaning.

Since only one staff member is at each location at any time taking photos of their stock, if you don’t see something you want on the website, call your nearest store to check if they have it, says Skuce.

Beyond serving the needs of the community, with some in a tough spot if an appliance breaks down for example, the money the three local ReStore locations bring in for Habitat covers 100 per cent of their costs as well as supporting the creation of affordable housing.

“The pandemic has really shined a spotlight on the need for affordable housing in our community,” says Skuce.

“Because sheltering in place is a privilege for many families. Because there are many families out there who are struggling and don’t have a decent, affordable place to live.”

The need will only continue to grow as the COVID-19 pandemic continues, she adds, noting that more families will find themselves in financial trouble and will be in need of affordable housing.

“The closures are a huge hit to our organization,” says Skuce, after the ReStores have been closed for about a month.

“We need people to be shopping at the Restores and making donations or we could potentially not be here when people are needing us most in the community.”

To shop at ReStore online, visit www.habitatrestorepkr.ca.

To schedule a time for a contactless donation drop off of household items or clothing in Kawartha Lakes call [705-930-3574](tel:705-930-3574) between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. or [705-927-0312](tel:705-927-0312) in

Peterborough.