

Reflections of 2018



What does it mean to be a “Home Builder” to us at Huber’s Custom Building?

A “Home Builder” creates a base, a starting point, where a person or family can plant themselves to begin the construction and fabrication of their lives. It is a foundation to build from.

Looking back at 2018, it was a good year.

I wanted to Reflect on how Huber’s Custom Building Inc. and myself personally, how we might provide a home and make a difference in the world. How can we offer shelter, hope and a future to those in need? How might we find understanding and compassion to do our part to help others?

We thought we might be able to make an impact by striving to:

1. Provide homes for families that have no home.
2. Provide shelter and support to allow people to transition into society.
3. Be a mentor and respect the people that are working so hard to move above their poverty.
4. Provide educational opportunities and a chance to receive a college degree that might empower them to help others.
5. Support remote communities by providing water, sanitation, health, and educational services.

This reflection is our story for how we have hoped to make a difference in these areas in 2018.

1. Provide homes for families that have no home.

I joined Bula Ministries and Dwellings in Roatan to build a home for a family last December. We provided a two bedroom home for a family of five with all the amenities. So far I have been involved in over 20 home builds in Roatan.



In 2019, we hope to build three more homes in Roatan for deserving families. In March I am working with another home builder and we are combining our families, to help a family of five by building a two bed, one bath home with plumbing, wiring and a kitchen. In July 20 family members and I will be traveling to Honduras to provide a home for a family of 10. It will be a two story home with five bedrooms, one bath, kitchen and a deck. In December we are returning to Honduras to provide another home for a family in need.

2. Provide shelter and support to allow people to transition into society.

Some of our home building projects locally currently have homes and apartments on the property that sooner or later will need to be removed. While the buildings may be vacant for months to years, we have joined forces with WELD to put people in those homes.



WELD provides transitional housing, pathways to employment, and a sober and accountable community for those in recovery.

We believe that everyone should be given the opportunity to belong and thrive. We believe that transformation should be available and open to all, no matter your past. And we know that our communities are made safer, healthier, and stronger when we reduce barriers to former prisoners reentering society. We let WELD utilize our buildings to provide shelter for those transitioning back to society while our buildings are vacant.

3. Be a mentor and respect the people that are working so hard to move above their poverty.

We try to listen to and understand the families that we work with. Being available to listen to them, share Ideas, offer support for their hopes and dreams is priceless. It is hard to imagine what a difference it makes to someone when we respect them as individuals and support their dreams.

4. Provide educational opportunities and a chance to receive a college degree that might empower them to help others.

In addition to providing homes, the greatest gift a person can be given is the gift of knowledge and an education.

We are providing scholarships to allow for college educations for some young adults in Roatan. We started building homes for the families to improve their quality of living. We then took the next step by giving them the tools to help others like them.

We try to work with the families to create a realistic plan for their college educations. I find it is important to listen to their needs and provide a solution that allows us to work together to achieve their goal of receiving a degree.

Keyla entered her final year of college and is doing very well. She was blessed with a baby girl this year.

Rachel has been going to school, but needed to take a leave of absence because of her mom's health issues. She is running their home restaurant business and doing well. When we provided the family a home we were able to provide a kitchen below the home where the family could run their home business.

Ashley, finished her second year toward her Structural Engineering Degree. This woman is smart! I wish I had her on my staff.

Our newest student Anouchka, sister to Ashley, is entering her first year of college on the mainland and wants to become an accountant. She will be the second student this family has in college. Mom supplements some of the cost by sewing clothes at her home. Her brother will contribute to some of her living expenses at school. This is a team effort to get these smart, motivated young women an education.

Kiandra is in her second year of medical school and hopes to come back home and serve the community when she graduates. She has another five years of schooling to go.



5. Support remote communities by providing water, sanitation, health, and educational services.

In December a group of former clients - now friends- traveled to the Christian Medical College (CMC) Model Village Project in Jawardi Hills, India. The project provides water, sanitation, education, health services, and a sustainable income source.

We provided funding for the project and helped in build latrines for the local school and for every home in the village. We were lucky enough to be involved with the community to share with their progress of having fresh water, toilets for every home (there were none a few years ago), boarding houses for 120+ boys and girls so they could attend middle school and higher, (this is necessary when the distance to the schools is farther than walking distance).



We met with a dozen young ladies that were responsible for visiting surrounding villages to locate pregnant women and monitor their conditions. We also toured the farm land and saw the crops and livestock that would provide a sustainable income source for the families.

None of this would have been possible without the continued success of building locally and for that we are eternally grateful.

Our 2018 Projects

We successfully completed a 4 unit townhome project in lower Phinney Ridge. We have been developing a following in the neighborhood by providing good Design and functionality, Livability, quality, service and character that is appreciated by our customers.

Custom Home for Niranjin Bose and Lea Fields

We were able to build a custom home for a repeat customer. Their family started growing so we created a home to meet their needs.

Custom Home for Rick and Gail Orsillo

They wanted a home next door to Dad. We enjoyed working with them to fulfill their dream.



What's in store for HCB in 2019?

We have been very fortunate that we have been able to remain on the same street in Fremont. We will be building six more units on Dayton Ave N. What can we say? We love this street. It will neighbor the other 12 units we have there. The units will be high end 2 bedrooms with a den and entry floor living on some. The focus will continue to be on efficiency, quality, and sustainability. There will also be underground parking.

We are also in the planning stages for a four unit project in Wallingford and are working on some smaller custom projects.



These activities will support the education of young women, providing homes for families in developing countries such as Honduras, and give a place for struggling Seattleites temporary housing.

As we begin 2019 I reaffirm the question I ask myself yearly:

What can I do to make a DIFFERENCE?



Sincerely,

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