

# New Digs in Asbury Park for Coastal Habitat for Humanity

By ED SALVAS

Coastal Habitat for Humanity is nearing completion of a new headquarters and a larger space for its ReStore second hand store on Memorial Drive in Asbury Park.

Maureen Mulligan, executive director, said they are working toward a Sept. 1 opening at 1105-1109 Memorial Dr., between Third and Fourth Avenues, which will bring all the parts of the non-profit organization together. The ReStore has already closed to make the move from its Third Ave. space around the corner to Memorial Drive.

"We've been looking for a new space for a long time," Mulligan said. "The ReStore was too small and not up to our standards."

She added that the thrift, which opened in 2007, is the single largest source of non-grant funds for Coastal Habitat for Humanity. One problem with the building is it had no heat and limited parking.

The new building will be climate controlled, according to Mulligan, who said the building's owner, Pat Fasano, has been working with them on the project. Fasano brought in architect James Kissane to design the space, which is actually two



Coaster Photo

**Coastal Habitat for Humanity is moving its headquarters, including its ReStore thrift shop, to the corner of Memorial Drive and Third Avenue in Asbury Park.**

buildings that are now connected and a third building in the rear that will house the Coastal Habitat's offices. There will also be space to house Coastal Habitat for Humanity's building materials used for building houses which is

Coastal Habitat for Humanity's primary mission. Ben Fasano is the Project Manager for what they refer to as "Re-Store 2.0."

Moving from Spring Lake Heights to Asbury Park is significant according to Mulligan as

most of the houses they've built have been in the city, primarily on the west side. They also served as one of three principal non-profits and partnered with the city of Asbury Park responsible for the Springwood Avenue

Redevelopment Program.

They have a roster of 140 volunteers, but Mulligan is the only full time paid employee. She is also Coastal Habitat for Humanity's first - and only - full time Executive Director, a post she's held for 15 years. She recently announced plans to retire on Sept. 1, but will stay on until the new building is open and her replacement is on board.

"It will be a high for me going out at this time," Mulligan said, noting that since 1994 Coastal Habitat for Humanity has completed 18 single-family home construction projects and 19 dedications, providing safe and affordable housing for 19 families, single parent households, seniors, veterans and the disabled. Following Superstorm Sandy, they repaired 40 impacted homes from Manasquan to Allenhurst and received the largest single grant from New Jersey First Lady Mary Pat Christie's Sandy Foundation, more than \$1 million.

Retirement doesn't mean Mulligan will be slowing down. She plans to travel and continue being involved with several other non-profits.

"It's my thing," she says.