

## PRACTICING WHAT WE PREACH

**THE STONE HOUSE GROUP** has long stood by the philosophy best said by Larry Summers, former Senior White House Economic Advisor for the Obama Administration: “When the history of this period is written, one of the standout developments will be our understanding, at long last, that economic well-being and environmental well-being are two sides of the same coin.” This framework forms the basis for all our recommendations to guide institutions to find the best balance between financial and environmental sustainability.

### B-CORP CERTIFICATION

Powered by the non-profit B Lab, B-Corp provides a certification for for-profit companies that strive not only to be the best company in the world, but the best company for the world. Companies that are seeking certification must meet requirements of the highest standard of social and environmental performance, accountability, and transparency. To meet these requirements, **THE STONE HOUSE GROUP** uses a local community bank for company finances, works out of our LEED Gold Certified office, provides environmental education through speaking engagements, include a statement of commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion in all job descriptions, and reduced energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions even though building occupancy increased. We received our certification in 2022. If you’d like to find out more about B Corp, check out their website, [bcorporation.net](http://bcorporation.net).

### GINGERBUILDING CHALLENGE

The Gingerbuilding Challenge is a program founded by members of **THE STONE HOUSE GROUP** that fuses together project-based learning and environmental stewardship. Through this program, students learn about building strategies and features that can be implemented in their school buildings or sustainability programs. Students are the architects in this activity and use their knowledge and creativity to incorporate sustainable building strategies while bringing their vision to life.

SHG professionals work with teachers to introduce students to the basics of sustainable building, covering topics related to sustainable sites, water usage, energy efficiency, renewable energy, materials and construction, and local resources. Students work in small groups and using the gingerbread and candy provided, design and build a gingerbread house they think best utilizes the sustainable building concepts learned. The program promotes interdisciplinary work, creativity, and real-world problem solving. Teachers act as facilitators and use the GingerBuilding Challenge curriculum provided to guide students, while also allowing teachers to make curriculum modifications based on their preferences and school.

**THE STONE HOUSE GROUP** founded the Challenge at Broughal Middle School in our community of South Bethlehem, and has since expanded the project to several other schools in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Approximately 600 students take on the program each year.



*One of the winning houses from the 2019 GingerBuilding Challenge at Broughal Middle School in Bethlehem, PA.*

**PARTNERSHIP WITH THE WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE**

The Bethlehem Women of Excellence works to empower women and families of Bethlehem, PA who are less fortunate to be all they are meant to be despite their economic status in the world. Every December, the Bethlehem Women of Excellence wrap Christmas presents to present to local children at Broughal Middle School. This massive endeavor requires weeks of planning and support. THE STONE HOUSE GROUP is proud to provide support for over 13 years now, including providing space to store presents, support the moving process through renting a U-Haul, and physically moving the presents from the storage area to the U-Haul, and into the school. Over 900 students attend the event, each child receives three to four presents, and the entire family enjoys a warm meal.

**PARTNERSHIP WITH NEW BETHANY MINISTRIES**

New Bethany Ministries, our neighbor across the street, offers hope and support to people who experience poverty, hunger, and homelessness. We host them every other Saturday to provide a space for their food drive. Learn more about them on their website, [newbethanyministries.org](http://newbethanyministries.org).



**STAFF ENGAGEMENTS**

Numerous SHG staff members are engaged within their communities and organizations that align with the company's mission.

The Lehigh Valley-based branch of Green Building United is co-facilitated by one of our own Associates, Carlee Dieterick. The mission of the organization is to foster transformative impact

in our communities through green building education and advocacy. Learn more on their website, [greenbuildingunited.org](http://greenbuildingunited.org).

**GREEN  
BUILDING  
UNITED**

Larry Eighmy, our Managing Principal, chaired Mountain Bike Afghanistan and is the treasurer for both Moravian Academy and the Sustainable Energy Fund (SEF), responsible for all financial transactions, auditing, and alignment with ESG principles. He is a member of the Cathedral Church of the Nativity and served on its vestry. Additionally, he sits on the Saucon Valley Conservancy Advisory Committee and the South Bethlehem Arts District Advisory Committee, and was involved in the SouthSide Film Festival.

Robert Butch is a member of St. Andrews Episcopal Church and served on the building committee from 2003 to 2006. He chaired the committee from 2007-2011. Furthermore, he was a member of the Church Vestry from January 2017 to January 2020. He was also the church property member and sat on the finance committee.

