

A Salute to Supporters at 17th Annual Framing the Future

Atlanta Habitat for Humanity honored over 200 donors, 30 house sponsors, several Repair with Kindness grantors and dedicated volunteers during our 17th Annual Framing the Future event held October 6 at the Carter Center.

Former State Senator and Carter Center Board of Trustees Chair Jason Carter said: "One of the most incredible things about Atlanta Habitat is that it builds human connections. Our world cries out for a sense of connection. If you could walk back into a community and know that's a house you built, the connection becomes so real," Carter said during his keynote address.



Former State Senator Jason Carter joined Atlanta Habitat to thank supporters like dedicated volunteer Polly Simpson who received the Golden Hammer award from President/CEO Lisa Y. Gordon.



A special thanks goes to event sponsors Southern Company Gas, Georgia Power Company, The Home Depot, Room & Board, BNY Mellon Wealth Management, The Weather Channel, Best Bank and The Kroger Company.

The event included a Wall of Fame showcasing the following house sponsors and the number of homes that they have built during their partnership with us:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. All Saints Catholic - 23 | 17. The Home Depot - 58 |
| 2. Bank of America - 22 | 18. Lovett School - 24 |
| 3. The Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus - 21 | 19. Lutheran Church of the Redeemer - 20 |
| 4. Big Bethel AME Church - 24 | 20. Marist School - 41 |
| 5. Cascade United Methodist Church - 26 | 21. Northside Drive Baptist Church - 26 |
| 6. Cathedral of St. Philip - 26 | 22. Pace Academy - 25 |
| 7. Clark Howard - 66 | 23. Peachtree Road United Methodist - 45 |
| 8. The Coca-Cola Company - 30 | 24. Peachtree Presbyterian Church - 152 |
| 9. Cox Enterprises - 24 | 25. Saint Anne's Episcopal Church - 27 |
| 10. Dodd-Sterling United Methodist - 20 | 26. St. James United Methodist Church - 24 |
| 11. Dunwoody United Methodist Church - 26 | 27. St. Luke's Presbyterian Church - 20 |
| 12. Equifax - 28 | 28. Southern Company Gas - 28 |
| 13. First Presbyterian Church Atlanta - 41 | 29. Trinity Presbyterian Church - 26 |
| 14. GE - 28 | 30. Westminster - 25 |
| 15. Georgia Pacific - 27 | |
| 16. Glenn Memorial United Methodist - 25 | |

In addition to house sponsors, we are thankful for the Abreu Foundation, Georgia Power Foundation, The Home Depot and Northpoint Ministries for their generous support of Atlanta Habitat's Repair with Kindness, a program that provides critical repairs for non-Habitat homeowners in qualifying communities and honorably discharged and active U.S. military veterans.

Atlanta Habitat President/CEO Lisa Y. Gordon credited the nearly 200 donors, sponsors and volunteers at the event for helping the organization live its mission. "It's thanks to each of you that Atlanta Habitat is one of the largest non-profit of single-family, affordable homes in Atlanta and South Fulton county. We are going to expand our reach to make sure affordable housing remains an option across our city."

Atlanta Habitat also awarded its Golden Hammer award to Polly Simpson. This prestigious award honors outstanding dedication to affordable homeownership and enduring commitment to the organization's mission. Simpson has been a loyal donor since 2001 - supporting annual campaigns, capital campaigns, house sponsorships, and special events. She is most noted for her leadership in founding the Atlanta Women's Build steering committee.

Letter from the President



During the holiday season, I often reflect and give thanks for all of the people who come together to make a difference in the lives of other people. I am in awe of the generosity of time, talent and financial gifts. Sometimes it feels like a “Thank you” does not convey the lasting impact that your investment in Atlanta Habitat means to me and the families that we serve. When I see the joy of our homeowners as they move through our program - from the homeowner orientation where we begin the process of getting to know them before they build; to the first nail in the wall of their future home; the tearful dedication, and 12 months later the closing where they purchase their home - it’s a journey of thanksgiving. At these moments, the gratitude seems tangible. We can not only feel it but also hold and experience it with the new homeowner. This year we were able to expand our impact to the neighborhoods we serve through innovative programs like Repair with Kindness, Vision Goals and Action and our initiatives with youth and veterans.

These efforts reflect our new mission to become a catalyst for neighborhood revitalization through education, innovative development, partnerships and long-term relationships with families.

This year, we are on track to build, thrive and grow with nearly 50 new homes built, 16 Brush with Kindness projects (painting and minor repairs for Atlanta Habitat homeowners who have been in their homes for 10+ years) finished; 15 Repair with Kindness projects (a new initiative that focuses on critical home repairs for non-Habitat homeowners.) completed; and three neighborhood cleanup projects accomplished by year’s end because of your generosity.

We could not do any of this work without you, our committed donors, house sponsors, volunteers, Atlanta Habitat staff and thousands of others who believe in our mission and our families. We are grateful and thankful for your continued support of our work.

Sincerely,

Lisa Y. Gordon, CPA
President and CEO

One of the Top 100 Best Places to Work in 2016



It was a proud moment for members of our team when Atlanta Habitat for Humanity was recognized as one of the top 100 best places to work at the Atlanta Business Chronicle's 2016 Best Places to Work awards. Atlanta Habitat, the only nonprofit in the medium company category, ranked #19 and is one of only two nonprofits in the top hundred companies to receive awards. Over 600 companies applied.


Six staff members joined Atlanta Habitat Board Chair Darryl A. Hicks, Board Chair Emeritus Brantley Barrow and CEO/President Lisa Y. Gordon, to hear the exciting news at a breakfast ceremony September 8.

“The culture at Atlanta Habitat is extremely supportive and inspires innovation and creativity. The organization is clearly focused on its mission and every single employee makes that their priority every day,” said Cathy Walls, Atlanta Habitat ReStore Operations Director after attending the awards breakfast. “Atlanta Habitat is a place where employees routinely ask what else they can do to help, and you will never hear anyone say, ‘that’s not my job’.”

It was Brantley Barrow who first believed the organization was worthy of the nomination.



Atlanta Habitat President and CEO Lisa Y. Gordon and Atlanta Habitat Board Chair Emeritus M. Brantley Barrow (center) are joined by team members Jill Strickland Luse, Cathy Walls, Nary Dam, Tanya James, Haley Hart and Rosemary Kernahan. Credit: Atlanta Business Chronicle



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MISSION STATEMENT
Atlanta Habitat for Humanity transforms communities by acting as a catalyst for neighborhood revitalization through education, innovative development, partnerships, and long-term relationships with families.

HOMEFRONT is produced three times a year for donors, sponsors, volunteers, and friends of Atlanta Habitat for Humanity, one of the largest builders of affordable single-family homes in Atlanta.

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Atlanta Interfaith Build Recalls History, Marks 10th House Build

Atlanta Habitat’s commitment to creating engagement opportunities for all faith-congregations has been essential to both the foundation of our mission and the growth Atlanta Habitat has been fortunate enough to experience since its founding in 1983. An important part of this growth has come from interfaith relationships.

Many of these interfaith congregants joined together after 9-11, sensing that the faith community needed to not only discuss faith-relations, but to also put their discussion into action through hands-on service. In 2002, Atlanta Habitat’s leadership and board acknowledged the importance of interfaith bridge-building and dialogue, and was interested in bringing that concept of ‘bridge-building’ to the mission of building communities. What has since emerged and flourished is what Atlanta Habitat now calls the “Atlanta Interfaith Build.”

This group is the hub of the interfaith community in the city. Many are actively involved or work at places of faith or interfaith, such as the Faith Alliance of Metro Atlanta (FAMA), one of the leading groups since 2002.

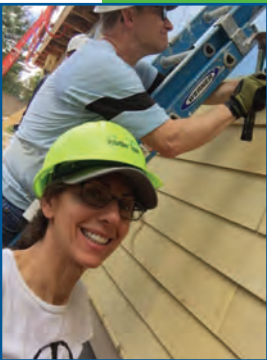
This fall marks the 10th home that this coalition has collectively funded and built as they have transcended racial, ethnic and faith boundaries.

The 16-community partners that have funded and built the 2016 Atlanta Interfaith home include The Atlanta Masjid of Al-Islam, Buckhead Community Fellowship, Catholic Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Congregation Bet Haverim, Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, Faith Alliance of Metro Atlanta, First Christian Church of Decatur, Northwest Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Oakhurst Baptist Church, Oakhurst Presbyterian Church, Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Temple Sinai, The Sally & Peter Parsonson Foundation, The Shumacher Group Inc., and The Shia Imami Ismaili Council for SE USA.



The Habitat Build - I Finally "Got It"

- Audrey Galex, Faith Alliance of Metro Atlanta, President of the Board



Seven weeks later, I finally got it. For years, Jan Swanson, a leading individual in the Atlanta interfaith community and founding member of Faith Alliance of Metro Atlanta, has passionately insisted that FAMA be a part of the annual interfaith build for Atlanta Habitat. For years, FAMA has provided financial support and a sprinkling of volunteers. And I admit that I wasn’t one of them. I just didn’t get it.

About six years ago, I interviewed FAMA Muslim board member Nafeesah Madyun for a segment on Atlanta Interfaith Broadcasters (AIB) network as she measured and cut pieces of wood. I think we also grabbed video of Nassar Madyun taking pictures. I recall interviewing a Hindu mom and her son. I spoke with the homeowner, who, side by side with others, nailed wood siding onto her own house. I confess: I felt I’d done enough by reporting on the build and didn’t need to participate. Plus: I was intimidated, and it was cold. I didn’t get it.

Last year, I made a lackluster attempt to join the build. I can honestly say: I still didn’t get it. I never got there.

Fast forward to June 2016. A new voice on the FAMA board and employee of Atlanta Habitat, Haley Hart, joined Jan in urging FAMA board members and our loved ones to roll up our sleeves and volunteer.

And so I finally did. On Sunday, August 7, the first of seven Sundays, when I witnessed the couple who would eventually live in the house, nail the first nails, I got it. When I was invited to take a felt-tip pen and write a blessing on a beam to the family, I got it. When I stood shoulder-to-shoulder pushing walls up, I got it.

And if we have spoken since, you have probably heard me rave about the build and invite you to join me on the next one. And my deep sense of gratification knowing that I was even a small part of helping a family achieve the dream of owning their own home. I think you’ll get it.

Board Members on a Build



It was a perfect fall Saturday for football and building houses. Several Atlanta Habitat board members chose the latter to help Tameka Alston and her family finish their new home in time for the new year. From roofing to siding and every task in between— board members (from left) John Goff, M. Brantley Barrow, his spouse Sharon, Brendon spouse of board member Judy Train, Eric Hilton and Board Chair Darryl Hicks (not pictured) were among those helping to build Ms. Alston’s Westside Atlanta house.



Homebuyer Tameka Alston, pausing briefly from installing her ceiling insulation, says she is ecstatic about building her own home. “Learning the tasks to build a house is exciting! The more knowledge you have about your home, the better you will take care of it,” she said.

Delta Air Lines and Atlanta Habitat “Welcome Home” Two New Homeowners

New Atlanta Habitat homeowners and neighbors April Buggs and Marian Simmons were excited to raise the American flag on their new homes with the help of Delta Air Lines volunteers following their house dedication ceremonies in September.

While the American flag represents many things; for April and Marian, it marked the beginning of an American dream. One hundred Delta employees worked alongside the two moms helping each build their new four-bedroom/two-bathroom homes.



Celebrating the home dedications for A. Buggs (front center) and M. Simmons (right) are Delta Air Lines volunteers David Bertis and Kim Mills-Smith, Atlanta Habitat for Humanity board member Dana Halberg and President/CEO Lisa Y. Gordon, and Delta volunteer Scott Meader.



Homeowner April Buggs gets help from Delta Air Lines volunteers with raising the flag on her new northwest Atlanta home.



Homeowner Marian Simmons raises the flag on her new northwest Atlanta home.

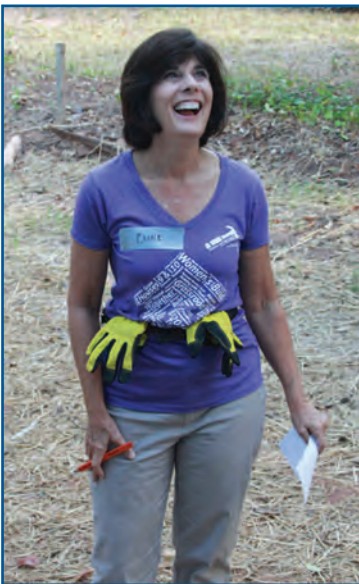
AWB has Record-Building Year

Nearly 30 empowering women executives exchanged their business suits and high-heels for work boots and hard hats to help build two houses for the Atlanta Women’s Build this fall. Since 2003, the Atlanta Women’s build has focused on building one home a year when possible; however, this year the women were able to sponsor and construct two homes for two working mothers. The AWB has built a total of 10 homes.

The women worked alongside Destiney Cantrell, one of the two homeowners—cutting, nailing and installing window trim, stairs and soffit as well as painting and building stairs. Following the morning’s work that included a bit of laughter, sweat and selfies—the women were already talking of plans to continue the momentum and build two houses again in 2017.

“The Executive Women’s Build Day is a very special opportunity for female leaders from a cross section of Atlanta’s public and private companies, nonprofit organizations, and government/civic leaders to come together to work on behalf of a hardworking and deserving mother and professional who is seeking to improve her family’s life by owning her own home,” said Susan M. Boyd, AWG Co-Chair. “The experience is life changing for all involved.”

The Atlanta Women’s Build is a grassroots effort led by all women - who raise funds to sponsor and construct an Atlanta Habitat for Humanity home. The two houses will be ready in time for homebuyers Cantrell and neighbor Chanethia Simpson to spend the holiday season in them.



Congratulations to VGA Scholarship Winners!

Atlanta Habitat’s new Vision, Goals, Action education program has two winners for our inaugural program. Homeowners Lakeisha Brown and Crystal Green each received \$2,500 scholarships in October to take them to the next step in reaching their goals beyond homeownership.

Brown is a patient care technician and enrolled at Clayton State University. She has owned a Clark Howard sponsored home since 2009. She says the scholarship is “life-changing” for her. It will help pay for books and other education expenses as she pursues a degree in nursing. She wants to become a Registered Nurse for pediatric care.

Green has been an Atlanta Habitat homeowner since 2012. “I have been praying for this!” she exclaims. Green is currently studying culinary arts at Atlanta Technical College and will graduate next summer. Her ultimate dream is to start a food truck that will serve southern soul-food and BBQ from a family recipe. The inaugural scholarship awards were made possible through an anonymous donor.

Family Services launched VGA this year as an expansion of its Home Smart Education Program. VGA speaks to the part of Atlanta Habitat’s mission to build long-term relationships with families. The winners were selected from 16 candidates who submitted an application, personal statement, and letters of recommendation. Their application packets were reviewed and scored by a committee representing the Atlanta Habitat board, staff and a private donor.

Atlanta Women’s Foundation Grant Helps Homeowners Reach Beyond the Possible

The Atlanta Women’s Foundation is helping future Atlanta Habitat homeowners with a \$20,000 grant to support our new Vision, Goals, Action (VGA) education program.

VGA empowers homeowners and their families to take the next step of developing a life vision and to build on their success of homeownership. From guidance on managing their finances, facilitating relationships with colleges, universities and trade schools to motivating and encouraging families to reach higher goals, Atlanta Habitat’s education program focuses on building a sense of confidence, independence and community in homeowners and supporting their personal growth.

In many cases, with the stability of a home, there is a desire to move to a better paying job or a higher-level career position. A grant such as this one and our strategic partnerships allow homeowners to reach beyond what they thought was possible. They discover untapped skills, new vocational interests and their capacity to achieve higher goals through our partnerships with hiring agencies, businesses and organizations for paths to employment, including entrepreneurship programs targeting single parents.



Mohawk Covers Our Homes and Work

Mohawk Industries has been one of Atlanta Habitat’s greatest supporters for nearly 10 years. Long-term Atlanta Habitat Advisory Board member Jenny Cross is credited for sustaining the Mowark relationship.

In addition to their volunteers lending their muscles to build Atlanta Habitat homes, every square inch of flooring in our homes are covered with Mohawk carpet or vinyl. Our new homeowners also receive a special gift of Mohawk rugs following their mortgage closing. The Atlanta Habitat team is reminded everyday of Mohawk’s dedication as about 11,000 square-feet of our headquarters is covered in Mohawk flooring, and the company consistently donates flooring to our ReStore.



APD Academy Recruits Help with Neighborhood Clean Up

Atlanta Police Training Academy recruits joined members of our operations team for a neighborhood cleanup in the Dixie Hills community. The cleanup operation was more than a community service project for 30 members of Police Academy class #246.

The recruits kicked off the morning with a tour of an Atlanta Habitat home in our Verbena subdivision. They later paired up with Atlanta Habitat staff to clean several blocks including removing dozens of abandoned tires while getting familiar with the neighborhood. These

recruits will graduate from the academy later this year.

APD Training Academy first partnered with Atlanta Habitat on Earth



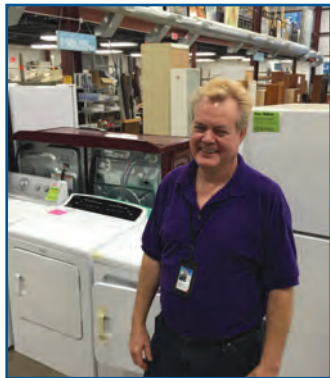
Day this year for a neighborhood cleanup in Dixie Hills. As part of our mission to be a catalyst for neighborhood revitalization, Atlanta Habitat encourages police officers to consider buying their first home with us.



ReStore Shopper Recalls Swinging Hammers as Volunteer

Earl Dabney first learned about our mission when he helped to build an Atlanta Habitat for Humanity house with his dad nearly 30 years ago.

While shopping at our ReStore, he recalls the fond memories of having fun while swinging hammers. “Not only do I find great deals at the Atlanta Habitat ReStore, I’m also glad it supports such a great mission,” he said. Dabney works on a computer most of the day as a software engineer, so he enjoys spending his free time making sawdust and tangible things. He has created light fixtures, sliding white boards and projects for friends. “I’m always looking to repurpose things, and you never know what you’re going to find here. It’s part of the fun! I keep asking myself, ‘What project can I make out of this?’”



Include the ReStore on Your Holiday Shopping Trips

Atlanta Habitat ReStore is a place to inspire creative holiday gift shoppers. Just like the big box stores, our ReStore will feature special holiday promotions throughout the season.

To allow our families and volunteers time to enjoy the holiday season with their families, the ReStore will be closed Friday, Dec. 23 thru Sunday, Dec. 25. It will reopen on Monday, Dec. 26. To donate, shop or volunteer, visit <http://www.atlantahabitat.org/restore>.

Special Features

Your Gift Empowers Families

As the year draws to a close, we invite you to consider making a year-end gift to Atlanta Habitat. Your gift will support our vision of an Atlanta where all people have access to quality affordable housing in safe, vibrant neighborhoods.

Your gifts will also support our premier homeowner education program that empowers families by teaching them how to care for their homes, manage finances, and become leaders in their neighborhoods and communities. As a result of our robust education program, our families have a 96 percent success rate in their homeownership.

We are proud to have a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator for sound fiscal management for eight consecutive years and to hold a Gold Level rating with Guidestar, the leading symbol of transparency and accountability. You can be assured your gift is being used wisely.

Donate to day at <http://www.atlantahabitat.org/donate>. Atlanta Habitat sincerely appreciates your generosity.



From the Mouths of Babes

CK and Magenta are among Atlanta Habitat's youngest donors. For the second year in a row, now five and a half-years-old CK and his three-year-old sister stopped by our headquarters to deliver his annual gift. CK saves money he receives to give to Atlanta Habitat. He told his mom over a year ago: "I have too much money. I should give some away...what about to people who don't have homes so that they can have a home?"

According to CK's mom, Mila, "Habitat is always on his mind whenever he comes across money--whether it's a gift, or he finds some, or receives some for doing something out of the ordinary." She adds that they identified Atlanta Habitat for CK because it matches what he had in mind--helping people have homes. This year, Magenta followed in her brother's footsteps and contributed as well. The two contributed a total of \$61.

Dunwoody UMC Returns with a Brush With Kindness

"It's a just a blessing. Habitat has been so good to me," shared Mary Ann Melvin as volunteers from Dunwoody United Methodist Church helped to paint her home--again, but this time a pale pink, one of Melvin's favorite colors. Melvin clearly remembers.

It was 21 years ago when she bought her Atlanta Habitat home and house sponsor, Dunwoody UMC and its member-volunteers, helped to build it.



Atlanta Habitat homeowner Mary Ann Melvin and Jack Whitley take a break from painting her Atlanta Habitat home as part of the organization's Brush with Kindness project.

On this sunny, breezy Saturday morning, many of those volunteers returned to give their first Atlanta Habitat build a Brush With Kindness-- a program that helps our homeowners maintain the beauty of their home. For sponsors and volunteers like Dunwoody UMC, the program builds on the friendship that they created with Ms. Melvin more than two decades ago. This year, Jack Whitley, who coordinates the builds on behalf of his church, and 20 volunteers cleaned, replaced

outdoor lighting, and more before applying a fresh coat of exterior paint to the three-bedroom and two-bathroom home in Reynoldstown.

"It's a joy to see Mary Ann again and this brings back some terrific memories for our church. This is the first house we ever built back in 1995. To come back, its poignant for us," Jack said. The group was delighted to have a reunion with Melvin who spoke of doing some interior repairs on the home next spring.

"I'm preparing to retire in 2018 after 25 years as a certified nursing assistant. I want to make sure I got my house safe and looking good, and I'm so appreciative of Dunwoody United Methodist," Melvin said. Dunwoody UMC hosts an annual holiday festival, which raises funds each year to sponsor an Atlanta Habitat house build. Last year's festival raised enough to sponsor a house and to sponsor a Brush With Kindness.

First Global Village Trip Set For Dominican Republic

Atlanta Habitat will host its first ever Global Village Trip in 2017. We are seeking volunteers to join us in the Dominican Republic to help build homes for hard-working families in San Juan of la Maguana and Azua which is about three hours from Santo Domingo.

The trip is Saturday, April 1 - Sunday, April 9, 2017. Habitat Global Village trips are self-funded. The program cost

is \$1,700 plus roundtrip transportation. Deadline to register is December 10, 2016.

To register, visit www.atlantahabitat.org/gvdr2017 or contact Haley Hart at haley.hart@atlantahabitat.org or 404-465-1055 or Sarah Richardson at sarah.richardson@atlantahabitat.org or 404-465-1048.