

ATLANTA HABITAT LAUNCHES VETERANS INITIATIVE

In the United States, nearly 4 million families of veterans spend more than 30 percent of their income on housing. More than 1.5 million of these households pay more than 50 percent of their income on housing, a severe cost burden.

To help address this critical need, Atlanta Habitat for Humanity is proud to announce our new Veterans Initiative. Our goal is to help U.S. veterans, military service members and their families improve their current homes by addressing *critical home repairs*, refresh or learn new skills through *training*, and connect them with their community through *volunteer service opportunities*.

In April, The Home Depot Foundation granted us \$195,000 to complete critical home repairs for veteran families through our *Repair With Kindness* program. Currently, we have completed repairs for one veteran, and eight others have been approved for our program. In partnership with United Way of Greater Atlanta, veterans are attending our Home Smart homeowner classes. So far in 2016, we have connected with three veteran service organizations - Team Rubicon; Team Red, White and Blue; and The Mission Continues - on new home construction projects. Fifteen veterans from The Mission Continues built with the Thompson and Jenkins families on the Team Clark Howard build in February. Members of Wounded Warriors volunteer once each month in our ReStore. Don Shaw, a U.S. Army veteran and an Atlanta Habitat volunteer Skilled Supervisor, serves on our Veterans Initiative committee.



Members of the Wounded Warriors group volunteered in our ReStore, helping Steve and Rosemary Williams (left) complete their required sweat-equity hours for our Repair With Kindness program. Repair With Kindness provides critical home repair for non-Habitat homeowners to help ensure they have safe, dry and accessible houses.



Of course, we continue to be proud of our homeowners who are veterans. We built with veteran Stephanie Wilson in September 2015, providing an accessible home for her daughter, and we are ready for a home-start in June with another qualified homebuyer who served in the military.

You can help us serve more veterans. If you know a veteran interested in homeownership, in need of critical home repair or interested in our classes, contact us at atlantahabitatoutreach@atlantahabitat.org (404-223-5180).

If you're a veteran who would like to volunteer, visit atlantahabitat.org/individuals to sign up as an individual or contact drew.mcguiffin@atlantahabitat.org (404-465-1016) to organize a volunteer project for a group of veterans. With your help, we can *build* awareness, help *educate* the public, *mobilize* volunteers and *honor* service to our country.

Letter from the President



As we celebrate Memorial Day, I am very proud of the sacrifice that our veterans have made for our country. In this issue of *Homefront*, we salute their work and are pleased to share with you how our critical repair program, *Repair With Kindness*, is having an impact on veterans by providing services to improve their homes and ensure they are safe, dry and accessible. We are thankful to have received a generous grant from The Home Depot Foundation. Since 2011, the Foundation has focused its philanthropic efforts on improving the homes and lives of our U.S. military veterans and their families. In Atlanta,

they have pledged to invest \$5 million in critical home repairs for veterans. Our program was awarded \$195,000 to support more than a dozen veterans this year, and the work has already begun.

From a personal perspective, this program is very special. My father served in the Air Force, was deployed in the Korean War and always spoke fondly of his military experience. My big brother is an Army veteran who served in both Desert Storm operations. I can remember our family meeting him at the airport to spend a few hours with him before he was deployed and on return trip layovers. We were so fortunate to have him return safely from both missions. As a now-retired veteran, I see his continued commitment to his community. Every time we help a veteran, I am thankful we can give a hand-up to the men and women who so bravely protect us. It is our honor to work with many partners to help our veterans thrive.

Lisa Y. Gordon, CPA
President and CEO



Team Habattack had a great time running in the Run As One 5K at Piedmont Park supporting Atlanta veterans. All proceeds from Run As One are used to fund veterans' programs through three organizations.



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HOMEFRONT is an informational newsletter produced three times per 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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SPECIAL THANKS
Charlotte Cloyd, Jeani Elbaum, Geneva Hall-Shelton, Dorothy Hammond, Haley Hart, Melinda Kelleher, Jody Klein, Melissa Klein, Drew McGuffin, Sarah Richardson, Aaron Sibley

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MISSION STATEMENT
Atlanta Habitat for Humanity partners with working families, sponsors, and communities to build affordable, green, quality homes and to provide support services that promote successful home purchase and ownership.

PHOTOGRAPHY
Charlotte Cloyd, James Duckworth, Jeani Elbaum, Cher Hains, Haley Hart, Clayton Ivey Sr., Melinda Kelleher, Mattison Lewis, Alison Sibley, Foris Webb Jr., Teak Wilson.
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DESIGN
Thoroughbred Design Group

“I THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX”

Dolores Smith’s entire family was involved in the application process for their Atlanta Habitat house. When a Homeowner Selection Committee volunteer met Dolores at her apartment, all four of her children were part of the interview.

Dolores wanted a home for those children. Her college-age daughter plans to go into the mental health field. Her son, a high school senior, plays football, is in ROTC and has recruiters interested in drafting him as a professional soccer player. The younger twins have already decided on their career paths. One wants to be a professional basketball player, while the other plans to be an obstetrician. All had been making average grades but became honor roll students after moving into their new home.

When Dolores was shown a lot in The Avery subdivision, which Atlanta Habitat built in partnership with the Southern Crescent affiliate in the Jonesboro area, she felt right at home. “I felt like the house was waiting for me,” she said. “As I watched my kids walk around the neighborhood, I knew we were home.” That’s the sense of neighborhood Atlanta Habitat creates.

Dolores herself can’t be stopped. She’s self-published seven novels and three children’s books, owns a cleaning business, and makes and markets baby dolls called Reborns. She and her family are truly thriving, building fulfilling lives for themselves and contributing to their community.



Dolores Smith closed on her home in December 2015. As an Atlanta Habitat homeowner, she’s making a difference for herself and her family, realizing a positive impact on her place in the world.

DUNWOODY UNITED METHODIST CHOOSES BLITZ BUILD

Dunwoody United Methodist Church, a dedicated house sponsor, completed its 26th house in April! But this year was different. Rather than building on seven consecutive Saturdays, the congregation chose a Blitz Build, completing the home on two Saturdays and during the workweek.



To learn more about a Blitz Build, Dunwoody UMC reached out to Peachtree Presbyterian, another longtime sponsor with experience in this area. For example, how do you recruit 40 volunteers a day during the week? One answer was to have congregants ask their co-workers

to join in. Rev. Dan Brown, Dunwoody UMC’s senior pastor, encouraged everyone on his staff to take a day off to build. Also both Simpsonwood United Methodist Church members and the Georgia United Methodist Foundation staff took time out of their week to build with the Dunwoody church.

Dunwoody UMC fully funds its builds through the Dunwoody Holiday Festival. Jack and Bette Whitley have served as build coordinators for many years. This year, the church built with the Lane/Welch family, whose household includes two small children and Mr. Lane’s mother.



PARTNERSHIP WITH ATLANTA POLICE LEADS TO BEAUTIFUL EARTH DAY CLEANUP

On April 22, 40 recruits from the Atlanta Police Academy were joined by staff and homeowners from Atlanta Habitat for Humanity to help clean up trash in the Dixie Hills neighborhood in southwest Atlanta. The group covered five streets, filled a dumpster, and dropped off approximately 50 tires at the City's Earth Day drop-off location. Neighbors came out on their porches and stopped as they drove by to thank everyone for their service.



Atlanta Police recruits, members of our staff and Atlanta Habitat homeowners worked in the Dixie Hills neighborhood near our homes at Verbena Place.

Said Lisa Y. Gordon, President and CEO of Atlanta Habitat, "Despite the rain, everyone was fired up and ready to go. We especially thank Sgt. Felicia Claxton and the amazing Academy recruits. Together, we can revitalize communities and improve lives for all Atlantans."

Atlanta Habitat has currently built more than 25 homes in the Verbena subdivision in the community and also has selected this area for its new program, *Repair With Kindness*. The initiative

focuses on critical repairs for non-Habitat homeowners, with an emphasis on assisting seniors and veterans.

RESTORE OFFERS A GREAT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY



Every month, veterans like Teak-Safiya Wilson volunteer in our ReStore, our retail outlet for new and gently used furniture, appliances, home accessories, building materials and more. All net proceeds help support Atlanta Habitat's mission. Shop. Donate. Volunteer. The ReStore is open Monday - Saturday, 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Register for volunteer orientation at atlantahabitat.org/restore-volunteer.



ATLANTA HABITAT KICKS OFF ACE MENTORING PROGRAM

Through a new partnership with the national ACE (Architecture, Construction and Engineering) Mentor Program, Atlanta Habitat is helping high schoolers learn about skilled trades. The construction industry is aging, and our skilled trades are largely populated by people 5-10 years away from retirement. We have only a small pool of young workers to take over when our current plumbers, electricians, welders, masons and others retire.



Group leaders Aaron Sibley, Atlanta Habitat, Site Planning and Design (left); David Barker, Faith Technologies (front); Mark Honeycutt, GE (middle); Gwen Cook, Decatur High School teacher (standing, right); and Charlotte Cloyd, Atlanta Habitat, house leader (kneeling) enthusiastically supported our first ACE class.

ACE is helping fill that gap, and Atlanta Habitat now has an ACE chapter. In early May, we completed a four-month program with Decatur High School's drafting program and a diverse group of mentors that included architects, engineers, electricians, teachers and our own house leaders - all of whom volunteered their time. Students were involved in hands-on activities once a week. In one session, house leaders showed various column, railing and shutter designs we use, and students designed and built columns and railings installed on a recent build.



Audrey Miller (left) and Madi Turner work on a structural tower exercise, building with tape, string, spaghetti ... and a marshmallow on top.

Atlanta Habitat has the perfect facility to expose everyone to the wonders of building, and we have support from the construction community at large. ACE will give us a chance to develop connections for these students they can leverage after they leave high school. As we develop our program, we will add several more schools and expose a greater range of students to different areas of construction. When students come back for a second or third year of ACE, we'll be able to pair them with house leaders so they can go through the entire build process.

FOCUS ON YOUTH

A partnership between The Lovett School and Atlanta Habitat will further Lovett's mission to "develop learners who are prepared to think and act with empathy as responsible global citizens in an increasingly diverse landscape" as well as Atlanta Habitat's mission to change the lives of families and neighborhoods through revitalization of communities. Among other possibilities, students can attend a Welcome Home simulation seminar to help them understand both the challenges and benefits our homeowners encounter in owning their first home, lead programming for other student groups, and volunteer in our ReStore. Faculty will be able to take advantage of professional development opportunities.

Recently, several youth participated in Cooking Matters, a six-class series held in conjunction with Open Hand Atlanta, in which families learn about healthy recipes and actually cook in class and take home fresh produce. Our Family Services group has developed family-friendly classes - which children and youth can attend to help fulfill their family's sweat-equity requirements, if needed. We plan to launch financial classes for youth later this year.

Construction welcomes youth over 16 on our build sites, and our recent Pope Francis build brought out teens from Cristo Rey Atlanta, Emory University Catholic Center, Georgia State Habitat for Humanity Chapter, Holy Spirit Prep, Marist School, Notre Dame Academy, St. Paul of the Cross Teen Ministry and St. Pius X High School. On our recent build in honor of Pope Francis, almost one-third of the volunteers were college, university or high school students - and a group of middle schoolers not old enough to build provided a day's lunch.

About 18 students from Holy Spirit Preparatory School arrived on the build site in December in the freezing cold. The students quickly warmed up when they met the homeowner and learned that she had a personal stake in helping to build. "Going on the Atlanta Habitat for Humanity build really inspired me. I learned that others are NOT as fortunate as I am. It was great to see the smile on the homeowner's face when we left, and she saw the amount of work that we had done for her," said Jesse Zurovchak, an 11th grader at Holy Spirit.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO VOLUNTEERS

Atlanta Habitat’s volunteer program is a hallmark of our organization. With generous donations of time, energy and enthusiasm, we can help even more homeowners build, thrive and grow. Our volunteers are everywhere - building porch railings in the warehouse, working on construction sites, teaching classes, stocking inventory at the ReStore and assisting office staff with mailings - among many other contributions.

This past year, 97 volunteers contributed 100+ hours, qualifying for the 2015 Century Club, and 22 men and women who contributed 250+ hours during the year received our President’s Volunteer Service Award. More than 170 dedicated individuals attended our Volunteer Appreciation Event in April.

Volunteers of the Year Mark Honeycutt and Colleen Joyce (shown) were part of an outstanding group of nominees that included Angelique DeLeva, budget coach; Will Klein, warehouse; Scott Miller, ReStore; and Keith Wahlig, warehouse.

Mark Honeycutt, 2015 Volunteer of the Year, was an AmeriCorps assistant house leader in 2004 - 2005 and has been involved as a Skilled Supervisor ever since. He can lead any task and is an invaluable help to our construction staff.



Colleen Joyce (center), 2015 Volunteer of the Year, has served as the build coordinator for Cathedral of Christ the King for more than 10 years. On construction sites, she runs decking, walls and trusses and is always encouraging to other volunteers.

Thoughts From a Volunteer of the Year

Colleen Joyce

It all began in 2005 a few weeks before Lent. I was having a conversation with Fr. Richard Morrow, my parish priest from Christ the King, lamenting the fact that I couldn’t decide what to give up for Lent that year. Diet Coke? Chocolate? Wine? And he said to me, “Colleen, we have a ministry here at CTK called Habitat for Humanity. For the seven Saturdays during Lent, parishioners will go out and build a home for someone in the Atlanta community. That’s what you should do. Give of your time instead of giving something up this year.” Then he smiled, winked at me and said, “And Colleen, be sure to listen because you just might learn something.”

Never have truer words been spoken. Eleven years later, I am proud to say that I can build a wall, set a

truss, shingle, put up siding, install a window and even read a tape measure accurately to an 1/8 of an inch. But I have learned so much more that I will never be able to repay. From every homeowner and house leader. From every Atlanta Habitat staff member and volunteer. From every Skilled Supervisor past and present. I have learned resiliency and determination. Kindness and compassion. Dignity and respect. Understanding and patience. Friendship, love and so much more.

So when people ask -“You volunteer with Habitat for Humanity every Saturday?” - I will continue to answer with a resounding YES because I can think of nowhere else I would rather be.

2016 NUMBERS THAT MATTER!

CONSTRUCTION

6

new homes completed

1

Repair With Kindness project completed

VOLUNTEERS & SPONSORS

2,734

volunteers donated a total of

25,654

hours

Value of volunteer time:

\$615,000

39

sponsor groups built and renovated homes

FAMILY SERVICES

37

classes offered

9

laptops were awarded to families completing the computer class

RESTORE

Sold Over

423

cabinets

517

doors

1,500

pieces of furniture

2,400

light fixtures

6,400

hardware items

8,400

tiles

500

plants

Quarter 1 - 2016

EVERY DOLLAR COUNT\$

DONATION	IMPACT	
\$10 - \$49	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Paint Brush (\$10)Light Fixture (\$25)Framing Hammer (\$30)Fire Extinguisher (\$35)Stair Package for Entrance to Home (\$40)	
\$50 - \$199	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Medicine Cabinet (\$50)Interior Door (\$75)Attic Stairs (\$100)Window (\$125)Exterior Door (\$175)Tree for Yard (\$180)	
\$200 - \$999	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Alarm System (\$250)Paint Supplies (\$300)Paint for Entire Home (\$500)Roof Decking (\$550)Landscaping (\$750)	
\$1K - \$10K	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Insulation (\$1,000)Siding (\$1,300)Shingles (\$1,500)Flooring (\$2,000)Kitchen Cabinets/Countertops (\$2,500)Electrical (\$3,500)</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Plumbing (\$4,500)Heating & Air Conditioning (\$6,000)Foundation (\$10,000)</div>	

Special Features

HEARTFELT THANKS TO DONORS



Atlanta Habitat was thrilled to honor our Clark Howard Society and Cornerstone Club donors on April 20. The gathering included remarks from our President and CEO, Lisa Gordon; Clark Howard; and one of our homeowners, Yosiah Israel. Yosiah purchased his Atlanta Habitat home when he was just 23! His parents and younger brother and sister live with him. Yosiah is providing stability for his family and setting a wonderful example for his siblings. Thank you to these donors who make our work possible!

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Be part of our community!



Like. Follow. Subscribe. View. Connect.



www.atlantahabitat.org

We're thrilled that so many of you stay in touch - and share with your friends. In the first 15 weeks of this year, 820 Facebook followers joined us. That's nearly double from the previous reporting period!

Stats as of May 3

Facebook: 8,093
Instagram: 1,648
Twitter: 1,556
YouTube: 29,517 views
ReStore Instagram: 2,822
ReStore Twitter: 1,026



For more information on Atlanta Habitat, visit atlantahabitat.org. Follow us:

