



FALL 2015

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Community Sponsors Team Up for Gwinnett Habitat's 128th Home Build

Hard working volunteers from CareerBuilder, ViaSat and The Gwinnett Women's Council of REALTORS® joined forces recently to build the 128th Gwinnett Habitat for Humanity home on Bristol Lane in Duluth, GA. A burned out home was cleared from this location, and it remained empty for many years until the owner donated it to Gwinnett Habitat. Now the Abubakers are the proud homeowners of the beautiful home that stands on this previously vacant lot. Meet the sponsors who helped make this dream a reality.

CareerBuilder has been sponsoring home builds since 2008 and is a global leader in human capital solutions. Bristol Lane is their 7th home build with our ministry. We asked CareerBuilder how supporting and volunteering with Gwinnett Habitat helps their company to live up to their commitment of community giving and their response was: *"Working on the Habitat homes provides us with a great opportunity to give back to the community and to bond as a team while we work together to help build an affordable home for a family in need"*.



CareerBuilder

The Gwinnett Women's Council of REALTORS® has had a long-standing relationship with Gwinnett Habitat for Humanity. They formed a partnership with us in 2004, and it became a perfect match, since both of our organizations are dedicated to helping families realize the American dream of owning a home. *"It's a great experience to be at a home build site and soon-to-be someone's home, and to also experience the camaraderie of the team and joy for the family, while learning safety tips and proper use of equipment."* In 2009, The Gwinnett Women's Council of REALTORS® created the "HOOFIN FOR HABITAT 5K Run" to support Gwinnett Habitat and it's been a great success ever since. Be on the look-out for the upcoming race on Saturday, August 29th.



The Gwinnett Women's Council of REALTORS®

ViaSat is known for its global satellite, wireless and other digital communication networks, but they are also known for their work in the community. *"We are very involved with the charities our employees support and Gwinnett Habitat seems to be one of their favorites. We believe in giving back and paying it forward...to be a leader in community outreach is just a natural fit."* The message that ViaSat wants to



ViaSat

~ continued >



Greetings from Your Habitat for Humanity ReStore

On Saturday, August 8th, the ReStore celebrated their five-year anniversary. There was a wonderful celebration with games, a silent auction, great food and an anniversary cake. There were also special discounts on all the inventory in the store.

The celebration was our way to say “THANK YOU” to our donors, customers and volunteers for their amazing support over the last five years. We could not have been as successful as we have been without their ongoing support. We are so grateful for ALL you do for us. You are such a blessing to us.

We look forward to many more years of success at your ReStore and continuing to generate funds to support our Habitat for Humanity work of building homes and hope in our Gwinnett community and around the world.

Warm Regards,

Paul Ingbritsen
 ReStore Manager

SuburbanAtlantaReStores.org

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share with potential supporters is to “Just get out there and volunteer. You will walk away enriched by the experience—knowing that you have done something special for someone in need. And you cannot put a price on that.” ViaSat also has a message for homeowners, “those of us who have worked alongside you to build your home really care about you and in the founding principles of Habitat for Humanity. Gwinnett Habitat volunteers are a special group of caring, talented folks who are willing to share their knowledge and use their skills to help others in need.”

“Kudos” to CareerBuilder, The Gwinnett Women’s Council of REALTORS®, and ViaSat for their on-going support of our affordable housing ministry.

To learn more about becoming a Habitat church or business sponsor, please call the Gwinnett Habitat for Humanity office at 770-931-8080, ext. 15.

What’s it Like Being a Gwinnett Habitat Volunteer?

“It’s a fun and rewarding volunteer opportunity that really makes a difference in people’s lives.”

~Jay/ViaSat Volunteer



“Serving at the Habitat project is an incredibly rewarding experience for everyone involved... making for an enjoyable day of giving back, even though the work can be strenuous and tiring—it’s worth every minute!”

~CareerBuilder Volunteer



“We are so proud to be associated with Gwinnett Habitat for Humanity! Thanks for allowing us to serve you!”

~WCR Volunteer



Help Us Find Adequate Land and Properties!

As Gwinnett County continues to grow, acquiring land for Gwinnett Habitat’s home projects is becoming more challenging. If you are aware of raw land for sale, or houses for sale that are in need of repair, renovation or demolition, we’d love to hear from you!

We are looking for RAW LAND that:

- ✓ is a buildable lot for a 1,200–1,500 square foot house
- ✓ cost under \$25,000 (20% of appraised home value)
- ✓ could be donated (donor will receive a letter of donation for tax purposes)
- ✓ are salvaged due to storm damage/fire, foreclosed or are HUD properties

We are looking for HOUSES to rehab or demo that:

- ✓ cost under \$60,000
- ✓ are salvaged due to storm damage/fire, foreclosed or are HUD properties
- ✓ could be donated (donor will receive a letter of donation for tax purposes)

If you know or are aware of such properties or would like to speak to us about the sale or donation of your property, please contact our Executive Director, Brent Bohanan, at (770) 826-4638 or bbohanan@habitatgwinnett.org.

Thank you for your support and for helping us to create affordable housing in Gwinnett County.





Meet the Abubaker Family

Meet our Newest Homeowners The Abubaker Family

Abdurahman and Eled Abubaker immigrated to the United States from Ethiopia in 2001. In 2009, Eled fulfilled her dream and became a naturalized U.S. citizen. Six years later, they achieved another milestone by becoming homeowners. The Abubaker's home on Bristol Lane in Duluth, was dedicated on August 5th.

The Abubakers are very family-oriented, and their number one priority is their three children, 12-year old son, **Yousef**, 11-year

old daughter, **Meriam**, and 7-year old daughter, **Amina**. Abdurahman works as a stocker with a local company, and although his income is limited, he and his family are diligent about living within their means in order to afford a decent home in a safe environment.

Before Habitat, the family resided in an overcrowded 2-bedroom apartment. They are hardworking and are excited to have secured a more appropriate home for their family in partnership with **Gwinnett Habitat for Humanity**. Habitat homeowners are required to put in 250 **Sweat Equity** hours when they are first accepted into the program. Eled jumped right into working on her hours, and quickly accumulated so many we had to put her "on hold"! The Abubakers will now have plenty of room for the kids to run around in the yard.

The family is very grateful to Habitat and all of the sponsors and volunteers for making this home possible.



Did You Hear?

Gwinnett Habitat recently launched an exciting and new community-wide housing program titled *A Brush with Kindness* (ABWK).

This program provides vital home repair and preservation services to elderly and low-income homeowners with improving and maintaining their home. The *A Brush with Kindness* program eases homeowner concerns by providing simple home preservation services that are sensitive, kind and caring to elderly and low-income homeowner circumstances, disability issues and their fixed incomes.

A Brush with Kindness helps these elderly homeowners to reclaim their homes with pride and dignity. **ABWK Habitat** volunteers are also involved with helping with things like exterior painting, exterior handicap ramps and other accessibility needs, other exterior and interior repairs, yard clean-up & landscaping, and critical safety repairs. If you're interested in volunteering for **ABWK**, please call our office at (770) 931-8080.

We would also greatly appreciate your financial support to make this program a community-wide success. We can't do it without you.



Thank you for Investing in Gwinnett Habitat!

To our donors, volunteers and corporate sponsors: thank you for making the work of Gwinnett Habitat possible every day. We are grateful for your partnership with this ministry. Your financial support is critical to our success and research shows that for every dollar spent on prevention, a minimum of \$7 is saved on intervention.

Your generous donations make an incredible difference by helping:

- Give low-income, hard-working families a real chance to own a decent place to live with dignity
- Provide practical life-skill courses to individuals and families in need to break the cycle of poverty
- Build safer communities through our affordable housing initiatives
- Create healthier environments for low-income children to grow and thrive in

Thank you for making these efforts possible!

A Brush With Kindness NEEDS YOU!

Please consider making a donation right now to support this caring home repair program. Your financial support will help us with our labor costs and purchasing the materials to meet the needs of the elderly and low-income population in our community.

Please say **YES** and **mail** your donation in the **enclosed reply envelope** or visit our website and click on the word **DONATE**.
Thank you for your on-going support.

www.GwinnettHabitat.org



Executive Director's Corner

Did you know that there are many elderly homeowners in Gwinnett County that live in challenging circumstances where they are unable to make needed home repairs themselves? Many seniors struggle to keep their homes in livable conditions and many are having to make difficult choices between paying for food, utilities, medication, or home repairs. Many of our elderly neighbors are forgoing much-needed repairs because of limited financial needs, illness or the fear of someone taking advantage of them.

Gwinnett Habitat is doing something to help these seniors in our community. In the fall of 2014, we started a home repair and preservation program called "A Brush with Kindness." To date, we have assisted 10 seniors and have 10 more projects that we must complete by year's end. The need in our community is so great that we are receiving calls regularly from distraught seniors who need help and don't know where to turn. With your support, we will be able to meet this need and allow these seniors to live in a safe and decent environment. Through our "A Brush with Kindness" program, these elderly individuals will know that someone truly cares about them and their well-being. God bless you and THANK YOU for your continued support of this non-profit ministry. You are making a real difference in our community.

Brent S. Bohanan ~ Executive Director



Contact Us:

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Please visit us at:

www.GwinnettHabitat.org

Facebook.com/GwinnettHabitat

Donate, Volunteer, Advocate
Become a *HopeBuilder* and help us meet the needs in Gwinnett County.
▶ *Make a donation* to Gwinnett Habitat.
▶ *Volunteer* on one of our build sites.
▶ *Be an Advocate:* Share the Habitat story with others and help raise awareness.
For more information, visit www.GwinnettHabitat.org or call 770-931-8080.

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