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.habitatgwinnett.org or call 770-931-8080.

Executive Director’s Corner
Did you know that in 1980 the United Nations declared the first Monday in October as World Habitat Day? Habitat for Humanity participates in this international event because we know that adequate shelter is critical to improve opportunities, health and education. Habitat for Humanity’s tried and tested partnership approach helps families acquire decent homes they can afford, as a hand up, not a handout. Since 1976, Habitat has helped more than 6.8 million families improve their living situations in nearly 1,400 communities across the U.S. and in over 70 countries worldwide.

In celebration of World Habitat Day, Gwinnett Habitat partnered with Gwinnett Great Days of Service on October 21st and 22nd, to address specific housing needs in the county with our A Brush with Kindness repair program. A group of volunteers from Sage (HR solutions) and WEG Electric completed a critical service project for a homeowner in our community so that she could continue to live in a safe, decent home for years to come. The homeowner is disabled due to health issues and unable to maintain her home. This led to a visit by the Gwinnett County Quality of Life Unit. Her home received a much needed facelift as the volunteers painted the entire exterior of the house, the career, and a bright future were so close. Finally, the following year good news came that Leanne was not accepted on her first attempt. Although she was disappointed, she did not give up and used the denial reasons as a basis to remedy the matters that needed work, then resubmitted her application the following year. Believing in the mission and vision of Habitat for Humanity’s homeowner partnership and focused on becoming a part of the program, Leanne never lost hope in the future she knew a home would provide for her and her daughters. She was overjoyed to be accepted on the second attempt.

While spending many hours helping other families construct their homes over the next year, Leanne started to discover the partnership with Habitat for Humanity was becoming foundational in developing life skills and community relationships. She also realized, over time, the equity she could build in her home might provide her the resources she would need to help send her daughters to college.

With the confidence gained from classes the Gwinnett Affiliate held for new homeowners and a vision in mind for her children’s future, Leanne decided to return to school while working and serving her sweat-equity hours. She earned credentialing of Graduate Gemologist from the Gemological Institute of America and launched a jewelry business.

Through putting her hard-earned knowledge and the skills she learned in her profession, she realized the equity she could build in her home might provide her the resources she would need to help send her daughters to college.

Don’t be like Leanne DeFrancisco. Join us! Like Leanne, you too can feel the pride and joy of being a part of Habitat for Humanity. She decided to help her family and children in Gwinnett County.

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Lula Jobir: Our Newest Home

Lula currently lives with her 65-year old mother, Worknesh and 10-year old son, Mussab in her sister's apartment. Lula and her son share the bedroom, and her mother sleeps in the living room. Income constraints prevent them from being able to afford a larger apartment. Lula came to United States 16 years ago as an Ethiopian immigrant seeking asylum from the country's harsh politics, and gained her U.S. Citizenship in 2011. Lula is a single parent who works as Certified Animal Care Tech with the Yerkes Primate Center at Emory University. Prior to this job, she worked as a retail associate with J.C. Penney. Although she has been an American Citizen for over 5 years, Lula faced adversities being a single mother in a new country. Her living conditions are not ideal; Lula, her son and her mother all share a 2-bedroom apartment with Lul's sister, in an unsafe neighborhood. Every month residents get notification from the apartment leasing office about crimes that occurred in the neighborhood during the month.

Lula is working hard to establish a decent, affordable home for her family – especially so her son and mother can live under more suitable arrangements. Having a home would be a benefit for the family especially with a young teenage son. Her son Mussab is 11 years old he enjoys playing basketball and soccer. He is really excited about having 1 thing her never bad - his own room.

This is Lul’s second attempt to own a Habitat house. For many years she was in a relatively lower paying, part-time job in retail, and in 2011 she was in a relatively lower paying, part-time job in retail, and in 2011 she did not qualify for the program. Lula didn’t give up. In 2014 with a better paying job, she came back for a second chance and this time was chosen to get a Habitat home.

Lula proclaimed: “I am really truly blessed and humbled to be accepted by Habitat for Humanity. I felt Habitat has been a father figure who guided me gently through this housing process. I can’t thank enough all the Habitat donors, crews, and volunteers that are making this possible.”

Lula is very excited and joyful to see her home transformed, and she also can’t wait to see the look on her mother’s face when she sees the house for the first time; her son is already imagining how to decorate his room.

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 would 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% appraised home value)
- Could be donated (donor will receive a letter of donation for tax purposes)

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 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.