



THE DOORWAY

building homes, communities and hope

FALL 2017

FOUNDED 1988

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Family: Taking care of each other



Building affordable homes to better those in our community is what we've always worked hard to accomplish. We know that helping to provide stability to a family in need highly increases the likelihood of success in all of their lives. It provides security and responsibility with a purpose. These families become our family. And who understands the concept of family better than our veterans? With that, we are thrilled to announce our first Veterans Build. We are now rehabbing a previous Habitat home for a deserving veteran in Sugar Hill.

A few years back, an anonymous donor generously donated their home to Gwinnett Habitat. Though it was not feasible to affordably

help a Habitat family with that exact home, we were able to use the proceeds from its sale to build or rehab homes for veterans in our community. Enter, this home in Sugar Hill. It was previously owned by another Gwinnett Habitat family, and with some major overhaul efforts, it will be a brand new home again, ready to bless someone else.

One of the greatest blessings of this donation, is the ability we have to include veteran supporting sponsors who could not normally afford a build day on their own. This seven week Veterans Build began Thursday, September 21 and will conclude on November 4, weather permitting. We are so excited to work with the following sponsors this fall: Cisco, Military Veterans Professional Association, Meadowcreek High School's culinary program, Gwinnett Public Library, BrandBank, Georgia Gwinnett College, and a day for veterans volunteers in our community.

We need to support our veterans, our family members. We need to value those who drop everything for us.

"We need to honor this person and what they did," said Bridgette Simon of the Military Veterans Professional Association. "Those in the military fight for our freedoms, sometimes deploying at the drop of a hat, sacrificing themselves and their families. And they don't question it. When you leave the military, you are no longer a cherished asset. We need to support our veterans, our family members. We need to value those who drop everything for us."

Simon went on to explain how their organization, made up of employees at the CDC were excited to team up with Gwinnett Habitat. Their goal is ultimately to give back to a family member in need. Simon, now a veteran, was in the Army for 23 years.

One thing we understand at Gwinnett Habitat is family and this is a great example of humans adopting other humans and raising them up. Do you want to meet the veteran who gets to call this their home? To meet them and keep up with this story, follow us on social media. We will see you there! 🏠



Greetings From Your Lawrenceville ReStore

Hurricane season is upon us and the feelings of Fall have arrived! As storms rage through and the weather begins to change, it's a great time to prepare your landscaping and patio set-ups for cooler weather and bonfires. And if Irma caused damage at your home, the ReStore is a great place to shop for affordable home repair items such as windows, doors, and floors.

Gwinnett ReStore offers items and bargains for your projects or renovations, never knowing what treasures or unique items you will find with each visit.

Do you need to find a new home for gently used items? The ReStore is an easy option. To donate, please give us a call on our "Donation Hotline" at 770-962-4200, or schedule your free pickup online at suburbanatlantarestores.org/donate.

We want you to know how grateful we are for your continued support. As a donor, shopper or volunteer, you are helping Habitat build homes and hope for families right here in Gwinnett County and around the world. We could not be successful in our mission without your continued support.

Thank you,

Paul Ingbritsen {ReStore Manager}
+ The staff & volunteers at Gwinnett ReStore

Nurturing Our Community

Gwinnett Habitat's home repair program, A Brush With Kindness (ABWK), serves many clients that are elderly and/or disabled. In fact, nearly 50% of the clients fit this description. For many of these individuals, they need more than a simple repair to their home. For example, some do not own a car and rely on friends and family for transportation. Some have financial needs and are served by the cooperative ministries in the area with groceries or other assistance. There are more than a few that have memory issues and forget to pay bills on time or lack simple organizational skills. There are others who live alone and will use any excuse simply to talk to another person. When ABWK is invited into a client's home, these issues become apparent.

In working with volunteers over the past two years since the program began, some of the sponsors have become aware of these issues that go beyond home repair and have responded in their own way. One of the faith-based sponsors brought out a counselor to talk with the client while the rest of the team performed their repair tasks. Another team of volunteers purchased curtains to give the individual a little more privacy in their home. One volunteer team that had spent many weekends working with a client even attended a funeral when one of the client's family members died. Recently, a sponsor even took a client to the local cooperative ministry to talk with a financial counselor. All such activities are beyond home repair and have led to serious discussion about how Gwinnett Habitat can help.

In considering the needs of the clients and the creative responses by the different volunteers, ABWK has created a program that can address some of these other needs of the elderly and/or disabled. Since many of the repairs take more than one day (e.g., the repairs take multiple projects), Gwinnett Habitat has created a program called Nurturing Our Community. The title of the program came from one of our faith-based sponsors who wanted to do more to help one of the clients.

The goal is for the sponsor to establish a relationship with the client and provide emotional support in addition to home repairs.

Nurturing Our Community is a program in which a sponsor makes a commitment to perform more than one home repair project with a client. The goal is for the sponsor to establish a relationship with the client and provide emotional support in addition to home repairs. While the needs of each client are different, here are some examples of how to nurture a relationship with the client:

- Provide transportation to and from the doctor
- Provide transportation to and from the grocery store
- Provide transportation to and from church
- Coordinate with the local cooperative ministry about the client's needs
- Help organize or "de-clutter" the house
- Call to follow up on doctor's visits or medical treatments
- Call periodically simply to talk
- Drop off a plate of food from a church supper
- Visit on holidays or birthdays

If you or your group is interested in Nurturing Our Community, please contact the Gwinnett Habitat office at: 770-931-8080, ext. 1095. 🏠

Why Give? Stories from new and longtime donors who choose to change lives

Rick & Micki Damato

Since 1989 Rick has been involved as a volunteer, board member and donor locally, regionally and internationally. When he married Micki they spent their honeymoon on a Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter work project on Stanton Island NY fixing homes damaged by Hurricane Sandy. According to Rick, "Some folks wonder why people spend their time and money to travel around the world to build homes with people they do not know...for me, it is many things, including the opportunity to meet people from other cultures. I've been to many places where people have made an indelible mark on my life." Micki believes firmly that supporting Habitat in all ways ensures lasting change. Micki said, "It is uplifting to meet the people we are building for knowing we are changing lives here in Gwinnett and on our annual Carter Work Projects."

Sancha Walker

"Having a home was always a part of me," said Sancha. "I grew up in Jamaica, then moved to Canada and then the US. I always felt I missed out on the stability of one place to call home. I wanted to be sure others would have that opportunity." Starting a new chapter in her life, Sancha believed it was time to stop saying having a stable home was important. She decided to just invest in helping make affordable homes available by donating a large portion of her proceeds from selling a home.

Rosalynne Cole

Rosalynne has always given generously to charity even when she was carefully budgeting to have a down payment for her own home. The stability of owning a home is important to her. She believes the Habitat model for homeownership that requires families to learn to budget their income changes lives for families for the better. Through God's grace she believes she will always have enough to give abundantly to others.

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 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.



Continued from "Why Give?"

Ron and Nancy May

Ron volunteered when his church, Sugarloaf United Methodist Church, sponsored construction on four homes. He then volunteered at the Gwinnett Habitat ReStore. As a result of learning from the "ground up" how the Habitat model works, Ron and Nancy decided helping build safe affordable homes was a cause they wanted to support by giving generously.

Don and Kelly Goldsmith

"Giving a hand up and not a handout" resonated with Don and Kelly when they chose to volunteer on several home builds sponsored jointly by all the Lutheran Churches in Gwinnett County and Thrivent Financial. Kelly further explained the importance to her and Don of Habitat being a Christian Organization with values that align with theirs. Experiences on worldwide builds helped them realize just how blessed they are living in this country and believe they have an obligation to help others with the gifts they have been given.





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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.



Contact Us:

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Web: www.HabitatGwinnett.org

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Executive Director's Corner

Did you know that Habitat for Humanity provides homeownership, critical home repairs, employment and volunteer engagement opportunities to U.S. veterans, military service members and their families? Habitat's Veterans Build officially began in 2013 in response to the grassroots Habitat efforts to serve the housing needs of returning veterans. Habitat is now empowering military and veteran families in over 100 communities to achieve strength, stability and self-reliance they need to build better lives for themselves.

The National Low Income Housing Coalition finds that 2.5 million veterans heading households are at least 55 years of age. Of those 2.5 million veterans, 24 percent have housing cost burdens. Unlike our older civilians, our older veterans are more likely to have a disability - 35 percent versus 28 percent - and are more likely to require home modifications, health and other supportive services.

Gwinnett Habitat is proud to announce the plans for our very first Veterans Build. We are so excited to welcome a veteran into the Gwinnett Habitat family and for the opportunity to serve and honor them through our program. We are also excited about the new volunteers and sponsor groups that will be working on this project (shared on page 1). We still have space for volunteers to serve on this project. If you would like to volunteer, you can sign-up on our website or contact Laura at our office (ext. 1010). Thanks again for your continued support of our mission as we begin helping veterans in our community to thrive. God bless. 🏠

Brent S. Bohanan - Executive Director