



THE DOORWAY

building homes, communities and hope

SPRING 2018

FOUNDED 1988

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When You Have To Go Home Again



Angela Whitfield has been living in the same house in Snellville for 44 years. She raised 6 children in that home and even took in 3 additional foster children. From that perspective, her house has been the home for so many. Angela broke her back in a car accident in 1982, but continued to work as an RN in local hospitals. Her nursing focus was in neuro and orthopedic care. When the back pain became too much for her, she retired on disability in 1997.

After her husband divorced her in 1984, Angela still was the primary financial support for her family and kept her home in good condition. But as she got older and her discomfort increased, she was unable to maintain her home. Eventually she was referred to the A Brush With Kindness (ABWK) program due to a citation regarding the condition of her home.

At first glimpse on the initial visit, the home had 6-8 broken windows and desperately needed painting. There also were several places on the exterior that needed repair and piles of debris in the yard. The garage and one room on the lower level were filled with household items left there by family members for years and years (it would take multiple dumpsters to clean). A few weeks after the initial visit, she called to say that someone had driven into her yard and had stolen her heat pump, leaving her without heat during the coldest days of February last year. So ABWK came up with a multi-project plan to help.

A local Rotary Club wanted to volunteer and were assigned to help with painting Angela's exterior. Upon hearing the story about her stolen heat pump, the organization also arranged for a new heat pump to be installed. A church group assisted financially with the window replacement and the purchase of building materials for the exterior repairs. A class from Georgia Gwinnett College volunteered to help with some of the yard clean up, and the Habitat clubs from two different high schools participated in the general clean-up around her house. Additionally, Angela had issues with water getting into the rooms on the lower level, so a church from Lawrenceville dug a ditch, installed a drain line, planted several new shrubs, and mulched around her house to help with the drainage problem.

Within a few months of starting to help Angela, a house that initially looked abandoned and in need of repair now looked like a home again. Many different groups worked though many days to paint interior rooms, patch walls, install a bathroom vent. One group went above and beyond and bought a bed for one of Angela's grandchildren and even brought Angela a birthday cake.

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Greetings From Your Lawrenceville ReStore

Spring is around the corner! Before you know it, you will be diving head first into projects you've been putting off since last year. But whether you are planning an upgrade to your kitchen, redoing your bathroom or have an outside project planned, your local Habitat for Humanity ReStore is a great place to start any project! We always have a wide selection of building materials including of tile, cabinets, sinks and more.

Or, come in and be inspired by our home décor and furniture departments! Whether you are looking to add artwork to your walls or need of a larger table and chair set, you never know what treasures or unique items you will find with each visit!

A New Year and a spring cleaning mean that if you need to clear out some space and have items to donate please give us a call on our donation hotline at 770-962-4200, or schedule your free pickup online at <http://suburbanatlantarestores.org/donate>.

We want you to know how grateful we are for your continued support. As a donor, shopper and volunteer, you help Habitat for Humanity build homes and hope for families right here in Gwinnett County.

Thank you,

Paul Ingbritsen {ReStore Manager}
+ The staff & volunteers at Gwinnett ReStore
2100 Riverside Pkwy, Lawrenceville GA 30043

Volunteers Needed

Beginning with the first cold weather in December, the phone for A Brush With Kindness (ABWK) has been ringing off the hook with requests for assistance. There were the expected requests to repair broken windows and to patch up doors to keep the cold air out. There were also requests for space heaters and a pressing need to repair electrical outlets so that the heaters would work, but not all the requests pertained to the cold weather. There was the roof that started leaking and the tree that fell during the storm and the toilet that kept running. There was the homeowner in Lawrenceville who was cited by Code Enforcement for the damaged front porch and the one in Buford who was told her garage needed painting and repair. The list of clients with needs seems to continue growing longer and longer.

Since the program began late in 2014, ABWK has served approximately 70 clients and conducted nearly 130 projects. The support from volunteers in completing these projects has been outstanding with many companies, organizations, churches, and even individuals, willingly providing assistance. In 2017, these volunteers participated in approximately 50 projects and there were some days in which more than one project was being conducted at the same time.

The repairs are plentiful, but the workers are few.

To paraphrase a verse from Matthew 9:37, the need for repairs is plentiful, but the workers are few. For the 50 projects conducted last year, 40 of those projects were conducted from May through October, though the need for home repairs is year-round and there is always a need for volunteers who can assist with plumbing, electrical, and carpentry repairs. Just as the construction program for Gwinnett Habitat has a Thursday crew to prepare for weekend activities or to complete an activity, ABWK is looking for individuals with similar skills who are interested in home repair and are willing to give one day a week or 2-3 days a month. Many of the ABWK projects need someone to prepare the site for the volunteers or to complete the tasks left unfinished. In other cases, the task is relatively minor and does not need a team of volunteers but only 1-2 individuals.

The repairs are plentiful, but the workers are few. If you are interested in being a regular volunteer, please contact Gwinnett Habitat for Humanity (770-931-8080 ext. 1095). 🏠

When You Have To Go Home Again

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With these various projects, Angela's house was beginning to look, and feel, like a home again. And that was a good thing. Her youngest son, who still stayed with her periodically, was laid off last summer and returned to live with her full time. Her son-in-law also lost his job in the fall so his family returned to live with Angela. But now there was a house with a heat pump that could cool in the summer and heat in the winter that could accommodate family. The freshly painted rooms were a nice addition for Jack, Rob, Angie, Emily, Michael, Aubrey, and Justin, when they moved in. Angela's house of 44 years has once again become home for a house full of children and grandchildren. 🏠

Home is the Key to a brighter future for Samsom and his family



YOUR help is needed now to ensure that more people have a safe place to call home.

Samsom and his wife, Simret, came to the United States as refugees from Eritrea in 2012. They both soon found work and then also helped other refugees get settled in the U.S. In 2015, their family grew exponentially with the birth of triplets. Samsom works as a truck driver for JC Penny and Simret stays home with the children.

The family currently lives in a very small two bedroom apartment

where the children share a bedroom. The children are limited in their ability to move about due to the small living space. They live in an unsafe neighborhood and Simret does not feel comfortable taking the children outside to play by herself. Yet, Samsom is optimistic. He affirmed, "Gwinnett Habitat for Humanity has offered my family a great chance to become homeowners. Our children will have enough space to play and grow and develop properly." He and Simret are very grateful they were chosen to become future Gwinnett Habitat homeowners. Your donation will be the key to a brighter future for them.

Help us unlock the future for Samuel, Hana and Hiyabel. Donate now! Your investment helps our partner families have a healthy and affordable place to call home. Better yet, make your donation a recurring gift. Please visit our website www.habitatgwinnett.org to sign up. 🏠

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 \$40,000 (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 \$80,000
- 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.



We have had a lot to celebrate over the last 30 years!

Did you know?

- 🏠 We moved into our current office space at Mountain Park UMC in 1992?
- 🏠 We hired our first Executive Director, Walt Thompson, in May 1997?
- 🏠 We completed our first Women Build in January 2001?
- 🏠 We completed our 100th home in December 2009?
- 🏠 We opened our ReStore in Lawrenceville in July 2010?
- 🏠 We received the Malachi Award in 2013 for reaching the \$500,000 lifetime title milestone?
- 🏠 We started our home repair and preservation program in October 2104?



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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.



Gwinnett
Habitat
for Humanity®

Contact Us:

P.O. Box 870408
Stone Mountain, GA 30087

Office: 770-931-8080

Email: info@HabitatGwinnett.org

Web: www.HabitatGwinnett.org

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Executive Director's Corner

Gwinnett Habitat is turning 30 years old this March! Over 30 years ago, a group of concerned citizens, led by Jan Kennedy, began to pray and research the possibility of starting a Habitat affiliate in Gwinnett County. A steering committee was formed in early 1988. We received our certificate of incorporation on March 17, 1988 and the very first board meeting was held the following week. In September, the Gwinnett affiliate was accepted as an official affiliate by Habitat for Humanity International. Our first home repair project followed in November and our first new home was completed in August of 1989. In those early years we were completely led by a group of compassionate volunteers. We have come a long way from those early years, but are still so grateful for the vision and dedication of those early leaders. Without them, we would not be able to celebrate the 138 families that have experienced the joy of homeownership and the 70 families that have been able to stay in their homes due to the support of our home preservation and repair program.

There is so much to share with you in the months ahead. Plan now to join us at our 30th Anniversary Event on April 19th. More information to follow. Thank you for the part you have played in the amazing journey of our affiliate. You are a part of an incredible family in Gwinnett County that is building strength, stability and self-reliance for families through shelter. Thanks again for your support. God bless. 🏠

Brent S. Bohanan - Executive Director