



# THE DOORWAY

*building homes, communities and hope*

**WINTER 2018**

**FOUNDED 1988**

**Executive Director**  
**Brent Bohanan**

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### *Board Officers*

**Don Goldsmith** / *President*  
Thrivent Financial

**Tom Condon**  
AT&T

**Trent Cloer** / *Treasurer*  
Moore Stephens Tiller LLC

**Larry Russell** / *Secretary*  
Cisco

### *Board Members*

**Kara Dutton**  
Gwinnett County School System

**David Freeman**  
RE/MAX

**CJ Graves**  
First Citizens Bank

**Lena Harris**  
Habitat Homeowner

**Asif Jessani**  
Complete Computer Solutions

**Rep. Pedro Marin**  
GA State Representative

**Andy Morgan**  
The Morgan Law Group

**Leanne Parks**  
Habitat Homeowner

**Ed Ringer**  
Connectivity Wireless

## **Serving another Veteran with *A Brush with Kindness***



Antoinette moved to Georgia in 1989 with her sister who has health issues. Toni, as she signs her art, has an Associate, Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Criminal Justice. She worked as a Military Police while serving in Vietnam and was there when Saigon fell. She worked as a Federal Police Officer for the Department of Corrections in New York and also served in the National Guard.

After coming to Georgia she was a greeter at Home Depot for two years, but the best time she had was as a substitute teacher at Bethesda Elementary School for twelve years. Toni said, "The kids are the best!" As a recent retiree, when she is not caring for her sister, Toni enjoys painting with oils, acrylics, and water colors.

In 2016, Toni saw a sign go up in one of her neighbor's yards. A Gwinnett Habitat house was under construction. She noted the Gwinnett Habitat website address and when she checked it out, she discovered the availability of a home repair and preservation service, A Brush with Kindness. This was exactly what she needed. After her application was approved, four different volunteer groups helped her with several preservation projects involving painting, yard cleanup and replacement of flooring after a plumbing leak was discovered and repaired. One volunteer had experience fixing HVAC units. He determined a problem she was having was covered by warranty, procured the parts and fixed it for her.

Toni loves the volunteers she has met. She says, "They are fun and know what they are doing. Don't know what I would have done without them." According to Toni, "God is good. She feels well taken care of by God and is thankful for all the help she has been given by Gwinnett Habitat."

Your donation NOW will help more families have desperately needed services especially with cold weather upon us. Often furnace and water heater repairs are needed which elderly, disabled and veteran homeowners on fixed incomes cannot afford.

Make your donation NOW on our website: [www.habitatgwinnett.org/giving](http://www.habitatgwinnett.org/giving)

We are grateful for your generosity. You may also send a check to: **Gwinnett Habitat for Humanity, P.O. Box 646, Lawrenceville, GA 30046.** 🏠

## Recent Home Dedications: Why Do We Pass the Key?



### Greetings From Your Lawrenceville ReStore

If you've never been to the Gwinnett ReStore in Lawrenceville, you are missing out on this great resource. The ReStore is a good deal for you, your community and the environment.

Gwinnett ReStore is a home improvement store and donation center that sells new and gently used furniture, appliances, home accessories, building materials and more to the public at a fraction of the retail price.

So, how are they associated with Gwinnett Habitat for Humanity? A portion of the profits goes to Gwinnett Habitat to help build strength, stability, self-reliance and shelter. It's as simple as, donate, shop, build homes!

To donate your gently used items, 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,

*The staff & volunteers at Gwinnett ReStore*  
 2100 Riverside Pkwy, Lawrenceville GA 30043



Two new families received "keys" to their new homes this December. For our home dedications, we {Pass the Key} with a generic key. However, the symbolism of homeownership is not lost on these families, volunteers, sponsors, and staff. And, it is celebrated BIG!

To own a home means something different to each family inside the home, but it means the same to all of us as part of a community.

Homeownership gives families stability, providing better futures for their children's education, as well as the parent's careers. Homeownership gives self-reliance, boosting self-esteem that translates to all facets of life. This independence also gives families something to work for, care for, and pour into. Homeownership builds strength too, in the individual, in the community, and even in the economy.

So, why do we {Pass the Key} with a fake key? Because our families go through the same processes anyone else would, in order to attain their ownership, plus more. Once a future homeowner has completed their sweat equity hours to help build their home alongside volunteers, they have to pay a downpayment and go through an official closing. Then each family is responsible for their mortgage. Our families close on their homes after these dedications.

Home dedications are a celebration of dreams being achieved, hard work, and all types of people coming together to help others. 🏠



## A Future Homeowner with a Serving Heart

Meet Octavia! This Marine picked up her natural ability in the kitchen from her grandmother, who did all of the cooking. She honed those skills while serving in the Marine Corps, and then worked hard to immerse herself in various culinary industries once entering the civilian world. Now, Octavia owns her own catering company and she will begin building her own Gwinnett Habitat home in February!

When asked about why she started her own business and what she offers, this is what she had to say, "I started my business because I knew as a chef, I had the ability to help people and families through my food. I realized there was a need for the services that my business offers. As a chef I have the power to make someone's day and increase their overall nutrition with good healthy food. My business offers family style or individual healthy prepared meals. I offer catering and special event services as well."

"My faith in God keeps me going. Also, my mentors, friends, family, and clients motivate me and push me to be better in all aspects of my life." Since Octavia has such a giving spirit, we also asked her for some advice to share with others on owning a business. She shared, "Do your research, seek out mentors that will help you and challenge you along the way, and most importantly, never stop learning." Octavia owns and runs Soul Fresh Creations in the Atlanta area. If you are interested in some amazing meals prepared fresh for you, you can find her on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/soulfreshcreations](http://www.facebook.com/soulfreshcreations).

She has worked hard and lives a life of serving others. We are so grateful for her and to welcome her to the Gwinnett Habitat family. 🏠



### CHEF OCTAVIA



## 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](mailto:bbohanan@habitatgwinnett.org).

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





PO Box 646  
Lawrenceville, GA 30046

## 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](http://www.habitatgwinnett.org)  
or call 770-931-8080.



### Contact Us:

PO Box 646  
Lawrenceville, GA 30046

Office: 770-931-8080

Email: [info@HabitatGwinnett.org](mailto:info@HabitatGwinnett.org)

Web: [www.HabitatGwinnett.org](http://www.HabitatGwinnett.org)

### Please visit us on:

 Facebook: [HabitatGwinnett](https://www.facebook.com/HabitatGwinnett)

 Twitter: [HabitatGwinnett](https://twitter.com/HabitatGwinnett)

 Instagram: [HabitatGwinnett](https://www.instagram.com/HabitatGwinnett)



## Executive Director's Corner

2018 has been a wonderful year of celebrating our 30th anniversary! The year has been full of wonderful events and memories like our Anniversary Celebration in April, our first memory book, relocation of our office, dedication of four new homes in Duluth, and the announcement of our Better Homes Brighter Futures campaign. This was all possible because of you, our volunteers, donors, sponsors, and community friends. Thank you for celebrating with us and for your continued support of our mission. If you haven't received your copy of our memory book, please stop by our office.

Our Better Homes Brighter Futures campaign is off to a great start. We have already received over \$300,000 in campaign pledges and have officially opened our Brighter Futures Legacy fund at the Community Foundation for Northeast Georgia. We will officially launch our campaign on January 24th, 2019 with our Gwinnett Lights fundraising dinner. Please join us in praying for this event and our campaign as we move forward to reach our God-sized goal of \$10 million. Contact us if you would like to attend the fundraising event or would like to discuss how you can support our campaign.

Thanks again for your support and for being a part of the Habitat family in Gwinnett County that is building strength, stability and self-reliance for families through shelter. May God richly bless your Christmas season! 🏠

Brent S. Bohanan - Executive Director