

SPRING 2016

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The Rem/Cer Family: "Gratitude in Our Hearts" House

Lal (who goes by his last name, Rem) and Hlawn are the parents of two daughters and one son, Dawt, Genevieve, and Thawng respectively. Rem, Hlawn and their two older children came to the U.S. as refugees from Burma in 2011. Burma (*Myanmar*) has been entrenched in political turmoil for the past 50 years where a repressive military dictatorship has caused the displacement of more than 3.5 million Burmese.



The Rem/Cer Family

Rem has been working as a Master Packer at **Tyson Foods** since a few months after their arrival. Hlawn stays home to care for their children. This family of five lives in a 2-bedroom apartment; the youngest daughter shares a bedroom with her parents, while the two older children share the other bedroom. Their limited family income restricts them from being able to afford a larger apartment. One of their gravest concerns is for their children's safety, due to the reported presence of gangs at their school, which is across the street from their apartment complex. They are very ill at ease in allowing the children to play outside.

Rem and Hlawn long for a safe, adequate, and stable home for their family.

Rem and Hlawn have been completing their required *Sweat Equity* hours by volunteering at another **Habitat** family home build. Now that construction is in full swing on their house in Buford, Rem and Hlawn are excited to work on their own home.

During this interview, Rem said:

"At our first volunteer construction site we are so excited to see all of the volunteers and sponsors, especially when we started construction for our family. We have volunteered on other Habitat family homes but to actually work on our own home is thrilling. I thank God for all those who volunteer their time unselfishly, giving of themselves. I feel blessed that all of the sponsors and volunteers are working hard as if they are building their own house. It is unbelievable that people I've never met in my life are helping us build for our family. Tears of joy well up in my eyes each time I see this. The longer I think about our home, the more blessed I realize we are. We will always feel gratitude in our hearts. This experience has made our family feel whole again. God has given us this opportunity to get a house. I would like to thank the Lord for what we received – the blessing of a new home for our family through Gwinnett Habitat for Humanity."



Rem, working on his own home.



Greetings from Your Habitat for Humanity ReStore

April showers bring May flowers. But the season also means spring cleaning has begun. With many projects planned both inside and out, keep your neighborhood ReStore top of mind.

Time to replace patio furniture? Thinking about tackling a wait-listed renovation project? Or planning a summer move?

Stop by your Gwinnett Habitat for Humanity ReStore for new furnishings, hardware and tools. Conveniently located in Lawrenceville in the Kroger Shopping Center, 2100 Riverside Parkway.

We would also love to pick up your slightly-used furniture, home furnishings and appliances. Just call our DONATION HOTLINE today at 770-962-4200 to schedule your FREE pick-up.

We are so grateful for your donations and purchases. Your generosity will help us serve even more families by building and restoring homes, and spreading hope in our community. **Thank you!**

Warm Regards,

Paul Ingbritsen
Lawrenceville ReStore Manager

SuburbanAtlantaReStores.org

Assurant ~ Helping People Protect What Matters Most.

With a common purpose as simple as “*To help people protect what matters most to them,*” it is only fitting that Assurant teamed up with Gwinnett Habitat for Humanity to help a family in need afford a home. Dating back to 2009 when Assurant worked on their first build with Gwinnett Habitat for Humanity, qualifying families were getting housing of their own with help from the Assurant sponsorship. Since then, Assurant has sponsored and helped to build and restore six homes throughout Gwinnett in Tucker, Sugar Hill, Norcross, Loganville and Buford.

As stated on Assurant’s website, “*People rely on Assurant to help protect what matters most to them. A core set of timeless values — Common Sense, Common Decency, Uncommon Thinking and Uncommon Results — guide our every action. Each day we strive to provide superior service for our customers and clients and create an enjoyable work experience for our employees. But even beyond that, we feel obligated to enhance the communities in which we work.*”



ASSURANT®

Assurant understands the importance of supporting their own community by working with one another. They know it matters because peace of mind goes a long way. And they know it begins with a roof over your head.

It takes a community to care for a community: Money to purchase land and supplies, teamwork to complete the labor and a family in need of a place to call home. It takes hard work, sweat and dedication. On Assurant’s sixth build with Gwinnett Habitat for Humanity, their staff had the joy of working with the Rem/Cer Family while helping to build their home. As they built walls, they also built relationships, and hope.



There is not much more that matters to a family than a safe, secure place to live. This is almost a reality to the Rem/Cer Family. On **June 4**, they will have their house dedication and receive the keys to their very own home with the support of a great community.

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.

Do you buy from Amazon.com?

When you shop at **Smile.Amazon.com**, the AmazonSmile Foundation donates 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible items to the charitable organization selected by you. And you can shop the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on **Amazon.com**.



Simply sign in at **Smile.Amazon.com**, make your purchases, and choose “*Gwinnett County Habitat for Humanity*” as your charity of choice. This is of **no extra cost to you!** The reward? Helping to make affordable housing and home repairs available to deserving families in Gwinnett County.

Shop & Support Gwinnett Habitat Today!



Walton Electric Trust Gives a Boost to the ABWK Program

Last week **Walton Electric Trust** presented **Gwinnett Habitat** with a check for \$10,000 to help purchase a cargo van. This van will support the operation of our home preservation and repair program, *A Brush with Kindness (ABWK)*, for low-income elderly and disabled homeowners. We are grateful for this gift.

Who would have guessed that a cargo van would be such a powerful tool? Just imagine, all needed equipment and supplies for each project in one mobile location! What a vital means for increasing the number of low-income homeowners that can be helped. And since all the projects are completed with volunteers, the number of projects accomplished with available funds are even greater. Twenty-eight (28) home repairs have been completed in the past 18 months with very little advertising. Our dream is to be able to keep up with all the requests once we start widely advertising this program! The home repair cargo van will make that dream a reality.



Additionally, in December, **Jackson EMC Foundation** provided \$15,000 to support this same program. These funds supply needed materials for the preservation and repair projects we complete. Of course, like all Habitat projects, our volunteers make our projects affordable for low-income homeowners and prospective homeowners in our community.

We are also awaiting news on the status of three (3) other foundation grants that will pay for the balance of the cost of the van and the tools, equipment and supplies to outfit it. Watch your e-mail for our monthly newsletters or check out our website for the latest updates and a list of organizations that support this program: www.habitatgwinnett.org

Thank you to **Walton Electric Trust** and **Jackson EMC Foundation** for supporting this vital program.

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 in need of repair, renovation or demolition, let us know!

We are looking for RAW LAND that:

- ✓ is a buildable lot for a 1,200–1,500 square foot house
- ✓ cost under \$30,000 (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*)

Contact **Brent Bohanan** @ (770) 826-4638, bbohanan@habitatgwinnett.org.

Monthly Donors Sustain Affordable Home Opportunities

Monthly giving is a great way to help those in need. You make a big impact over time through small gifts, and **Gwinnett Habitat** has dependable funding while saving time and resources on future renewals and appeals. Your monthly commitment helps us plan ahead and budget more effectively. Monthly credit card gifts save you time and postage. We can provide packets of pre-addressed envelopes if you prefer to give by personal check.

Become a Monthly Donor Today and Enjoy:

- **Hassle-free** monthly donations
- **Automatic** donation from your credit card
- The knowledge that your donation is put to work **immediately**
- **Annual Giving Summary** for tax purposes
- The **ability to change** or suspend your donation at **any time**

Make a Monthly Sustaining Gift

Support affordable housing and home preservation/repairs year-round!

Enroll online today to become a **Monthly Donor Club Member** at www.HabitatGwinnett.org.

For more information, contact **Alice Cunningham**, acunningham@habitatgwinnett.org or call 770-931-8080, ext. 25.

www.HabitatGwinnett.org



Executive Director's Corner

What do you think is the largest obstacle to fulfilling our mission at Gwinnett Habitat? It is not the lack of volunteers, community support, or even funds. It is appropriate properties for new home construction projects and existing home rehab projects. Without land we cannot build homes, communities and hope. Appropriate property has become harder to acquire because of rising prices, reduced inventory and availability of property that will meet the needs of our homeowners and be truly affordable.

Recently, there have been very few properties listed for sale and all of those listed in our price range were not appropriate because of the condition or location of the lot/house. With our current home construction project quickly coming to an end and three families still waiting for housing, our Board of Directors and staff began to pray for God to provide the property that we needed as he has so graciously done in the past. I soon received several calls from the Gwinnett County Police Quality of Life Division referring several properties that had been damaged by fire. This led to a donation of a townhome and the discounted purchase of a home and a lot. We now have the three properties we need to provide affordable housing for our waiting families, and enough projects to put our sponsors and volunteers to work for the rest of the year. We are thankful to God for this blessing, but we know that the need for property will continue. If you, or someone you know, would like to bless our organization with the donation or sale of property, please contact our office for more information.

In late April, we hosted an event to celebrate all of our volunteers, donors and sponsors. It was an exciting time to celebrate all the people in our community that help our families to realize their dream of homeownership. Check out our website for photos from the event. We celebrate you, as well, and thank you for your continued support of our ministry. With your support we are building homes, communities and hope!

Brent S. Bohanan ~ Executive Director



Contact Us:

P.O. Box 870408




Stone Mountain, GA 30087

Office: 770-931-8080

Email: info@HabitatGwinnett.org

Web: www.HabitatGwinnett.org

Please visit us on:

-  Facebook: [GwinnettHabitat](https://www.facebook.com/GwinnettHabitat)
-  Twitter: [HabitatGwinnett](https://twitter.com/HabitatGwinnett)
-  Instagram: [HabitatGwinnett](https://www.instagram.com/HabitatGwinnett)



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 project 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.