



We Build...
**Homes
Communities
and Hope**

the doorway

Spring 2015

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FOUNDED 1988

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A Partnership Built on Faith



12Stone Church is a church that believes in the power of transformation and whose church members are change agents in the community and who volunteer on compassionate projects. It is this strong commitment that has created a wonderful church partnership between 12Stone Church and Gwinnett Habitat for Humanity since 2004.

Through this partnership, 12Stone Church supports Gwinnett Habitat with financial sponsorship to build homes, church volunteers who are hands-on in the home's construction and prayer for Gwinnett Habitat and those it serves in the community. So far, 11 amazing homes have been built by 12Stone Church because of faith put into action and a desire to share the love of God.

Habitat's mission of "seeking to put God's love into action by bringing people together to build homes, communities and hope," well aligns with 12Stone's mission to "inspire life, share life and give life to those in our community." 12Stone Church also states that "families are the foundation for our culture, community, and city. As goes the family, so goes the community. Many times more than not, the root causes in the issues of poverty, homelessness, abuse, and neglect stem from brokenness within families."

12Stone Church is helping Gwinnett Habitat transform the lives of those who are under-resourced or marginalized by society and giving them real hope for the future.

To learn more about becoming a Habitat church or business sponsor, please call our office at 770-931-8080, ext. 15



From blight to light... Most Recent 12Stone build in Duluth.



Your Habitat for Humanity ReStore exists to help fund our mission to build homes and hope here in our local community and around the world.

We are so deeply grateful to all of you who have donated your furniture, appliances, home furnishing and other items to the Habitat ReStore.

Your generous donations help us create a “virtuous circle” in our community.... you receive a tax deduction, the customer gets a great bargain and the funds we raise, THANKS TO YOU, really do change lives. It is truly amazing and heartwarming to see the transformation that happens within a family when they have a safe and secure home. The blessings you help us create for a family move across generations.

THANKS TO YOU the sales at your ReStore continue to grow and, as a result, of your donations we are able to serve more families.

We pray daily that you, our donors, will be truly blessed for your kindness and generosity!!

With Deepest Gratitude,
Charlene Rogers
ReStore Manager



WHAT'S IT LIKE TO BE A GWINNETT HABITAT VOLUNTEER?

12Stone Volunteer Testimonials

- Truly enjoyed the experience. This was the first day... I'm hooked! Thanks so much for the opportunity to lend a hand.
- That was an awesome experience! I enjoy helping others. I'm really glad I had an opportunity to work with a great group of 12Stoners and I'm looking forward to doing it again.
- It was great seeing and working with other 12Stone volunteers. It was also a pleasure meeting the homeowner and seeing the excitement in his face as he and his cousin worked with us.

Did you know?

1 There are different definitions of poverty.

There is no international consensus on measuring poverty. Generally, absolute poverty thresholds are determined by measuring survival needs like food and shelter for different-sized households. The UN's definition of poverty addresses basic needs but recognizes that poverty is multidimensional, with housing poverty as a separate category that can affect — and be affected by — other aspects of a family's life.

2 People living in poor circumstances are not necessarily who (or where) you think.

A family can fall into poverty for many reasons — death in the family, crop failures, sudden unemployment. In the United States, one of every five children struggle with a lack of adequate resources. Worldwide, a child under the age of five dies every four seconds because of poverty. And though impoverished living conditions are often perceived as a problem of urban environments, rural poverty rates in countries like Indonesia and the U.S. also exceed urban poverty rates.

3 Affordable housing can be hard to find.

In many regions of the world, the number of low-income households far exceeds the affordable housing units available. India's deficit in urban housing, mainly in low-income areas, is estimated at 18 million units. And in the U.S. today, for every 100 households classified as extremely low-income, just 29 units are both available and affordable.



Dominic holds her Gwinnett Habitat acceptance letter. Also pictured are (l to r) daughter Jaytiyah (17), son Khalifah (19), and daughter Rogé (6).

A Valentine's Day Gift – The Jones Family

Dominic Jones is about to build a new legacy for herself and her 3 children by breaking her ties with Section 8 housing and becoming a Habitat homeowner. Dominic relates that she has always worried about losing the roof over her head, due to the limitations of the Section 8 program. “I’ve had so many dreams and aspirations of how to live a successful and prosperous life. I just want to be able to thrive and have a career where I am a productive person in society without the fear of not having a decent place to live anymore.”

Dominic is excited about her partnership with Gwinnett Habitat, and believes it will be an important step in her quest to make progress, have financial stability and improve the quality of life for her family.

“I heard about Gwinnett Habitat but because I had Section 8, I never saw the need to own a home. However, after maturing both spiritually and mentally, I began to think that all the rent I had paid for 20 years could have gone towards owning my own home! But, better late than never! I was filled with joy when I heard I was selected to become a Gwinnett Habitat Homeowner. I received the great news on Valentine’s Day, my favorite holiday!”

Like other Habitat homeowners, Dominic will also work alongside other volunteers to help build her home. She is excited and can’t wait. We have already broken ground on Dominic’s new home site on Red Rose Court in Loganville and will keep you posted on this exciting new project.

the doorway



Your Support Makes All The Difference

As Partners in our Mission, you make the dream of affordable homeownership possible and everyday help us improve communities, while helping low-income families climb the ladder out of poverty. Research shows that for every dollar spent on prevention, a minimum of \$7 is saved on intervention. *Thank you for being part of the solution and for giving the gift of hope.*

Your generous donations support Habitat services in our community and:

- Help low-income, working families transition from substandard rental housing to affordable homeownership
- Provide practical life skill classes to support the success of prospective Habitat homeowners
- Inspire safer communities through our affordable housing initiatives
- Create healthier environments for children to grow & thrive in
- Advocate for more affordable housing and adequate funding resources
- Facilitate construction for new affordable housing units and revitalization of low-income neighborhoods that were once bleak and dilapidated
- A Brush with Kindness Program: a home repair and preservation program for the elderly and those on fixed incomes

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.

Please visit our website for more details or call our office at 770-931-8080.



Executive Director's Corner

Gwinnett Habitat for Humanity has been helping families and children obtain affordable housing for 27 years now. Did you know that we are the only organization in the County that provides no-interest mortgages to low-income families? Here at Gwinnett Habitat, our board, staff and team of volunteers and corporate sponsors work as a strong force to build affordable housing in Gwinnett County. We also advocate for

practical and positive solutions so that qualified low-income families can own their own home and create a better living and safe environment for their children.

Because your friendship and partnership means so much to us, we created this new quarterly newsletter to keep in touch with you on a regular basis. Please know that your support is the reason that we are able to better serve those in need in Gwinnett County and advocate for decent, safe and affordable housing. THANK YOU for caring and for standing with us in demonstrating God's love to others. God bless you and THANK YOU for your continued support.

Brent S. Bohanan – *Executive Director*



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Please visit our website

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