



THE DOORWAY

building homes, communities and hope

FALL 2018

FOUNDED 1988

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Paying It Forward: Topsy Pig



One afternoon, Terry Lee sat down to watch some television, when a Habitat for Humanity commercial came on. He and his wife, Dale, were already active in their church, but they wanted to do more. When he saw this commercial, curiosity came over him and he immediately started to Google Habitat for Humanity. Through his search, he found Gwinnett Habitat for Humanity.

Terry and Dale had been blessed with an amazing BBQ business, Topsy Pig, in Lilburn. They built it from the ground up, as a dream of Terry's, with their son and a good smoker. Now, eight years later, they have ten employees and have been voted "Best BBQ in Gwinnett" three years in a row. Carrying this kind of blessing, they wanted to pay it forward.

With the mindset of helping others, sharing their blessing and now Gwinnett Habitat for Humanity resonating with them, Terry reached out to our office. Our needs were simple, we dedicate a home to each family when their build is complete and we needed to feed everyone who attended.

Terry and Dale jumped on this opportunity and now they are a staple at many of our home dedications. Their BBQ is out of this world, everyone is shown appreciation, and the family gets to keep the leftovers. There are so many ways to become a sponsor at Gwinnett Habitat for Humanity, and this is just one of the ways we are blessed by our community. 🏠

For more on Topsy Pig and how they got started, read our blog, www.habitatgwinnett.org/topsy-pig.

Gwinnett Habitat for Humanity Attains 4-Star Rating from Charity Navigator

Gwinnett Habitat for Humanity has attained the coveted 4-star rating from Charity Navigator two years in a row! This highest possible rating verifies that Gwinnett Habitat adheres to sector best practices, executes its mission in a financially efficient way, and has strong financial health and a commitment to accountability and transparency.

President of Charity Navigator, Michael Thatcher, noted, "This exceptional designation from Charity Navigator sets Gwinnett Habitat apart from its peers and demonstrates to the public its trustworthiness. Approximately only 30% of rated charities achieve this distinction!"

Alice Cunningham, Development Director, explained "the intent of the work of Charity Navigator is to provide donors with essential information to give them greater confidence in both the charitable decisions that they make and the nonprofit sector. We strive to be good financial stewards and it is important to us that our donors know we are trustworthy." 🏠

Donate now: www.habitatgwinnett.charityproud.org/donate

Benefits of Homeownership are Undeniable

The benefits of homeownership stay the same:

- Homeownership leads to greater educational achievements.
- Children of homeowners are significantly more likely to stay in school until age 17, than children of renters.
- The graduation rate for children of homeowners is 19 percent higher than for renters, and they are twice as likely to acquire some postsecondary education, according to a study in a journal published by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

But what can we do as an organization and as a community to make these statistics a reality for more families in Gwinnett County? And, how do these statistics really play out in the families we've already helped bless?

Gwinnett Habitat for Humanity is working on a three-year "Better Homes, Brighter Futures" Campaign to reach goals just like these. You can follow along with this campaign on our social media and our blog, www.habitatgwinnett.org/news-updates.

As far as our current families, homeownership has already begun to prove lasting effects. Last summer we brought you a story of one Habitat family who is living proof of the benefits of homeownership. Aswa and Ehite came to the U.S. as immigrants, and shared their story of tragedy and the triumph of their son, Yonas, graduating from Yale University. He graduated with honors and with two degrees - Sociology and Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology.



Where is he now a year later? Since graduation, Yonas is taking his career to the next level. He accepted a 2-year fellowship at a Yale research lab working on addiction prevention. Yonas also plans on applying to graduate school this upcoming cycle, having completed his entrance examinations.

Yonas proclaims – "As always, I am consistently thankful to the Habitat community for providing us with our home. As I thank God for guiding me to all my accomplishments, I also thank Him in equal measure for the stable and safe home He equipped Habitat to so graciously provide for us. I know for a fact that that gift has helped me keep on the path of higher education and upward mobility."

The benefits of homeownership are undeniable. As we continue to help families in Gwinnett County, we will continue to work toward a world where everyone has a decent place to live, and where improvements in health, education, and security are enjoyed by more and more homeowners. 🏠



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

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Executive Director's Corner

We are very blessed to have our new space that will allow us to serve families with affordable housing solutions for many years to come. We have also been blessed for the last 24 years to have had donated office space at Mountain Park United Methodist Church in Stone Mountain. This donation gave us a place to start our work and has allowed us to serve over 200 families. We would not be where we are today without this wonderful gift. Thank you Mount Park UMC!

Feel free to stop in and take a tour of our new office home. With this new space and your continued support, we will build better homes and brighter futures together. God bless. 🏠

Brent

Brent S. Bohanan - Executive Director



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.



Gwinnett
Habitat
for Humanity®

CONSTRUCTION UPDATES





**PO Box 646
Lawrenceville, GA 30046**

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PERMIT #6919

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:

PO Box 646

Lawrenceville, GA 30046

Office: 770-931-8080

Email: info@HabitatGwinnett.org

Web: www.HabitatGwinnett.org

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Executive Director's Corner

It has finally happened! After months of planning, we have moved in to our new office space in Lawrenceville at 52 Gwinnett Drive, Suite B. This is an answer to many prayers. We have been looking for some time for a space that would allow us to grow and be more centrally located in the county we serve. This new space provided by the Lawrenceville Cooperative Ministry is just perfect for several reasons.

First, it provides us with space to grow as we serve more families in our community. In April, as part of our 30th Anniversary

Celebration, we announced the launch of our Better Homes, Brighter Futures fundraising campaign. This three-year pledge campaign will allow us to more than double the number of families we will serve with new home construction, home repairs and through our new neighborhood revitalization program. To reach this goal it will require the addition of several new staff members. Our new office space provides 3,000 square feet of space for our new staff and growing programs.

Second, our new space in Lawrenceville is centrally located in Gwinnett County. This is important because it allows us to be more efficient in providing services for families in need. Not only is our office more accessible to those we serve, its location also allows our staff to save time as we facilitate our programs throughout our very large county.

Finally, our new space allows us to collaborate with three other ministries all housed at the same location on Gwinnett Drive. These important partnerships with the Lawrenceville Cooperative Ministry, Navigate Recovery, and Minding the Gap allow us to work together to provide a variety of services for those in need from one location in downtown Lawrenceville.

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