



THE DOORWAY

building homes, communities and hope

SPRING 2019

FOUNDED 1988

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Brent Bohanan

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Preserving Our Memories Through Photos: Gena Ford Photography



"These are some of the most generous and kind people to work with and they make volunteering for Gwinnett Habitat a joy!" - Gena Ford

Photography is such an important item to have in any marketing arsenal. Great photography is even better. With everything Gwinnett Habitat for Humanity does to provide affordable and safe housing, we wouldn't want to go without a photo library of our own.

We collaborate with businesses and organizations in the community, who help us build homes and renovate others. Families are provided a safe place to raise their children or care for their parents. And we have the opportunity to pay goodwill forward with the support of so many volunteers. Quality photography helps us share our message and gift our homeowners with memories for a lifetime. Though we can use cell phone cameras on a job site, the quality of those photos are only able to capture a certain level of quality.

When we first met Gena Ford, she was a volunteer photographer for the Women's Council of Realtors Hoofin' for Habitat 5K, a fundraiser they ran in order to donate money to our organization. We had a home dedication scheduled the next month, where we needed quality photos. The kicker was, we had no budget, so we decided to reach out and see what Gena thought.

Luckily for us, at that same time, she had been searching for an organization she could volunteer with as a photographer. She agreed to help, and it was at that dedication when she realized how much Gwinnett Habitat for Humanity's core values, beliefs and goals aligned with hers.

She also said, "I admired how Gwinnett Habitat worked with the new homeowners to weave them into the fabric of the community and help them to value homeownership, their neighbors and the surrounding community. Gwinnett Habitat wasn't an organization that provided new homes for people who just applied, instead they meticulously selected, educated and embraced the new Gwinnett Habitat for Humanity homeowners."

Since that date in 2016, Gena has graciously attended all of our events and dedications, camera in hand. "I want these families to feel blessed, respected and valued through my photography, and when I've accomplished that for them, I feel blessed," Gena commented.

It has been a blessing to have her support our cause, our families and our community. Gena Ford owns Gena Ford Photography, formerly Gateway PhotoArtistry. You can reach out to her and view her work at www.gatewayphotoartistry.com | (404) 734-0941. 🏠



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 through 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

Three-Year Campaign Launched



On Thursday night, January 24, 2019, guests at the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center were buzzing with anticipation. Gwinnett Lights: Better Homes Brighter Futures, a campaign to make affordable housing and home repairs available for more families than ever, was launched. 135 guests were treated to a delicious dinner prepared by Meadowcreek High School Culinary Arts program students. Sue Henderson, VP Operations Habitat for Humanity, congratulated us on our accomplishments over the past 30 years. Rick Damato, a long time Habitat volunteer and annual Carter work project volunteer, shared why Habitat is important to him, highlighted that he is doing God's work and the difference this work makes for so many families in need of affordable stable housing.

Two families, the Chaudhry/Kausar family and the Naqvi/Jamil family, who paid off their mortgages, seven and eight years early respectively, were specially invited guests. They were introduced and applauded while they used a document shredder to shred copies of their mortgage documents.

Jamie and Remzije, two current Gwinnett Habitat homeowners, shared their journey to homeownership and the difference owning a home has made for them. Through his Corvette story, Clyde Strickland shared the theme of his book, "What Can I Do." In 2000, he and his wife, Sandra, became involved with Habitat for Humanity building homes. According to Clyde, "As I walked to my office above my garage, the Holy Spirit would speak to me: Someone could live in that car. God wanted me to give away my dream car." Clyde became determined he could sell his Corvette and build two homes. Remzije was one of the homeowners who benefited from his generosity.

Clyde then challenged all the guests to help build 24 homes over the next three years as well as help meet four other campaign goals. Guests were asked to fill out pledge cards that were placed on each table. After the cards were collected, the emcee read off the total pledged. God was definitely in the room that evening. The final tally was \$881,685. Many thanks to the generosity of our community. Now the hard work starts to raise \$3 million of new money. Please consider a gift to the campaign and help more families have access to affordable housing. 🏠

Online

<https://habitatgwinnett.charityproud.org/Donate/Index/?cid=2264>

Mail

Gwinnett Habitat for Humanity
 P.O. Box 646
 Lawrenceville, GA 30046

New Homeowners Joined Our Family

As we plan our home builds for the following year and organize locations where new homes will be built or renovated, we also plan how many families we will be able to serve through those homes. Homeowner orientations and applications are scheduled as often as we are able to work through our list of previously selected homeowners. This past Fall, we held four orientation sessions. Over 500 individuals signed up for a slot to hear about our program and what it takes to become a Gwinnett Habitat for Humanity homeowner. Out of those, about 40 applied, and five families were selected. We were able to visit each of the selected five families and gift them with the joy of acceptance into our Gwinnett Habitat family.

In December we welcomed Grace, Abigail, Shannon, Jamie, Delandria and their families. They were greeted with smiles, an acceptance letter and balloons. While talking with Jamie, she said, "My son and I prayed every night before bed for our house and we thanked God every night for the home we hadn't yet seen. When Habitat came over to tell us we had been selected, my son looked at us and said excitedly, 'God answered our prayers!'"

My son and I prayed every night before bed for our house and we thanked God every night for the home we hadn't yet seen.

These families spent countless hours filling out the required applications and supplying all their financial information, job history, and ties to Gwinnett. Construction will begin this month on the first two houses of a five house neighborhood in Lilburn. 🏠

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.



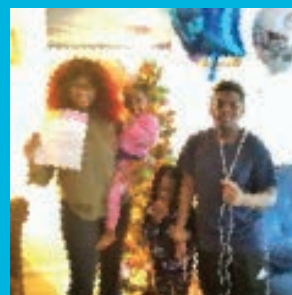
Gwinnett
Habitat
for Humanity®



GRACE



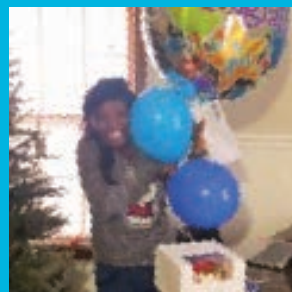
ABIGAIL



SHANNON



JAMIE



DELANDRIA



**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
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

Please visit us on:



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



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



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Executive Director's Corner

It has been a very Happy New Year at Gwinnett Habitat! Our Gwinnett Lights kick-off dinner for our Better Homes Brighter Futures campaign on January 24th was a big success. We have already received over \$1,000,000 in campaign pledges and are well on our way to meet our goal.

Our ultimate goal is to raise the funds needed to double the number of families we serve with housing resources over the next 3 years. To do this we must have the additional capital funding to purchase needed building materials, tools, trailers and property. We also need additional operating funds to grow our staff team. Additional staff will be needed to help manage our construction workdays, recruit and train volunteers, and implement our new Neighborhood Revitalization program.

Since campaign dollars started coming in last fall, we have begun to prepare for our future growth. In December, our Homeowner Services Manager position held by Rhonda Streat was taken to fulltime and we purchased a new pickup truck for our construction department. In early February, we created a brand-new position called the Community Engagement Director and promoted Jen Welch to this position. We also promoted Frank Stoffle to our A Brush With Kindness Director position and increased it to 30 hours/week. I would like to congratulate Rhonda, Jen and Frank on their promotions and ask for your prayers as we search for a volunteer coordinator.

These are exciting times at our affiliate and I am so glad that you are a part of it. Thanks again for your support as we build *Better Homes & Brighter Futures* together in Gwinnett County. May God richly bless you! 🏠

Brent S. Bohanan

Brent S. Bohanan - Executive Director