

Fall 2021

Gwinnett/Walton
Habitat for Humanity®

the doorway

NEWSLETTER

*Building homes,
communities and hope.*



Gwinnett/Walton Habitat Begins Building New Foundations for Families

The new, combined Gwinnett/Walton Habitat for Humanity affiliate just began building it's first home in Monroe, Georgia. A local single mom and her son will have the amazing opportunity to build a better home and a brighter future.

Heather Griffeth and her son, Deacon, are looking forward to having a home of their own. You can often find the Griffeth family “going on adventures” together, searching for “kindness rocks” and spending time at the local book store listening to authors share their stories. Heather and Deacon love to spend time outside at local parks, enjoy local festivals and activities while staying active in sports. Getting together with family and friends and cheering on their favorite local teams are some of their favorite pastimes. A recent change in their family situation has been a struggle requiring them to temporarily move in with friends to increase their savings.

“I had a dream that I was chosen to be a Habitat homeowner the night before I was notified. In my dream, I received a big bouquet of balloons when they came to tell me I would soon be a homeowner. The next day, when I saw someone carrying balloons walking toward the house, I knew my dream was coming true.”

As a single mother working in education, it is challenging to keep up with the expenses of raising a child on her own.

Heather has been working hard to save for a home and provide for all the needs of their family. They are excited about having room to spread out and enjoy both a home and yard where they will grow and thrive as a family.

Having a home will mean Heather and Deacon both have their own rooms with a spare bedroom for family and friends to visit. Transitioning from one bedroom in a friend's home into a home of their own will be a turning point in their lives. From joining a new Cub Scout troop to attending a Gwinnett Striper's game, “going on new adventures” is something they will do together from a new home base.

At Habitat we focus on building strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter. For the Griffeth family stability will be the foundation of a beautiful future. Becoming stronger and more self-reliant is something Heather is looking forward to throughout the process of building with Gwinnett/Walton Habitat.

“I am looking forward to taking a moment to catch my breath and find a new normal for me and my son as we settle into our own place to make new memories together.”

She will finally be able to save money for the future, achieve true financial security and start a college fund for Deacon. Join us as we come together to build a better home and a brighter future for the Griffeth family. We look forward to seeing you on the build site in Monroe!

The King Family's Vision for a Peaceful Home



The four members of the King family have been living in Loganville for quite a while. Working as a medical assistant, it has been challenging for Shawny to keep up with the expenses of raising three children as a single parent. She and her children, Serenity, Journey and Noah, currently share two bedrooms in an older income-based housing community. To improve her financial situation, Shawny joined a credit repair group. After working to improve her credit, a fellow participant in the group suggested that she apply for the homeownership program with Habitat. In trying to prepare for the process, Shawny watched numerous online videos about other families who applied for homeownership and were approved. She wanted to be completely prepared for every step of the process and know exactly what to expect. **She was grateful to find out that the local Habitat staff was incredibly helpful and she was easily able to complete the process.** She was both shocked and thrilled when her family was chosen to become homeowners!

The King family is looking forward to the stability and peace that will come

from having a home of their own. With a brand new teenager in the house, space for everyone to spread out and having their own rooms will be a true blessing. The simple pleasures of having the space to invite friends over, host sleepovers and welcome friends and family into their home are just a few of the things Shawny is excited about for everyone. Finally having a safe place to come home to will mean no more after-school care for Journey and Noah.

“I am looking forward to creating the place of rest that comes with having our own home. The reduced stress and increased mental clarity will be an amazing gift.”

More time at home will mean a peaceful place where everyone can relax together. For Shawny's youngest son who struggles with learning differences, having a calm and familiar place to focus will allow him to establish new routines and find peace. Everyone in the King family is looking forward to a home of their own to learn, grow and thrive.

For the King family, increased stability will be a valuable asset. Becoming stronger and more self-reliant is something Shawny is looking forward to throughout the process of building with Gwinnett/Walton Habitat. She will finally be able to live below her means, save money for the future and achieve true financial security, not just for herself, but also for her children. Together, we can help the King family embrace new opportunities.



Our Merger with Walton County Habitat Affiliate

We are so excited about our merger with Walton County creating **Gwinnett/Walton Habitat for Humanity**. Moving toward a capacity building strategy, Habitat International is advocating for the combination of affiliates to create regional organizations that can serve larger areas with increased resources. This plan allows more communities to be served by a full time staff dedicated to advancing our mission to assist as many families as possible.

“Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.”

As we venture into new territory and embrace a new community, we are grateful for the relationships we are building. Local partnerships allow us to create more meaningful impact in new areas. The Gwinnett Strippers Minor League club recently provided an opportunity for the son of future Walton County homeowner, Heather Griffeth, to throw out the first pitch at a recent baseball game. We invite you to join us in building the foundation for brighter futures in both Gwinnett and Walton Counties!

Gwinnett / Walton
 **Habitat for Humanity®** | **ReStore®**

The Gwinnett/Walton Habitat ReStore is enjoying a great sales year providing additional funding to better homes and brighter futures in the community. We are so grateful for all of the private and corporate donations continuing to stream into the store. It has been full of wonderful items, old and new. **At the ReStore, every day is new adventure—from unique antiques to state-of-the-art electronics, great finds arrive daily.**

In the past few months, we have added new partnerships with major retailers like Wal-Mart and Williams Sonoma, the parent company of Pottery Barn and West Elm. We consistently receive fantastic furniture pieces like sofas, chaise lounges, mattresses and even trampolines. These stores are providing us with amazing products to stock for our customers—they sell as quickly as one can imagine.

This summer, we established a new relationship with the Gwinnett Strippers with whom we are doing some great events and sponsorships. This fall, our ReStore staff will work on our affiliate's first Walton County home build and we couldn't be more excited. This will be our second time working on a build site as a team, and we are grateful for the opportunity to be part of such a great project.



Be sure to “like” us at [facebook.com/GwinnettReStore](https://www.facebook.com/GwinnettReStore) for all the great new arrivals, news and activities at the ReStore!

What are our hours?

We are open **Tuesday through Saturday** from **10:00 am - 5:00 pm**.

Do you have things to donate, but no time to drop off?

Please **call 770-962-4200** to find out about our residential and corporate pick-up service and request your donation time. **We will send out our truck to collect your donation.**

Would you like to donate your time as a volunteer at the ReStore?

Please visit our website, **[suburbanatlantarestores.org](https://www.suburbanatlantarestores.org)**, to apply to volunteer with us!

Neighborhood Revitalization

Over the summer, our partnership with Gwinnett County Government and Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful allowed us to assist with 3 wonderful projects in the Mechanicville area of Gwinnett County.

In June, we participated in a local street clean-up and community fair in Mechanicville. We were grateful to invest in our community and build new relationships with those we are serving.

In July, we participated in another community fair and Back to School Giveaway in Norcross. Local children received backpacks filled with school



supplies, a vaccine clinic was held and food was provided for the community.

In August, we joined with Gwinnett County and Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful to host a Paint the Town day. We completed 5 projects that impacted homes, neighborhoods, fences and business areas that are known for graffiti. We leveraged volunteer support to repaint these areas and apply a coat of

anti-graffiti paint to make it easier to clear future graffiti. Two of the areas that we painted will soon sport new murals!"

Neighborhood Revitalization projects bring us together as a community to create meaningful change and build brighter futures for everyone we serve. We are so grateful to be able to serve those in need among us and have the opportunity to become part of their story.



52 Gwinnett Drive, Suite B
P.O. Box 646
Lawrenceville, GA 30046

Email Us: sponsorship@habitatgwinnett.org
Call our Director of Philanthropy: 770-931-8080 x1025

gwinnettwaltonhabitat.org

Make a Donation

Visit habitatgwinnett.org/giving
to learn about how you can partner with us.



Gwinnett/Walton Habitat for Humanity is an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International.

Executive Director's Corner

Gwinnett Habitat is proud to announce that we are now Gwinnett/Walton Habitat for Humanity. We recently merged with the Walton County Habitat affiliate and are now serving families in Walton County.

There are two main reasons for this strategic expansion. First, the existing all-volunteer affiliate was considering closing and asked for our help. We want to make sure that families in Walton County who need affordable housing and home repairs are able to receive them. Secondly, we desired to expand our service area into Walton County because of the increased access to affordable land for building. We currently have 3 buildable lots in Walton County and are closing soon on an additional lot.

We are excited to begin building in Monroe this month. We have also recently completed our first ABWK home repair project in Walton County and identified several additional families in the area that are in need of home repairs. Several groups have reached out to support our efforts. I would like to thank Grace Monroe Church, Hope Monroe, the Monroe City Council,

and the Walton/Barrow Board of Realtors for reaching out to help. Hope Monroe, a non-profit housing organization, has offered to match donations toward our fall build up to \$10,000. We are also excited to welcome Tyler Gregory, Monroe City Councilman, to our Board of Directors.

We are so grateful for the warm reception we are receiving and can't wait to serve more families in Walton County. Help us get the word out to your friends and family that live or work in this area. If you would like to help with this new effort, just check out our website or give our office a call. Together, we are building strength, stability, and self-reliance through shelter for families in Gwinnett and Walton Counties. Thank you for being a part of our growing team.

God bless.

Brent S. Behrens
Executive Director



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