

Spring/Summer 2021

the doorway

building homes, communities and hope

Meet the families who will own homes 151 and 152



Jomayra, Randy & Ashley

Jomayra Fortuna is a single mother from the Dominican Republic who wanted to provide a solid education and better opportunities for her children. Although she worked hard to find a good school system in Gwinnett County when they moved to Georgia, she had limited resources to use for housing. She and her children have slept with cameras in the windows to make sure they are safe. Gun shots and fights are a daily occurrence in their neighborhood.

Owning a home seemed like an impossible goal, but Jomayra wanted a safe home for her family. When Jomayra saw the Habitat staff walking toward her door with balloons to notify her that she had been selected, she was ecstatic! She could hardly believe what was happening. Jomayra works as a healthcare aide giving to others on a daily basis to meet their needs and give them hope. For Jomayra and her children, Randy and Ashley, building their own home will be the key to an even brighter future for all of them. As she told her children, "Our home, will be something we built together."



Rachid Rherbi and his wife, Hanane moved to the United States from Morocco in search of a better life for their family. Their family of four shares a one bedroom apartment which makes things quite challenging as their boys get older. Rachid has spent several years volunteering and helping to build other Habitat homes for other families. This is their fourth time applying for housing with Habitat and they are so grateful to be among those selected to build a new home. As Rachid tells his sons, "A house is happiness to the family."

This home will bring so many new opportunities to the Rherbi family. Building strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter is at the core of Habitat's mission. This family will be finally be able to start working toward goals to start a savings account, college funds and give their boys opportunities they never had themselves. Rachid plans to add to that stability by starting his own business in the future. Without Gwinnett Habitat for Humanity, the future he dreams of for his family would not be possible.

Rachid, Hanane, Mohammed & Abdo



our vision is a world where everyone has a safe, decent, affordable place to call home

Gwinnett
Habitat for Humanity®

ReStore

The ReStore has had an exciting few months, with new corporate donors providing us great product. We accepted our second trailer of merchandise from WAL-MART last week and it was a huge hit with everything from bicycles, bed frames and kid's electric cars to book cases. The great news is that we are expecting our third trailer the end of this month, so come on in to enjoy their great offerings.

We continue to have great success in our lighting department, driven by a new corporate donor as well, where we have surpassed selling over 500 units of outdoor sconces. How about some great socks or Yankee Candle fireplace logs? We have those and so much more thanks to our new donor Streewise, here in Lawrenceville.

Private donations continue to soar, as home sales are at an all time high. As some people are donating unwanted items others are looking for materials to upgrade their homes. We are grateful to our wonderful staff and volunteers for making this possible. We have wonderful items to improve your home. Find what your looking for at the ReStore!



ReStore news

What are our new hours?

We are now open **Tuesday through Saturday** each week 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 to serve as a volunteer at the ReStore?

Please visit our website, suburbanatlantarestores.org, to apply!!



A Brush with Kindness



a story of transformation

During the mist of the pandemic, we received a call from a grieving family who wanted to donate their late father's wheel-chair ramp. Our ABWK Team went out to the home of the family on a cold winter day and disassembled the ramp piece by piece, loaded it onto a long trailer and towed it away to our storage facility. The pandemic grew effecting people of all ages, especially the elderly population who already experience so much isolation in normal times. Our calls to assist senior citizens soared as household service providers curtailed their retail businesses. Over the winter break, we were able to match the donated ramp with a client seeking safer access to her home. We installed the donated ramp at the home of Ms. Tommie Jane (T.J.) in Suwanee (age 83), just as springtime arrived.

Ms. T.J. was so delighted with her gift, that her face lite-up with joy when she exclaimed, "Now my boyfriend can come over and visit and we can dance again!" Our ABWK Team is presently installing an ADA compliant chair-height commode, safety grab bars next to her shower, and rocker light switches so that Ms. T.J. can continue to age in place in the house that she has called home for over 15 years. These additions to her home will go a long way in creating a safer home environment which enables Ms. Tommie to live independently. We are grateful to the Clare Family for their generosity to support this project.

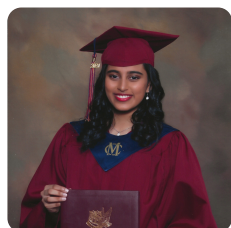
These Aging in Place modification projects are only completed due to the kindness of private donors. If you would like to help with future projects to please make a donation towards our A Brush With Kindness program.

Lynn Weekly Scholarships Awarded!



Meera Chaudhari

Meera started volunteering with Gwinnett Habitat in 2019 and is a tremendous asset. She has worked on New Home Construction build sites, A Brush with Kindness projects, and has just joined our Hospitality Volunteer team. Meera is always putting in her best effort to ensure Habitat project are completed. We are so grateful to have Meera as a volunteer and wish her the best of luck in her future goals. Meera graduated from Millcreek High School this Spring and has plans to attend the Georgia Institute of Technology this Fall to pursue her dreams.



Nakibul Alam

Nakibul started volunteering with Gwinnett Habitat in 2019 as one of our Habitat Club Presidents. As a self-starter and peer leader with a passion for service and community, he has volunteered with New Home Construction, A Brush with Kindness projects, and the Gwinnett Restore. Nakibul consistently educates, advocates, and inspires his peers towards stewardship. Nakibul graduated from Discovery High School this Spring and has plans to attend the University of Georgia or the University of Richmond this Fall to major in Economics.



■ Please join us in celebrating the students receiving the 2021 Lynn Weekley Volunteer Scholarship! ■



Laila Turner

Laila started volunteering with Gwinnett Habitat while completing sweat equity for her family's Habitat home in 2017. Sweat Equity is the labor and hard work our families do to help build their homes and become homeowners. In addition to being a family-centered big sister, she splits her time working with the Peachtree Ridge Playhouse and giving back to her community. Laila graduated from Peachtree Ridge High School this Spring and will pursue her passion for Criminal Justice at Kennesaw State University.



Join us in Mechanicsville as we partner with Gwinnett County:

June 26 - Street clean up and community fair

July 24 - Tire recycling and large bulk item pick up and drop off

August 28 - Gwinnett Habitat "Paint the Town" day.



We had an amazing number of people view our virtual Gwinnett Lights event this year! After reaching over 6000 people with our story, we are excited to see increased engagement with our mission. We are happy to report that more businesses, individuals and students are reaching out to join us as we build better homes and brighter futures. We look forward to continuing to reach more and more of our community to share the life-changing impact we can make together as we create strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter.

Join us to invest your resources, time and talents with Gwinnett Habitat for Humanity to bring hope to families in need!



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

habitatgwinnett.org

Make a Donation

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



Gwinnett Habitat for Humanity is an affiliate of
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executive director's corner

Gwinnett Habitat is finally building new homes in 2021. Permit delays, the effects of Covid19 on funding, and the increase in the cost of building materials have made construction of new homes difficult, but not impossible. It is possible only because of many partnerships within our community.

One crucial partnership is with companies and businesses that donate materials and labor. These are what we call gifts-in-kind. These gifts creating savings on our newest build, home 151. Legacy Lighting is donating all our lighting fixtures. Accent Roofing is donating roofing materials and labor. Metro Power is donating all electrical materials and labor. These donations help us to offset the current cost of building materials. These gifts-in-kind also include services from attorneys, architects, and engineers.

Another crucial partnership is with our Build Sponsors. Businesses, civic groups, churches, and even families provide a financial donation that when combined with other donations covers the

cost of materials to complete the home construction. Groups also bring out 15 volunteers on their Saturday to do the construction. It is a great way to support our mission and build team unity.

Sometimes we are just looking for volunteer groups to flex their muscles and swing a hammer. These groups are important because they help to keep us on schedule so we can have our partner families in their new homes as soon as possible.

It is possible to succeed at our mission when we have the support of our community. Please consider how your group or business can support our work and contact us today to start making a difference. Together, we are building strength, stability, and self-reliance through shelter for families in our community. Thanks for choosing to partner with our team!

God bless,

Brent S. Bohanan
Executive Director



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