

Winter 2022

the doorway

NEWSLETTER

*Building homes,
communities and hope.*



Record Year for ReStore

Bob Cox Talks Record-breaking year for ReStore

ReStore Sales

FY 2019	\$1.1 M	July 2018	June 2019
FY 2020	\$1.4 M	July 2019	June 2020
FY 2022	\$1.4 M+	July 2021	February 2022

Thanks to partnerships with stores and warehouses like Ethan Allen, Window World, Walmart, West Elm and Pottery Barn, the ReStore has been stocked with high-end products that sell quickly.

Walmart has committed to donating \$30K worth of mattresses, sales expected to start in February.

Bob Cox, Director of Retail, says he enjoys “telling our story to customers and sharing that all the money they spend in the store stays in their community.” The ReStore is closed one day a year specifically to allow staff to work on a Habitat build project. ReStore staff had the chance to work side by side with new homeowner Heather on home build number W9 in Monroe. “It really connected us as employees to the mission of the organization. Half of Heather’s house was made possible with the money from what we do here.”

ReStore daily volunteer and MVP, Armand Herbert, works tirelessly at the ReStore as the “furniture rescue” expert. He has an impressive setup with a workshop full of tools

and a recycling and repair area. Donated and slightly damaged furniture and fixtures go to Armand for repair and refurbishing. Anything that cannot be added to the sales floor gets taken to the recycling center to keep it out of the landfill. In 2020, \$17,000 in revenue was generated from recycling.

The store employs 6-8 staff, and they are looking to hire another two positions. There are also volunteer opportunities available at the ReStore. They need a few steady regular volunteers, 1-2 days a week.

A few more highlights include brand new lighting in the store with energy-efficient LED bulbs, a new POS system allowing the store to track sales and print SOLD tags to reserve items for a later pick up, and a new website is scheduled for 2022.

Because of a very attractive profit-sharing sales incentive and bonus program for store employees, Bob was happy to report that the staff is happy, hard-working and a cohesive team. In two years, there has been 0% turnover.

Ryan Willoughby from HFHI provided a Facebook Live virtual tour of the store to all the Georgia affiliates on January 18th.

Go check out the Donor Recognition room at the front of the store and make sure to shop and donate. A list of accepted items can be found here (scan QR code with a smartphone camera):



—Jan Mayheu, Director of Philanthropy

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Service Day



“We must use time creatively, in the knowledge that the time is always right to do right.” The famous words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. rang true on Saturday, January 22nd, 2022, as a group of volunteers teamed together for a service project sponsored by Gwinnett/Walton Habitat for Humanity and Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful.

Habitat’s A Brush with Kindness (ABWK) program offers painting, landscaping and minor repair services to eligible homeowners so they can continue to live in safe, decent homes for years to come.

As we approached the work site, we quickly realized a more creative solution would be needed to complete the task ahead of us.

“Truly overwhelming” were the words used by Peter Rozboril, long-time Habitat volunteer, to describe the amount of debris seen around the perimeter of the Lawrenceville home. With the leadership of Oscar Núñez, ABWK Coordinator, and the Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful staff, we were able to divide and conquer as much of the project as possible.



Members of the North Gwinnett High School Habitat Campus Club came to lend a hand to a neighbor in need.

Over the course of four hours, 24 hard-working volunteers were able to completely fill three dumpsters with landfill debris.

Photos were taken by local photographer Molly McWilliams. After taking a few action shots of volunteers hard at work, Molly slipped on a pair of gloves and joined the cause. “I was very impressed by how many high school students came to give up their Saturday to help someone in need. It was so inspiring to see young people work so hard to make their community a better place for everyone!”

–Perry McWilliams, Volunteer Coordinator



Why Does My Habitat Affiliate Tithe?

You have heard your pastor or priest speak about the importance of tithing many times. A tithe is 10% of our income that we return to God as a sign of gratitude that can be used to do God's work. Did you know that Habitat affiliates also tithe? We tithe 10% of undesignated funds each quarter to Habitat International to build homes in struggling countries around the world.

Since our affiliate began in 1988, we have tithed \$728,336. The tithe has allowed us to serve 213 families internationally.

One exciting part of tithing is that we get to decide which country receives our funds. Haiti has been our tithe partner for the last 7 years. As you know, on August 14, 2021, Haiti was struck by a 7.2 magnitude earthquake that caused massive destruction and loss of life. 53,000 homes were destroyed and 77,000 sustained damage.

The national Habitat affiliate in Haiti went right to work responding with hygiene and shelter kits, assessing the housing damage and beginning to help the most vulnerable households repair or rebuild their homes.

Our tithe is making a tremendous difference in Haiti. When you support our local affiliate, you are also building and repairing homes in Haiti.

–Brent Bohanan, Executive Director

Meet Our New Team Members



Jan Ruth Mayheu
Director of Philanthropy

Jan Ruth Mayheu is a native Georgian, from Stone Mountain, who has resided in Lilburn for the past 15 years. She is an alum of Wofford College in Spartanburg, SC, and completed her Master's of Public Administration at the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University. Her most recent position was at Helping Mamas in Norcross as the Director of Major Giving. She brings a wealth of development knowledge and skills with over 22 years of experience. Jan has additional development experience in the Atlanta area with Woodruff Arts Center, Pace Academy, YWCA Greater Atlanta and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Foundation. She is very excited to join our team and help us achieve our mission.



Perry McWilliams
Volunteer Coordinator

Perry McWilliams is a Gwinnett County native who grew up in Peachtree Corners. Perry moved to Lilburn, GA after completing his bachelor's degree at Georgia Southern University. Prior to joining the Habitat team, Perry was a special education teacher at a private school in Buckhead. He has also gained ministry experience while working for Peachtree Corners Baptist Church and Camp All American in John's Creek, GA. Outside of work, Perry has been involved in several community theatre productions across Metro Atlanta. He is very excited to bring new people together to help build homes and strengthen our community!

Sponsorship Spotlight



QTS are a return Build Sponsor for 2022. A quote from Randall Poole, VP Product Development at Quality Technology Services: "QTS and our employees are dedicated to serving our community and partnering with Habitat for Humanity is a natural fit. We are planning the sponsorship of our second build with Gwinnett/Walton Habitat and the QTS team is super excited to meet the new family help raise some walls on a new house. Habitat for Humanity is an awesome organization and makes a real difference in real people's lives. QTS and the team is just grateful to be able to support and help in this mission."

*Sponsorships are available starting from \$1,000 for **ABWK Projects** and \$6,000 for **Build Day Sponsorships**.*

A Brush With Kindness

Rodney and Shannon Jackson were cited for code enforcement violations involving chimney repair and roof drainage repairs on their Snellville home. The Jackson's are challenged with mobility issues and limited by disabilities. Habitat's ABWK program was able to assist with the chimney repair and Director of Programs Jen Welch was able to secure a grant to subsidize the cost of installing new gutters, utilizing a locally licensed contractor at a reduced rate.



This was truly a community collaboration effort involving our ABWK Team together with nine volunteers, three volunteer contractors and three volunteer consultants. This group effort not only rebuilt the chimney, installed new



gutters, but also removed diseased trees and shrubs, cleaned the yards, repaired the front porch columns and added a fresh coat of paint to the porch, over a month-long period.

—Oscar Núñez, ABWK Coordinator



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

Your support of our mission in 2021 was crucial. With your help, we were able to serve 39 households with 36 home repairs and 3 new homes constructed. We were also able to serve an additional 300 people through our Gwinnett County outreach events which provided back-to-school book bags, a community resource fair and a Paint the Town event that removed graffiti around the county. 2021 was also the year that we built our first home in Walton County where the Mayor of Monroe, John Howard, and several City Council Members volunteered. Finally, our ReStore in Lawrenceville broke a sales record in 2021 due to our excellent community support that shops, donates and volunteers.

2022 is off to a fast start with our first new home construction project in Snellville scheduled to begin on February 26th. Additionally, we plan to construct two homes in Monroe this year and start a new repair program with Gwinnett County Water Resources that will assist with repairing water leaks for those in

need. We are currently working to secure a land tract for building a small neighborhood in Gwinnett County. More details coming soon.

We are so grateful for your continued support of our mission. Together, we are building strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter for families in Gwinnett and Walton Counties. Thanks for making a difference.

May God richly bless you and your family in 2022.

Executive Director



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