

Spring 2022

the doorway

NEWSLETTER

*Building homes,
communities and hope.*



Habitat for Humanity International
and 84 U.S. affiliates receive

\$436 million gift

mission transformation impact



MacKenzie Scott Gift and Haiti/Affiliate Conference

Team members with Board President, Ed Ringer, Aruna Mane, Programs Director at Habitat for Humanity International-Haiti and Anna Oltmann, Resource Development and Communications, Haiti

Gwinnett/Walton Habitat for Humanity, along with Habitat for Humanity International, and 83 U.S. Habitat affiliate organizations, recently received **\$436 million** in unrestricted giving from American author and philanthropist MacKenzie Scott.

Of that, our affiliate received \$2 million. This transformational donation will substantially help further our vision of a world where everyone has equitable access to a safe, decent and affordable place to call home. In addition, 10% of this donation will be tithed to build homes in Haiti.

Over the next 3+ years, our team will use the donation as the lead gift to the Build Better Capital Campaign.

The campaign plan includes the goal to build two neighborhoods and 30 homes in Gwinnett and Walton Counties by 2025. This incredible gift will enable the purchase of land needed to build more houses and provide housing for hardworking families in need and in search of affordable and decent housing.

Four other affiliates in Georgia received a portion of this donation—Atlanta, Columbus, Houston County (Warner Robbins), and Southern Crescent (Jonesboro).

Habitat International will use its \$25 million portion to prioritize advocacy and programmatic efforts designed to dismantle systemic racism in housing.

FAQs:

Q: How did this gift happen? Did you apply?

- HFHI received a call from the donor's team in Summer 2021.
- There was no formal application process.
- The donor's team was charged with completing due diligence on the affiliates that would be selected for funding.

Q: How were the funded affiliates selected?

- Short answer: We don't know.
- After HFHI provided the data requested, Scott's team did their own due diligence on the affiliates separately.
- Brent received an email and he provided any data requested by the donor's advisor.

Scott said she and her advisers select nonprofits that have a track record of carrying out their missions successfully and has explained her decision to give unrestricted, general operating gifts as a way to give charity leaders "maximum flexibility."

—Jan Mayheu, Director of Philanthropy

Thursday is the New Friday



Top Right Photo: (from left) Cliff Shields, Rob Edson, Dennis Flemming, Peter Rozboril, Ken Krawford, Bob Manka. Lower Right Photo: (from left) Dennis Flemming, Bob Manka, Pete O'Connor, Rob Edson, Bill Frasier, Barton Shaw.

Since 1988, Habitat for Humanity has been providing safe, decent, affordable housing to hard-working families in Gwinnett and Walton Counties. We would not have such a great impact on our community without the hard work and dedication of our Thursday Crew!

On average, it takes 13 weeks to build a Habitat home. That means we have about 13 Saturday opportunities for volunteers to participate in the home build process. Sometimes we have to cancel volunteer build days due to unsafe weather conditions, and our Thursday Crew is always there to help keep the construction process on track. "Sometimes it gets overlooked how critical the Thursday Crew is to closing out a home," explains Gwinnett/Walton Habitat for Humanity Construction Manager, Cliff Shields.

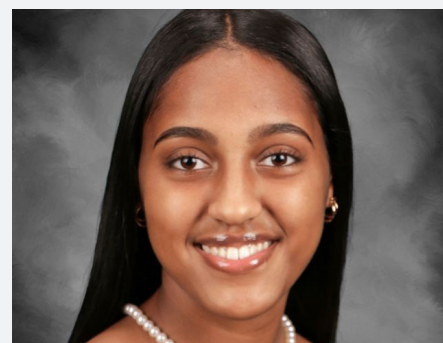
When asked about what the Thursday Crew's hard work meant to her, Walton County Habitat homeowner, Heather Griffeth, had this to say, "Thursday Crew, what an absolute blessing! There is no way my home construction

would have stayed on track, on time and *correct* without the hard work of the Thursday Crew. Knowing that these folks worked behind our weekly volunteer build days to make adjustments and prepare for the next week, gave me such a sense of calm and care."

Not only does the Thursday Crew work diligently to build new Habitat Homes, but they also take the time to educate new volunteers on what to do on a construction site. For example, Construction Management student, Martina Watson, joined us on the work site for several Thursdays to gain hands-on experience in residential construction. "I definitely loved working with all the guys. It was such an awesome experience!" exclaimed Mrs. Watson.

If you are interested in giving back to your community and want to be part of an amazing group of volunteers, what are you waiting for? Contact us to volunteer today!

—Perry McWilliams, Volunteer Coordinator



Lynn Weekley Scholarship Winner

The Lynn Weekley Volunteer College Scholarship is a \$1500 scholarship awarded to college-bound high school seniors who have served at least 50 volunteer hours and have a clear dedication to volunteerism and a commitment to academic excellence.

The 2022 Lynn Weekly Scholarship recipient is Hermon Tecle, a graduating senior from Parkview High School with a 4.0 GPA. She has been accepted to Georgia State University majoring in Public Health.

Some of the activities that made Hermon the perfect candidate for the Lynn Weekley scholarship include volunteering for the National Honor Society, SEWA, Girl Up and the American Red Cross.

"My actions in volunteerism during high school have immensely impacted me as I have grown into the person I am today. Through volunteering at various events, activities, and community service acts, I have acquired knowledge about...the daily walks of life for many. It's eye-opening to see such little work can be done to create a positive impact on someone else's life.... my leadership has shone a light as I have learned how to take charge when given a chance to help others." —Hermon Tecle

—Rhonda Streat, Director of Homeowner Services

Meet Our New Team Members



Audrielle Jackson
WRAP Program Assistant

Audrielle Jackson was born in Lancaster, California and relocated to Georgia in 1997. She now resides in Gwinnett County with her 7-year-old adopted cat, Ebony. After obtaining a Bachelor of General Studies from Georgia Southern University in 2017, she began seeking opportunities to assist non-profit organizations with initiatives for the greater good of local community members. She is especially passionate about collaborative efforts towards environmental conservation, mental health awareness and hunger/poverty relief. She is proud to contribute through service alongside her many inspiring team members at Gwinnett/Walton Habitat for Humanity!



Suzy Bus
Receptionist/Office Assistant

Suzy Bus was born in Upstate New York and spent her formative years in Belgium, where her parents served as missionaries with an international agency. She is one of 5 siblings and in recent years settled in Lawrenceville to provide care for her aging parents. She studied at the University of Lancaster for her Bachelor's degree and traveled extensively overseas on two missionary ships before moving back to the USA. For the last 14 years, she had the honor of providing resources and information to Gwinnett County residents through the Gwinnett Helpline, a program of the Gwinnett Coalition. She is equally excited to now provide administrative support for Habitat for Humanity and looks forward to warmly welcoming all who come to our office!

Celebrating Jerry: 10 Years of Service at ReStore

We celebrated Jerry Haney for his 10th year of service, making him our longest serving associate at the ReStore. While we have four associates with a combined 30 years of service, Jerry is an outstanding member of the team for many reasons.

Jerry is our Senior driver and Brand Ambassador, he is also one of the most ardent employees living the Habitat mission. Everything Jerry does for us

is steeped in our vision of serving our community. He connects the dots, understanding how his contributions to the store make the magic of home ownership come to life—and he unabashedly lets the world know.

One of the marks he has made in our store is the creation of our recycling program. Each non-saleable piece of metal brought to us is separated and processed for recycling. It allows us to accept donors' items that would

Giving Spotlight

Text-to-Give



Text-to-Give

Text-to-give is an easy, mobile method for contributing to your favorite causes on the go. You can text our custom code and give to Gwinnett/Walton Habitat via a secure fundraising page.

To give, text **"GWHAB" to 44-321**

Feedback Survey

Let us get to know you and how we can support you as you work with us. Fill out our brief survey online for a chance to win a Habitat Prize Pack!



scan QR code with a smartphone camera



Bob Cox, Jerry Haney and Brent Bohanan

otherwise be rejected. We are on track to exceed over \$20,000 in income as a result of the program he created. We also celebrated our best week of sales to date, \$110K in March 2022.

—**Bob Cox**, Director of Retail Operations



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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

We are both excited and honored to receive the large undesignated donation from MacKenzie Scott. It is a true answer to prayer. This gift will have an impact on our community for many years to come. As Jan mentioned, we plan to use MacKenzie's gift as our lead gift for the new Build Better capital campaign that we will officially launch in January of 2023. The goal of our **Build Better** Campaign is to build two neighborhoods (one in Gwinnett and one in Walton) by the end of 2025 providing new homeownership for over 30 families!

The impact of the Scott donation will also be felt in Haiti because of our tithe to support the work of the National Habitat affiliate in Haiti. A group of our staff were able to meet Aruna Mane, the Haiti Director, at the Habitat Affiliate Conference on April 12th in Atlanta. He was overjoyed to receive our gift, which will be used as matching funds to support the Leveraging Land in Haiti project and help provide land tenure security to over 12,000 households.

These are exciting times for our organization, and we are so grateful that you are a part of our team. Together, we are building strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter for families in Gwinnett/Walton Counties and the country of Haiti!

Thanks for making a difference.

God bless.

Executive Director



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