

Winter 2023

the doorway

NEWSLETTER

Building homes,
communities, and hope.



Build Better Foundations Campaign Kickoff Event

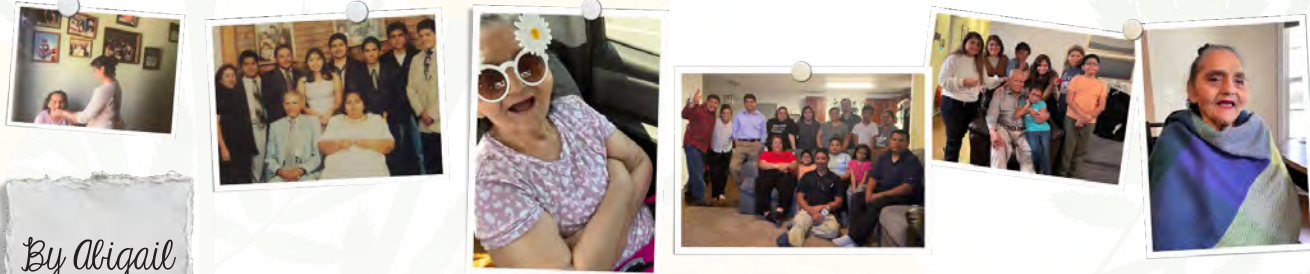
Announcing the Capital Campaign: **Build Better**. On Thursday, January 26th, over 200 people gathered to celebrate the 2023-2025 Capital Campaign kick-off event, "Build Better Foundations." The event raised over \$150,000 to support the construction of 24 new homes in Gwinnett and Walton Counties.

The event began with a devotional from donor and community leader Mrs. Sandra Strickland, and speakers Mr. Jonathan Reckford, CEO, Habitat for Humanity International; Mrs. Nicole Love Hendrickson, Gwinnett County Chairwoman; and Gwinnett native, Jeff Francoeur, MLB Announcer, and Former Atlanta Braves Baseball player. The event featured two homeowner families and celebrated the 13 families that paid off their mortgages, with two of the families shredding their paperwork while the crowd cheered them on. **If you are interested in supporting the campaign by donating or pledging to directly support one of the 24 homes, or sponsoring a build day, please contact Jan Mayheu, Director of Philanthropy, jmayheu@habitatgwinnett.org.** There are many ways to support our mission through this campaign and double our production over the next few years.

—Jan Mayheu, Director of Philanthropy



Abigail's Story Juventina



By Abigail



My name is Abigail. I am a mother of an 11-year-old boy who is thriving thanks to the stability that our home has provided our little family. I am a proud first-time homeowner solely because of the work that Habitat for Humanity did on my behalf. My home, the home that Habitat built with me, has been the portal to blessings

for not just my son and I, but my entire family.

Before owning my home, I helped care for my mother in any way I could. My mother suffered from dementia for many years. Her dementia turned into Alzheimer's. Although I was actively helping to care for our mother, I lived with an overwhelming feeling of impotence, not just because of what the disease was doing to my mom and not being able to make her better, but there were limitations on the care that I wanted to give her. Due to my housing situation, or lack thereof, my help was limited to simply covering shifts for my sister when she needed help, as my sister was the primary caregiver for our mom, and our mom lived with her.

When my mother got COVID in November of 2021, she never fully recovered. The effects of COVID accelerated her Alzheimer's. We realized how unsafe it was for mom to

continue living with my sister when we needed to get mom to the hospital one day, but we could not get her to move. When the EMTs arrived, it was a struggle to move the stretcher up and down the stairs. Before mom was released from the hospital, we decided it was no longer sensible for her to continue living at my sister's house. What a relief to my siblings and me when I was able to say, "She can live with me!" It meant we could keep mom close for a little longer, and she wouldn't have to go into a nursing facility. It was a proud moment for me because I could now give her that extra care that she needed and deserved.

My house, built by volunteers who showed up every Saturday, worked countless hours during the week, and sponsored by donors, allowed me to focus on making my mom comfortable the last few months. The entire family was able to visit her in my home. On April 27, 2022, my mother, Juventina, passed away in the house that WE built. It will forever be my greatest honor to have been able to host my mother when she took her

last breath. That is a gift that I will never be able to fully repay and one which I will forever be grateful for.

Now, I'm preparing to receive my father in my home, as he is aging, poor in health, and requires a little extra attention. Again, peace of mind is something that, without this house, I would not be able to offer my family. On behalf of myself, my brothers and sisters, my son, nieces, nephews, aunts and uncles, extended family, and friends – we thank you.

The one showing favor to the lowly is lending to Jehovah, and He will repay him for what he does.

– Proverbs 19:17 –

Meet Our New Team Members



Brandy Bulger
Receptionist/Office Assistant

Brandy Bulger is a Gwinnett County Native who grew up in the Norcross and Lawrenceville area. After graduating from Central Gwinnett High School, Brandy Attended Gainesville State University. With traveling on her mind, she decided to leave Georgia and explore other states, like New York and Indiana. Longing to return to her roots, she returned to Georgia, married her best friend Brandon, and started working in the community in DeKalb County as an after-school coordinator. She welcomed her first child Braylee into the world in December 2019. She is so delighted to work for Gwinnett/Walton Habitat because she can serve the community where she was raised.



Jesse White
Assistant Construction Manager

Jesse W. White, Ed. S., DTE has been a House Leader for Gwinnett/Walton Habitat for Humanity since early 2021. Jesse has 2 cats, 3 daughters, 5 grandchildren and 2 great-grandsons. He has 3 degrees from the University of Arkansas (go Hogs!), has training in Lean Six Sigma, and is an OSHA Competent Person. Jesse loves and supports Habitat and its mission and helped start a chapter in Arkansas, serving as a board member, lead carpenter, and other activities. Jesse retired to the Caribbean after 18 years in public education (1986-1989 and 2000-2015), 10 years in disability services (1989-1999), and 16 years as a master carpenter and contractor (1971-1987). He moved to Buford in 2019 to be near family. He has served on nonprofit boards and has received 13 awards and honors as an instructor and education leader including Distinguished Technology Educator.

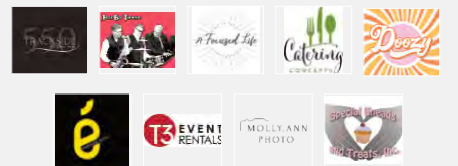
To Our Sponsors

THANK YOU

to our **Build Better Foundations** event sponsors and partners for your support and participation



Special Thanks to:



Meet Our New Families!

2023 Builds



Antwi + Pokuaa Francisca Margaret + Justin Yesica Zuleica

2024 Builds



Dennis + Abena Harun + Aragson Inga + Terrance Josue + Grace Laja Lumina + Guemael Sumeya Tiffany





Gwinnett / Walton
Habitat
for Humanity®

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Lawrenceville, GA 30046

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

gwinnettwaltonhabitat.org
gwinnettwaltonrestore.org

Make a Donation

Online: habitatgwinnett.org/giving
Text-to-Give: Text BBGW to 44-321



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

Executive Director's Corner

Our Build Better capital campaign launch event on January 26th was a big success. Over 200 attendees heard wonderful speeches from Nicole Love Hendrickson, Jonathan Reckford, and Jeff Francoeur. We were all inspired by the homeowner stories shared by Heather and Jomayra. We also celebrated 13 homeowners that paid off their mortgages in 2022 by cheering on Van, Helleni, and Glori as they shredded their security deeds.

We raised \$150,000 for the campaign to double the number of homes we build over the next three years to twenty-four. This was added to \$600,000 that was already raised in lead gifts before the launch event. We are well on our way to reaching our goal of \$4.8 million for this campaign, but we are about \$900,000 short. Please contact our office if you would like to make a donation to this campaign. Your donation will help Build Better futures for twenty-four families in our community.

We have already started constructing a home in Lawrenceville and a home in Monroe. However, building more homes means more volunteers and build sponsors are needed. **The support of our community is needed now more than ever. Please contact our office if you or your group would like to help with this new initiative by sponsoring a build day financially or by volunteering.** With your help, we are building strength, stability, and self-reliance through shelter for families in Gwinnett and Walton Counties!

Thanks for making a difference.
God bless.



Brent S. Schaner

Executive Director

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