

Winter 2024

the doorway

NEWSLETTER

*Building homes,
communities, and hope.*



A Home Transformed Willie and Chanel's Brush With Kindness

For 22 years, Willie and Chanel called a modest house their home. Willie, an Air Force veteran, and Chanel, who uses a wheelchair, faced the challenges of a home that lacked essential facilities. The absence of a full bathroom and bedroom on the first floor made daily life a constant struggle.

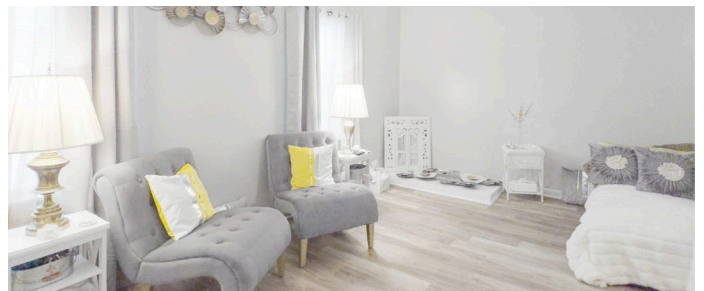
Recognizing the need for change, they applied to the A Brush with Kindness Home Repair Program. Their story touched the hearts of those involved, and it was clear that significant modifications were necessary for their well-being.

Chanel, using her wheelchair, could not navigate the stairs to use the shower or sleep in her upstairs bedroom. Instead, she found herself relegated to a sofa bed in the living room. The situation cried out for a solution, and the Aging in Place Home Modifications initiative seemed tailor-made for them.

Gwinnett/Walton Habitat for Humanity took charge of the project, bringing people together to make a tangible impact on this family's quality of life. The success of this endeavor was a result of collaboration between The Atlanta Regional Commission and three fundholders at the Community Foundation for Northeast Georgia, who provided essential funding to enclose the garage and transform it into an accessible bedroom and bathroom.

Two generous in-kind donors, **Bardi Heating and Air**, and **Robinson Electric**, worked seamlessly to extend the HVAC system into the new living space. Bardi Heating and Air provided both materials and labor for the installation, while Robinson Electric equipped the space with a new breaker and disconnect for the necessary electrical components.

The constructive collaboration of these partners not only enclosed a physical space but also created a haven for Willie and Chanel, where everyday tasks became a little less daunting. **The story of their home modification is a shining example of compassion, community, and the transformative power of collaboration.**



Willie and Chanel's newly renovated accessible bedroom, thanks to the incredible teamwork and support from our community partners.

—Jen Welch, Deputy Executive Director



Ashley and Jomayra share their Habitat journey at the Build Better Capital Campaign launch, inspiring a community dedicated to creating change, January 2023.

Shaping Futures

Ashley's Community Impact

Buford High School senior Ashley has incorporated community service into her high school journey. With a stellar 4.0 GPA in AP classes, active participation in clubs, and a passion for art, Ashley's commitment to giving back shines through.

Inspired by the support her family received from the community during her childhood, Ashley now dedicates herself to assisting others. She focuses on providing valuable mental health advice to other teens, through an organization she started called "Bee Happier" with her friends. Another notable project is Study Wolves, a tutoring website created with her best friend, Emily, for fifth graders at Buford Senior Academy. As part of the National Honor Society, Ashley visits the students weekly, helping them improve their math skills.

In 2019, Ashley's mother applied for a home through Habitat for Humanity. After contributing sweat equity to build other houses, Ashley's family moved into their own home in Dacula in 2021. Grateful for the assistance they received, Ashley shared her story at the most recent Gwinnett/Walton Habitat for Humanity fundraiser, expressing her desire to help others facing financial burdens.

Recognized as an AP Scholar with Distinction, she encourages active participation and initiative. Looking ahead, Ashley plans to attend a STEM-centered university to study biochemistry or biomedical engineering. Her dream is to work in a lab, collaborating with other scientists and making significant contributions to our understanding of the world.

Ashley aspires to be an example for other students, especially those who may be shy or hesitant. She wants to be remembered as someone who embraced opportunities, spoke up, and achieved great things through active participation. As she prepares for graduation, Ashley carries a message of self-love, appreciation, and belief in oneself to inspire others on their journeys.

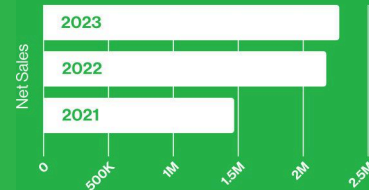
Ashley's mother and Habitat homeowner, Jomayra, shared this about her daughter with our staff, "As a mother, I am very proud of Ashley's accomplishments! She brings a lot of joy to our home, and I know she's going to go far in life. She's extremely dedicated and is such a wonderful girl!"

-Jan Mayheu, Director of Philanthropy



FY 2023 ReStore Financials

ReStore Gross Sales FY 2023
\$2,292,919



ReStore Net Income FY 2023
\$488,195

Funds Directed to Mission:
ReStore Distribution for Impact FY 2023
\$488,195

Top Corporate Donors

Williams Sonoma, Kichler Lighting, HD Supply, Lowes, Window Nation, New Windows South, Refined Lighting, Britts

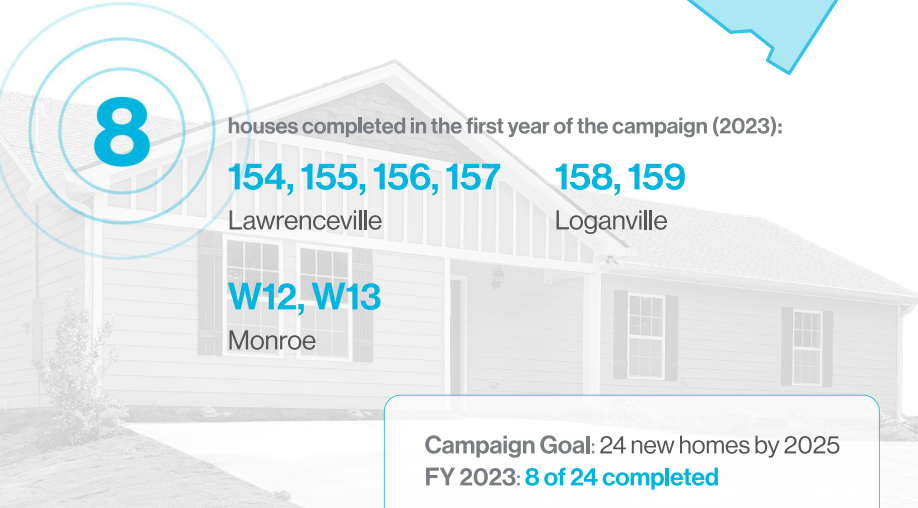
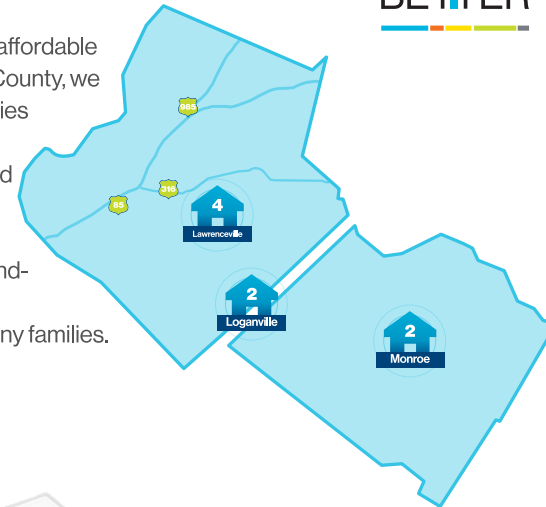
Update FY 2023

Build Better Capital Campaign

(2023-2025)



Recognizing the critical need for affordable housing in Gwinnett and Walton County, we are committed to serving 24 families through new homeownership in both counties. Through grants and public funding, we were able to build our robust landbank. In our history, we have never been so land-rich, which allows us to focus this campaign on serving twice as many families.



Campaign Goal: 24 new homes by 2025
FY 2023: 8 of 24 completed

Sponsor Spotlight



Credigy has partnered with us on A Brush With Kindness projects over the last three years impacting the quality of life for five families. Credigy's culture of getting stuff done; caring about and encouraging others; and appreciating diverse backgrounds is put into action when they help a family with aging in place modifications or protect a home's exterior with a fresh coat of paint. We have come to look forward to working with Credigy each year and enjoy the energy and enthusiasm that their team brings to the project site.

Meet Our New 2024 Families!

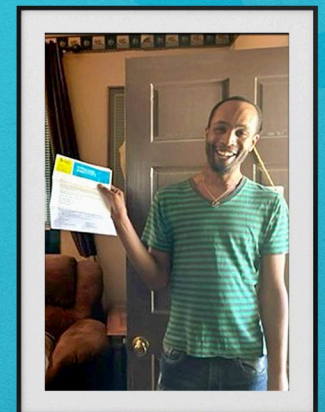
Stephanie
Gwinnett County



Patricia
Walton County



Thomas
Walton County





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P.O. Box 646
Lawrenceville, GA 30046

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

gwinnettwaltonhabitat.org
gwinnettwaltonrestore.org

Make a Donation

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



**DONATE
HERE** 

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

Executive Director's Corner

Welcome to 2024!

The new year has brought us three new team members.

Byran Christian is our new Construction Manager. Kevin Garcia is our new Assistant Construction Manager. And Scott Funk is our new Volunteer Coordinator. We have recently restructured our construction department by promoting Jesse White to Director of Construction and adding the two new construction managers. This will allow us to stay on track in this second year of our Build Better Campaign to build eight homes in 2024.

Our first two homes will start in Loganville in late January. We will begin two homes in Monroe in early April. Then our plan is to start a fourteen-home neighborhood in Lilburn in June. These are truly exciting times for our affiliate because we have the land and funding in place to serve sixteen additional

families with affordable homeownership over the next two years. This is only possible because of the support we have received from our community for the **Build Better** campaign.

In 2024, with your help, we will build strength, stability, and self-reliance through shelter for families in Gwinnett & Walton Counties!

Thanks for helping us make dreams come true!

God bless.

Executive Director



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