

Spring 2024

the doorway

NEWSLETTER

*Building homes,
communities, and hope.*



Ribbon Cutting at ReStore New Donor Lounge Reveal

Pictured L-R, Board Chair, Chris Hermansen, ReStore Team, Darci Wells and Bob Cox, Habitat Team, Brent Bohanan, Jan Mayheu, and Mayor of Lawrenceville, David Still.

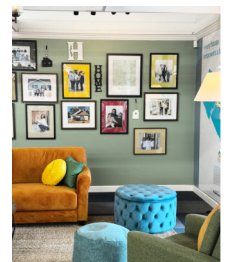
We are thrilled to announce the success of our first year of the \$4.8 million three-year capital campaign, "*Build Better*," aimed at transforming our community by building 24 homes by 2025.

Over the course of the campaign, we have witnessed incredible acts of kindness, dedication, and commitment from our donors, sponsors, volunteers, and community members. Together, we have met our goal, enabling us to embark on projects that will have a profound and lasting impact on our community.

Though we are still collecting the funding for the campaign, we invited our major donors and house sponsors to celebrate our achievements at a ribbon-cutting ceremony of the new Donor Recognition and Family Gallery at the ReStore on March 21st.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony symbolizes more than just the success of a capital campaign; it represents the culmination of collective efforts, shared visions, and the belief in our mission. *Together, we have laid the foundations for positive change, and we are immensely proud of what we have accomplished together. There is still time to make a gift to the campaign! We are now working on houses 9 and 10 out of 24, so please tell me how you would like to get involved!*

Thank you once again for your unwavering support, dedication, and generosity. We look forward to celebrating with you at our 8 new home dedications planned for 2024!



*Discover the newly renovated Donor Lounge at our Lawrenceville ReStore!
2100 Riverside Parkway, St. 123A, Lawrenceville, GA 30043*

—Jan Mayheu, Director of Philanthropy

Jim's Habitat Journey: Building A Legacy



Jim grew up in Minnesota and fought in World War II as a Navy signalman, serving in the Pacific. He was 17 when he entered the Navy. After the war, he went to college and began his high school teaching career. Jim's Habitat story begins at his retirement from teaching. This story is as he told it to a family friend before his passing.

I taught for 32 years and retired in 1983.
I spent a few years getting a Wisconsin lake cabin in order and bought a condo in St. Paul for the winters. I then began traveling around the country and Canada.

During three years of traveling, I used the Habitat for Humanity registry to discover locations where I could be involved in projects around the country. After three years as a

nomad, I concluded I needed an anchor and contacted Habitat for a more permanent assignment. Two affiliates responded: Spokane, Washington, and Clarkesville, Georgia. The Spokane affiliate was closed in the winter, so I opted for the Georgia location, my plan was to work from November to May for Habitat and be in Wisconsin at my lake house in the summer.

The Clarkesville, Georgia affiliate was organized by a Catholic priest, Father Pete. I made an acquaintance with a couple whose daughter traveled with her Air Force pilot husband, but stayed in a one-bedroom house when she came to visit them. They worked it out so that she visited during the months when I was in Minnesota or Wisconsin. I spent seven years traveling between Georgia and Wisconsin every six months.

While in Clarkesville, I visited the local library almost every evening and on days off. I became friends with Lynn Kilpatrick, the librarian. A friend of hers told me in my 7th year that Lynn was in a rocky marriage and had separated from her husband. She filed for divorce, and we married soon thereafter.

I continued to work for Habitat while living year-round in Georgia and only stopped in 2009 when I was 84. Lynn and I were married for 25 years until her passing in 2019.

Not only did Habitat give me a second career in service, but I never would have met or married Lynn if I hadn't been guided along my path by Habitat."

As the years passed, Jim's dedication to Habitat for Humanity only deepened, his heart forever tethered to the mission of building homes and futures for those in need.

Through the grace of Habitat for Humanity, Jim and Lynn's love blossomed, a testament to the organization's profound impact on their lives.

Jim never forgot the debt of gratitude he owed to Habitat for Humanity. For it was through Habitat's guiding light that he found a mission he cared about, but also the love of his life, Lynn, Jim Warren's story is a testament to the transformative power of romance and service, forever intertwined with the mission of Habitat for Humanity.

—Kim's Habitat story. Kim is an active volunteer with Gwinnett/Walton Habitat. Jim is her stepdad.

Habitat on the Hill 2024 Where's Rhonda?

"It was awesome experiencing Habitat on the Hill, February 6-8, 2024 in Washington, D.C. Habitat on the Hill is HFHs premier legislative conference where we advocate for affordable homeownership, and changes in policy. The highlight of the trip was meeting Senators Warnock and Ossoff. It was also a great opportunity to connect with peers from across the country, while actively participating in shaping housing policies. I highly recommend attending at least once."

—Rhonda Streat, Director of Homeowner Services



Rhonda Streat and the Habitat for Humanity Team in Washington, D.C.

Meet Our New Team Members



Scott Funk
Volunteer Coordinator

Scott Funk has spent most of his career in the corporate world of transportation logistics. He became adept at organizing a team, managing multiple projects, and coordinating timelines. Outside of Scott's day job, he has been very active in his church as a mentor to middle and high school students and has led adult small/life groups for over 20 years. Scott is a father of two and a grandfather. Scott is excited to be leaving the corporate world and joining a company with a mission to benefit people in the community.



Kevin Garcia
Assistant Construction Manager

Construction runs in the family for Kevin Garcia, who grew up around the field because of his father. Kevin has five years of experience in home improvement and construction. He is skilled in carpentry, electrical, plumbing, and leading small crews. Kevin prides himself on being able to navigate complex home improvements and maintaining a great relationship with homeowners. Kevin is bilingual and the father of a two-year-old son. He is excited for the chance to continue to grow his skills in the construction field and lead volunteers.

Update Your Contact Info & Share Your Habitat Story!



Community is at the heart of everything we do. As we continue our mission of building homes and hope, we want to ensure that we're staying connected with you the way you want to communicate.

If you've recently changed your email address, mailing address, or employer please take a moment to update your information with us. This helps us keep you informed about our latest projects, volunteer opportunities, and events in your area.

In addition, we're launching a new initiative called "What's Your Habitat Story?" and we want to hear from you! Whether you've volunteered on a build site, received a home through our program, or have a special connection to our mission, we invite you to share your story with us. Do you have us in your estate plans? We want to know all about you! Your experiences inspire us and remind us of the incredible impact we can make together.

Scan this QR code to update or email Jan at jmayheu@habitatgwinnett.org.



bit.ly/connectgwh



To give, Text "STUD" to 44-321



Volunteering in Monroe



Relaxing at Boulder Creek Coffee



A stud donated by Jackson EMC



Shopping at ReStore

Stud's been ...checking in Volunteers in Monroe, shopping at the ReStore, getting coffee in Lawrenceville. Where else will Stud show up?

Sponsor-a-Stud today!
Learn more:





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
gwinnettwaltonrestore.org

Make a Donation

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



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

Executive Director's Corner



Brent S. Behanos

Executive Director

WRAP has just celebrated its second birthday! The **Water Resources Assistance Program, also known as WRAP**, provides plumbing services for low-to-moderate income homeowners in Gwinnett County who are unable to complete the plumbing repairs due to age, finances, or physical ability. This program is funded through a partnership with the Gwinnett County Water Resources Department. We are so proud of the

impact of WRAP over the last two years. The program has served 259 households since the program began in March of 2022. This is a 300% increase in the number of families served by our affiliate with home repairs. Here are some other interesting stats for the program...

WRAP FACTS

- The WRAP Team has served our neighbors in all Gwinnett cities. The most households served were in Lawrenceville with Snellville close behind.
- 71% of households served were women.
- 55% of households were senior citizens.
- 20% of households had a family member with a disability.
- The average income of households served was \$29,391.
- Average house age was 38. The oldest house served was built 160 years ago!

If you or someone you know needs WRAP assistance, please contact us at **770-931-8080** or wrap@habitatgwinnett.org.

Have a happy Spring and God bless.

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