

Summer 2024

the doorway

NEWSLETTER

*Building homes,
communities, and hope.*



Gardening in Monroe Growing a Vibrant Community

The Gwinnett/Walton Habitat for Humanity staff and the Walton County Master Gardeners Program in Monroe collaborated to extend our mission beyond the walls of the new homes and into the gardens!

The Master Gardeners supported the two most recent home builds in Monroe, Georgia, by offering their expertise in homeowner education on landscape care and maintenance. They envisioned vibrant gardens filled with flowering perennials, adding color and beauty and attracting pollinators to create a serene environment for the new homeowners.

To bring this vision to life, we partnered with local nurseries and acquired donations of flowering perennials. They emphasized that even plants needing tender loving care would be welcome. The gardeners were confident that they could nurture these plants back to health and incorporate them into the new landscapes.

Jen Welch, Gwinnett/Walton Habitat Deputy Executive Director, and **Joel Burnsed**, an Extension Agent with UGA Extension, spearheaded this effort. They reached out to nurseries with heartfelt letters, explaining the project and requesting plant donations. They hoped to create a peaceful and beautiful garden for each homeowner, enhancing their sense of home and community.

Janet Bones and Linda Stringer, Master Gardeners, along with landscape designer **Barrie Steele**, strategized on the best ways to coordinate their efforts. Barrie agreed to handle the overall landscape design and source the majority of woody materials, such as trees and shrubs, through his Plant Rescue of Georgia activities.

Special thanks to Petal & Pond, Social Circle Ace Home Center, and Buck Jones Nursery in Grayson for donations of over \$500 in flowering plants for the project!

Do you have a skill or passion you would like to offer to homeowners or as a volunteer? Let us know!

—Jan Mayheu, Director of Philanthropy



Community volunteers lend a hand in the garden to add radiance and growth to a Monroe family's new home.

2024 Lynn Weekley Volunteer Scholarship Recipients



Lynn Weekley presents the 2024 Volunteer Scholarship to Ashley and Hanan at the Gwinnett/Walton Habitat offices.

The Lynn Weekley Volunteer College Scholarship is named after our first paid volunteer coordinator, who served our affiliate faithfully for 20 years. The recipients will embody Mrs. Weekley's dedication to volunteerism and have exhibited actions in keeping with the mission of Gwinnett/Walton Habitat for Humanity.

Eligible scholarship applicants are college-bound high school seniors who reside in a Gwinnett/Walton Habitat Home and are either a Habitat Club Member who has served at least 50 volunteer hours with us, or a graduating senior from a

Gwinnett Habitat family who has served at least 50 volunteer hours in a civic capacity, and have a clear dedication to volunteerism and a commitment to academic excellence.

Congratulations to Ashley and Hanan, the recipients of the 2024 Lynn Weekley Scholarship! Students may apply for consideration by filling out an application on our website or printing and completing it, and mailing it to the Gwinnett/Walton Habitat for Humanity Office. **The application will reopen in 2025!**

Where are they Now?

2019 Lynn Weekley Volunteer Scholarship Recipients

| Zarah Punjwani

"I attended the **University of Georgia** from 2019-2023 after receiving the Lynn Weekley Scholarship in 2019. I double majored in Marketing and International Business and minored in French Language and Literature. After graduating in May 2023, I relocated to Chicago to work for **United Airlines** as an Operations Analyst. I currently reside in Chicago and am about to celebrate my one-year at United Airlines."



| Nathan Binyam

"I was awarded the Lynn Weekley Scholarship in 2019, and since then, I have graduated from **Duke University** in 2023, where I majored in Computer Science and minored in Psychology. I am now a software engineer at **Target Corporation** based in Minneapolis, Minnesota. I was grateful to be recognized by Gwinnett/Walton Habitat, and the scholarship helped begin my educational journey by setting a financial foundation from which to start. I hope the scholarship will continue for many years to come, as it acknowledges young minds with a passion for volunteerism in their community and helps them further their development for the future."



Meet our New Team Members



Frantz Moise
WRAP Repair Tech



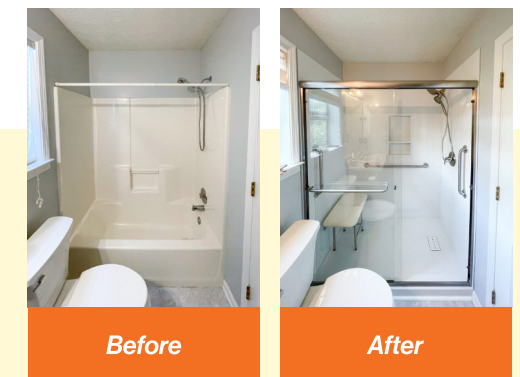
Erika Palacio
Warehouse Specialist

ABWK Success Story: Peggy Wilson

Peggy had been in a bad hit-and-run wreck years ago on I-85, which left her with rods in her leg and one leg shorter than the other. This caused her to fall a lot and generally be unsteady moving about. With the new walk-in shower unit, she feels much surer of her step, safer, and more secure. And that seat! She's over the moon about being able to sit down in there. Now, she can actually enjoy taking a shower, whereas before, it was stressful. **"Oh, I just LOVE it!"**

Also, Peggy wanted to mention that Francis (who I kept hearing yell "YEAH" in the background as she raved) can now bathe their 40-year-old Downs Syndrome son without it being such a difficult chore. It was getting so very hard for Francis, at 83 years old, to get him in and out of the bathtub. This renovation has just improved the quality of their lives in so many ways.

Peggy also raved about how fast the project was completed and what great



care our techs took to cover their furniture and clean up the mess afterwards. **"They didn't leave a speck!"**

-Susan Spain, Repair Programs Assistant

Sponsor Spotlight

LEGACY LIGHTING

We're thrilled to commemorate our enduring partnership with **Legacy Lighting!**

Russell Nash's generosity initiated this collaboration. Since 2019, Legacy has provided lighting fixtures for all our homes! We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Legacy Lighting for positively impacting Habitat families through their donated products!

Legacy Lighting
Phone: 678-765-6925
Email: hnewkirk@legacylighting.com
Website: www.legacylighting.com
Address: 301 Brogdon Rd Suwanee Georgia, 30024



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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Executive Director's Corner

It sure is hot out there, but nothing can slow down our team of volunteers who just completed two homes in Loganville! Two additional homes have also just started construction in Loganville. We hope to hear from Gwinnett County Planning and Development any day now for final approval for our thirteen-home development in Lilburn. If approval comes soon, we will begin building in Lilburn by the end of September. Several families have been waiting for the opportunity to start building their homes and finally realize their dream of homeownership!

June 17th marked my eleventh anniversary as the Executive Director of our affiliate. Things sure have changed for the better in eleven years! We have increased our budget, funding, number of employees, and the programs we provide. We purchased back our ReStore from Habitat for Humanity International and established full operational control of the store. Now, all proceeds stay in our community to serve families locally. We reached the \$1M mark in

lifetime tithes to serve over 293 families internationally. We also expanded our services into Walton County in 2021 and have already built seven homes and served many families with home repairs. **Our greatest accomplishment has been serving the most families ever in FY2023 with 181 families served!**

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as your Executive Director. None of this would be possible without God's blessings and all our strong community support. Thank you for your continued support of our mission. I know that with your help, we will build strength, stability, and self-reliance through shelter for families in Gwinnett and Walton Counties for many years to come! Have a safe summer. **God bless.**



Brent S. Adams

Executive Director

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