

Executive Director’s Message

Habitat Families Give Back Long After Receiving Their Homes

By Sylvia Oberle

I love to brag on our Partner Families. Not only do they work hard on their sweat equity hours while they are in the Habitat program, but so many of them continue to find ways to help others after they have purchased their homes. Their desire to give back truly embodies the spirit of Habitat.

Vincent Neal is a lifelong resident of Winston-Salem. Along with his young daughter, he became part of the Habitat program in 2010.



Vincent Neal, a Habitat homeowner along with daughter Kyra, has money deducted from every paycheck for Habitat.

For more than six months, he attended financial education and homeowner classes, saved monthly toward his down payment and worked diligently on his sweat equity hours. In January 2011, he moved into a beautifully remodeled, two-bedroom house on West 20th Street, near where he grew up, and one of Habitat’s first renovations in the Boston-Thurmond revitalization area.

Just days after he closed on his house, his job was eliminated when American Express closed its Greensboro service center. That alone would have been enough to discourage most people, but Vincent was determined to land on his feet and was able to secure continued off-site employment with American Express as a customer service supervisor.

He also was committed to helping those who had helped him earlier when he needed it the most. Every month since he stabilized his job situation, Vincent has made a donation to Habitat. Since American Express matches employees’ charitable contributions, his steady gifts have added up over time. As I have signed thank-you notes to Vincent each month, my admiration for his quiet and consistent generosity has grown. I called him recently to find out why he donates so faithfully.

“I believe that if someone helps you, it’s important to give back. Both Habitat and Crisis Control helped me at that time of my life, so now I am committed to helping them,” he said, with his characteristic modesty. “Each month I have money taken out of my paycheck for each of them. As I can, I plan to increase it.”

What an example Vincent sets for the rest of us. His generosity stems from a grateful heart and a recognition that as

he has been blessed, he too should pass it on.

Vincent’s financial commitment is remarkable and heart-warming. Likewise, other Habitat families have made commitments of time and support long after they have moved into their homes.

Luz Jimenez is a wonderful cook, and she and her husband, Jose, sell home-cooked meals to raise money to send to needy children in their native Dominican Republic. While the family was going through the Habitat program, she would delight

Habitat staff and volunteers with delicious empanadas and other dishes from the DR. That hasn’t stopped after she and her family moved into their house on Garfield Avenue; she has become a regular supplier of meals for teams of out-of-town college students volunteering with us. Needless to say, they love her cooking!

Other families continue to be eager ambassadors for Habitat’s mission or provide encouragement and support for families currently in the program. Some recent examples:

Terry Teel and Valerie Hairston took the time to visit with college students here last month for the 25th Anniversary of Habitat International’s Collegiate Challenge, sharing firsthand their experiences and challenges.

Dawanna Benjamin spoke recently to runners with Fleet Feet’s training program, urging them to support Habitat’s upcoming Hammerbird 5K and help other families like hers.

Lorraine Comer, Patricia Hall, Angela Bethea – and several others – speak frankly to homeowner classes about the importance of persevering through months of hard work and sacrifice, testifying to the benefits that await them when they reach their goal.

The list goes on…… simple acts of gratitude and appreciation for opportunities they have been given to better their lives and to help rebuild their communities.

I am grateful for these families who care so much about others. Not only do I brag on them, I also thank them for the gifts they give back to each of us.



339 Witt Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27103
Office: 336-765-8854 ReStore: 336-765-2951

NONPROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 398
WINSTON-SALEM, NC

2013-2014 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brenda Allen – President
Peter Juran – Vice-President
Julie Hatch – Secretary
Bill Benton – Treasurer
Cheryl Locke – Past President

Brenda Allen
Amber Baker
Lou Baldwin
Bill Benton

Ken Cavanaugh
Mauricio Cote
Nancy Dunn
Mark Dunnagan
Brenda Evans
Chad Hansen
Julie Hatch
Norma-May Isakow
Gail Jacobson
Sharon Jeffries-Jones

Peter Juran
Cheryl Locke
Kismet Loftin-Bell
London Mickle
Brenda Sloan
Sandy Stinson
Trent Wall

Executive Director:
Sylvia Oberle

An independent affiliate of
Habitat for Humanity International

www.habitatforsyth.org



Financial information about this organization and a copy of its license are available from the Charitable Solicitation Licensing Section at 1-888-830-4989. The license is not an endorsement by the State.



Spring 2014

BirdFest 2014 to Feature First Annual Hammerbird 5K

The BirdFest Hammerbird has landed – at the new ReStore. Along with the usual arts, crafts and activities, the 19th Annual BirdFest will kick off with the first ever Hammerbird 5K and Fun Run/Walk on the morning of May 3. And, instead of being limited to one weekend, BirdFest will continue through the month of May!

The race will start and end at the ReStore, at 608 Coliseum Drive, taking participants through the historic Boston-Thurmond neighborhood, the target community of Habitat’s current Neighborhood Revitalization efforts. The one-mile Fun Run/Walk takes place at 8 a.m., with the 5K following at 8:30. Runners, walkers, volunteers and spectators of all ages are welcome!

After the 5K, runners and walkers will enjoy healthy snacks and “Papa Joe’s Sugar Pie” — Habitat’s version of Moravian sugar cake — invented by our own construction supervisor Joe Brown from his mother’s recipe. Once again, Texas Pete is the presenting sponsor of BirdFest – and will provide each runner with a free bottle of Texas Pete hot sauce.

Immediately following the race, the ReStore and BirdFest 2014 will officially open, with a full cadre of nature-themed arts and crafts for sale, donated by local amateur and professional artists including Brian Kubecki and Jan Detter. Artists should bring their creations to the ReStore by 5 p.m. on April 25.

And, for the first time this year, BirdFest is not limited to only one weekend! The sale of arts and crafts will continue in the ReStore for the rest of May, with special



events each Saturday (see schedule at right).

To register for the 5K, go to www.hammerbird5k.com – or stop by our office or the ReStore to pick up a brochure and entry form.

Habitat homeowner Dawanna Benjamin speaks about her experience to a group of runners at a March 27 fun run held by Hammerbird sponsor Fleet Feet.

BirdFest Schedule of Events

Friday, April 25:

5 p.m.: Deadline for artists to donate arts and crafts. Please bring to the ReStore.

Friday, May 2:

5 to 7:30 p.m.: Packet pick-up at the ReStore for registered runners and walkers

Saturday, May 3:

8 a.m.: One-mile Fun/Run Walk

8:30 a.m.: Hammerbird 5K

After the race: Award ceremony for 5K winners; ReStore opens with BirdFest items

Saturday, May 10:

???Shab to Fab volunteers lead workshop on making gifts for Mother’s Day

Saturday, May 17:

10 a.m., 1 p.m.: Birdhouse-building workshops

3 p.m.: Bird-proof your windows

May 24 & 31:

Tent sale at the ReStore with any remaining BirdFest items.

Students Braved Snow, Rain, Cold to Build Houses During Spring Break

Habitat Forsyth was privileged to host the national 25th anniversary of the Collegiate Challenge program March 2-8. Despite snow, rain, and unusually low temperatures, about 100 students got a good start on four new homes in the Glenn Oaks neighborhood.

Since 1989, more than 229,000 high school and college students have spent their school breaks working at Habitat affiliates through Collegiate Challenge, and Habitat Forsyth has hosted about 2,000 of them. Although Collegiate Challenge started as a spring break alternative, teams of students now participate during other breaks year-round, including the summer and holiday season.

To assist Habitat's full-time construction staff in leading the students, members of the **Home Builders Association of Winston-Salem** volunteered their time. **IMG** was the presenting sponsor of the event, and **BB&T** was the community sponsor. **The Children's Home** donated use of its dormitories to house the students. Many other local churches and businesses helped out by hosting entertainment events and providing meals and snacks.

"We are grateful to our community for making this event such a success," said Sylvia Oberle, Habitat Forsyth executive director. "The volunteers and local businesses who came together to help feed, house and welcome these students

Participating Colleges and Universities:

Coe College / LaSalle University / Villanova University
University of Florida / St. John's University
Susquehanna University / Vanderbilt University
Southern Polytechnic State University
Milwaukee School of Engineering



During the first week of March, about 100 students from nine colleges and universities started four houses in the Glenn Oaks neighborhood.

demonstrated what a truly warm and giving community we have." Teams of students -- who in some cases did not even know each other -- traveled from as far away as Iowa, Wisconsin and Florida. Many experienced construction, and working with Habitat, for the first time.

Taylor Sisson of Southern Polytechnic State University in Marietta, Georgia, said she learned things she did not know about Habitat. "I didn't know that the homeowners will have a mortgage and have to take classes about saving."

Bethany Lehman of Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, chose the trip over an opportunity to play golf in a much warmer climate. "I know golf in Arizona sounds nice. ... But this is going to help lives," she said.

Wante Saygbe, who was working alongside the students on her future home, was touched by the experience. As a Habitat partner family, she and her two children are looking forward to ending their days as renters and having a stable, permanent home of their own. "It's a blessing," she told a reporter from the *Winston-Salem Journal*. "It's going to change my life. It's going to change it in a big, big way."

Habitat Thanks Our Collegiate Challenge 25th Anniversary Supporters:

Presenting Sponsor: IMG

Community Sponsor: BB&T

Home Builder Volunteers:

PCI Builders / Maplestone Construction
Homes by Jonathan Lee / Sonoma Building Company
Isenhour Homes / Habitat Cornerstone Volunteers
... And the many volunteers who stopped by to say hello, baked cookies and welcomed the students in so many other ways!

Other Sponsors:

The Children's Home / The Budd Group
Twin City Quarter / Winston-Salem Journal
Homebuilders Association of Winston-Salem
Mrs. Pumpkin's / Jimmy John's / Krispy Kreme Doughnuts
The Community Arts Café / Which Wich / Trinity United
Methodist Church / St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Bunker Hill United Methodist Church

Audubon, Habitat Partner on Bird-Friendly Project

Thanks to the Bird-Friendly Communities partnership between Audubon North Carolina and Habitat Forsyth, a group of volunteers will gather April 19 to install native plants and two nest boxes for a Habitat homeowner.

Earlier this year, Bird-Friendly Communities coordinator and Winston-Salem resident Kim Brand was awarded a \$10,000 grant and fellowship from Toyota TogetherGreen by Audubon to oversee the project in the Boston-Thurmond neighborhood. Six homes and two public spaces will be made over with native plants and nest boxes for birds. The Bird-Friendly Communities program, which began last year, focuses its efforts on urban areas.

The April 19 event is being held in honor of Earth Day. Volunteers are invited to help from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Saltiel home at 1791 Richard Allen Way. A special dedication will begin at noon.

3 "Little Free Libraries" Installed in Boston-Thurmond Neighborhood

The installation of three "Little Free Libraries" in the Boston-Thurmond community took place on Saturday, March 8.



Three of the library boxes were placed on Tindall Street in the Neal Place neighborhood, near Kimberley Park Elementary, and at the corner convenience store at 14th and North Cherry streets.

The Little Free Library project is an international grassroots movement that aims to promote literacy by putting up structures resembling birdhouses or mailboxes. Residents are encouraged to leave books that they have found meaningful, and to take books left by others.



Spring Cleaning? Donate your items to us!

Thanks to the convenient drive-through at our new store at 608 Coliseum Drive, donating is easier than ever. We also pick up donations! Call us at 893-8494 to arrange an appointment.

Retail Hours: T-F, 10-6; Sat. 10-5 **Donation hours:** M-F, 10-6; Sat. 10-5

Youth United Starts Habitat House, Continues Fund Raisers

Between building on its annual Habitat House, hosting a benefit concert, and recruiting runners and walkers for the upcoming Hammerbird 5K, Youth United is having a very busy spring.

The popular local band Below the Line was the headline act for an April 6 benefit concert at Ziggy's Music Club. The bands Tusker, The Fury and the Sound, and Taft's Bathtub also performed at the Sunday afternoon event, which included a silent auction. Youth United received all of the revenues from ticket sales and half of the proceeds from the



sale of food.

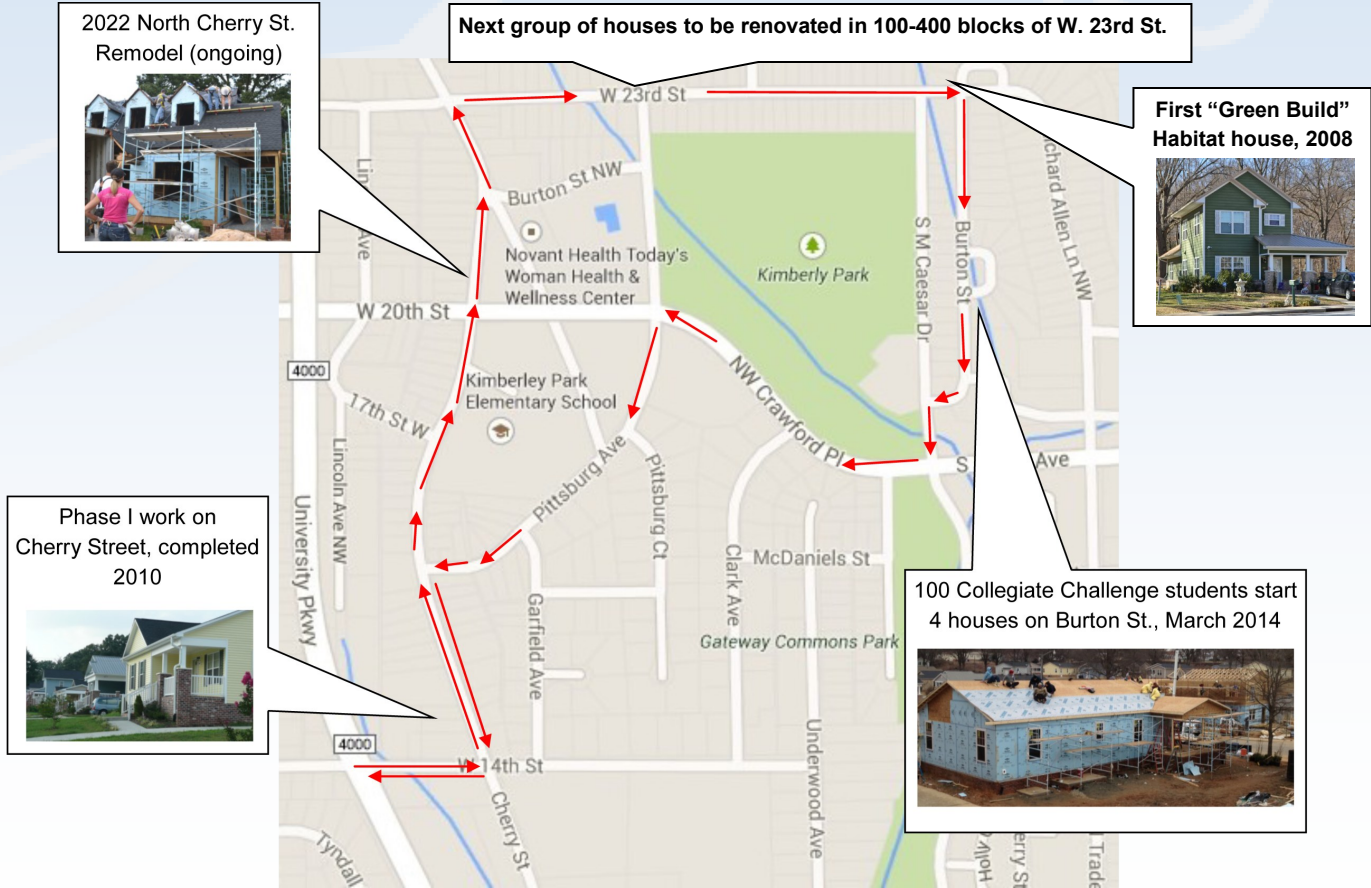
As part of its advocacy efforts to increase awareness of poverty and standard housing, Youth United direc-

tor Caitlyn Darnell has also created a "Cardboard City" curriculum. The program, which is ideal for church youth groups, includes activities such as building houses out of cardboard and exercises in which students receive a modest amount of fake money, then negotiate how they will afford basic things such as housing, transportation and food.

For more information about the Cardboard City curriculum or other Youth United activities, contact Caitlyn at 765-8854, ext. 107 or Caitlyn.darnell@habitatforsyth.org.

Take a 10-Minute Driving Tour of our Neighborhood Revitalization Work

Since our founding in 1985, Habitat Forsyth has helped more than 350 families achieve the dream of homeownership. More than 100 Habitat homes are in the Boston-Thurmond neighborhood, the current site of our Neighborhood Revitalization work. In just a short driving tour, you can see some of the projects we have completed, and some we are working on now.



Have you made your annual fund gift yet? The deadline is June 30, 2014, when Habitat's 2013-14 fiscal year ends.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ e-mail _____ Church Membership _____

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____. Make check payable to Habitat for Humanity of Forsyth County.

Account # _____ Expiration Date _____

Please set up a ____ monthly ____ quarterly gift of \$ _____. Signature _____

Call me at _____ to set up a bank draft or make a credit card payment.

____ I am interested in donating property. ____ I am interested in becoming a volunteer.

Mail to: Habitat for Humanity of Forsyth County, Inc., 339 Witt Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27103-1953

You can now donate online at www.habitatforsyth.org. Click on the "Donate Now" button on the home page.