

Habitat Happenings

August/September 2010

Inspiring Couple Calls Home a 'Blessing'

Soon, Bennie and JoAnn will move from their cramped apartment into a safe, energy-efficient, three bedroom home. "Just because we are visually impaired, we're still capable of owning and maintaining a home, like any other human being," Bennie said. "It'll be a great challenge and a positive influence for other people. It's a blessing to give another person with a disability a little hope."

Both Bennie and JoAnn are visually impaired as a result of glaucoma, which causes a gradual loss of vision and for which there is no cure. Bennie was twelve when his doctor told him his vision was too poor to play sports in school; JoAnn was in her early forties when her vision deteriorated to the point that she could no longer read. "That was the worst for me," she remembers, "not being able to see to read my own mail." The couple met at a rehabilitation center in Raleigh. They've been married for four years.

Faith is central to this couple's life, relationship, and philosophy. JoAnn explains why a passage from Romans 8 is her favorite Bible verse: "No matter what comes my way, what challenges I have in life — visual impairment or just being a human being — it's gonna work for my good as long as I'm lining up with the Word." When Bennie recalls some of the most difficult times in his life, he says with confidence, "I know God is important and if I talk to God, God will help me out and he will see me through it."

Currently, Bennie and JoAnn live in an apartment on the eighth floor. They worry about how they would get out quickly if there were a fire. Neighbors frequently report possessions being stolen from cars or the laundry room. Bennie must walk across a busy parking lot to get their trash to the dumpster. "One day," they say, "someone just walked right in our apartment! Being visually impaired, if something happened... we might be in trouble."

Habitat Wake, along with home sponsors White Memorial Church and First Presbyterian Church, consulted with Bennie & JoAnn to include features such as a talking thermometer, ADA approved appliances, additional hand rails and concrete walkways that will make their home safe, in addition to being affordable.



"All things work together for good to them that love the Lord, who are called according to his purpose."

Romans 8:28

Bennie takes advantage of the rose bushes in his new yard to surprise JoAnn with a Valentine's Day gift.

"It was something you dream about, being a homeowner and actually getting the opportunity. Habitat has really been a blessing and that's from God. There's a concern and care in it and this house is going to work for us. That's so important and it's amazing."

What's JoAnn looking forward to the most? "Bennie shouldn't have any problem taking out the trash!"



Holiday Wish Cards

Coming Soon!



**For the person who has everything...
To honor your customer, clients and colleagues...
Grant a wish that builds hope for the holidays!**

Visit www.HabitatWake for 2010 holiday card order information.

Save these Dates:

Zebulon Framing Frenzy — September 25-27

ReStore at the Southern Ideal Home Show — September 24-26

Women Build Open House — October 21

Holiday Home Tour & Party — November 21

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

These first few months of serving as Executive Director of Habitat Wake have been invigorating and inspirational. While I have been blessed to be involved with Habitat on a professional level for the past 22 years, it feels great to again be involved with Habitat on a local level making a difference in family's lives.

As you'll see throughout this issue, collaboration and partnership are the driving forces behind our mission. More than 5,000 of you will put on your hard hats and nail aprons this year to help break the cycle of poverty housing for our Wake County neighbors.

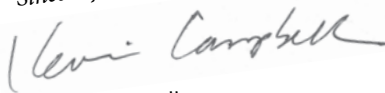
Working in collaboration with others makes a tremendous difference. There are numerous excellent affordable housing organizations operating in Wake County targeting various niches of the housing and need spectrum. Habitat is proud to serve among these other fine organizations such as: DHIC, Builders of Hope, St. Augustine's CDC, North Carolina Housing Coalition, Passage Home, and CASA, as well as the City of Raleigh's Community Development Department, the Town of Cary's Affordable Housing Initiative, and Wake County's Department of Housing and Community Revitalization. We have participated in numerous projects over the years with these partners and continue to do so. But, there is so much more work to be done.

Millard Fuller, founder of Habitat for Humanity and a personal mentor of mine, was a tireless champion of eliminating substandard housing from the planet. When asked about this daunting task, he would always reply, "With God all things are possible. It's not meant to be easy or without cost, but it's possible."

This fall, we are continuing to fulfill our promise to build throughout all of Wake County by building ten homes in five separate municipalities: Garner, Knightdale, Raleigh, Wake Forest, and Zebulon. We are also proud to have been selected by the City of Raleigh as a partner in a multi-year neighborhood revitalization project in the Long Acres neighborhood of Raleigh.

I'm also pleased to share that we have been selected as one of 163 Habitat affiliates across the U.S. to participate in the Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative, an effort led by Habitat for Humanity International that combines home construction with other services, such as rehabs and home repairs. We are encouraged by the prospect of expanding our services to improve well-being across entire neighborhoods. So, we look forward to learning from other affiliates across the country and putting into practice the very best model of expanded services. The Long Acres project will mark the start of our neighborhood revitalization focus.

We have a busy fall ahead. Thank you for your investment in our mission!
Sincerely,



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Executive Director



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OUR MISSION



Habitat for Humanity of Wake County

develops partnerships

to build healthy, affordable homes

with and for God's people in need,

promotes self-reliance through homeownership,

affirms the dignity of the family,

and creates sustainable communities.



Neighborhood Revitalization — The Long Acres Project

Nestled in a mature community adjacent to Poe Elementary School, the Long Acres neighborhood is made up of many longtime Raleigh residents. The community has seen an increase in foreclosed and neglected homes along with a sharp decline in the number of homeowner occupied houses. As a result, the City of Raleigh has launched a Neighborhood Revitalization effort to improve quality of life for its residents.

We are excited to have been awarded a City of Raleigh grant to support the construction of eight safe, affordable homes on scattered lots throughout the Long Acres neighborhood. These homes will be part of a multi-step process to invest in the community.


The Long Acres project will engage residents, city officials, and other community agencies in a comprehensive neighborhood revitalization effort. A team of Habitat staff members and volunteers have taken the first steps to seek input from residents. Recruitment of homeowner applicants and community volunteers has also begun and construction is set to begin in the spring.



A Brush With Kindness

Phase two of our involvement in the Long Acres neighborhood will include the launch of a new Habitat initiative. *A Brush With Kindness* will provide repairs to existing homes and may include painting, minor exterior repairs, landscaping, and exterior clean-up. Our goal is to revitalize the appearance of the neighborhood, encourage connections within the community, and most importantly, help preserve affordable housing stock.

These projects will be less time and capital intensive than full home builds, but will still rely on donated materials, as well as volunteers and homeowners working together to make change happen.



WE ARE
building
ON
FAITH

Did you know that Habitat Wake sends a monthly email designed for churches? We do! In fact, we also mail a quarterly mailed newsletter designed for faith organizations that includes stories of

faith, bulletin inserts, and resources for worship and study. To sign up for these resources or make sure your church is receiving them, call Kim at 744-2406. Presentation materials and speakers are also available upon request.


ReMake a difference.

- cabinetry
- lighting
- flooring
- doors
- plumbing
- hardwood furniture

Help Habitat build homes and divert reusable products away from landfills by donating your tax deductible, new & used building materials




For details visit www.HabitatWake.org/restore



Habitat for Humanity
of Wake County

Have you remembered Habitat Wake in your will?

For more information, please contact Nancy Jones at 833.1999 x227 or nancy.jones@habitatwake.org.

The Wilde Family, 2005

While volunteering on a build site with her church about six years ago, a fellow parishioner suggested that Rachel Wilde apply for a Habitat home herself. At the time, Rachel lived with her daughter in a tiny, run-down apartment within walking distance of the Tammy-Lynn Center where Rachel's oldest son, Joshua, lives. Joshua is multi-handicapped. For Rachel to afford a home of her own, moving outside of Wake County would have been necessary. Luckily, Habitat for Humanity came into the picture, allowing her to become a homeowner just four miles away from Joshua.

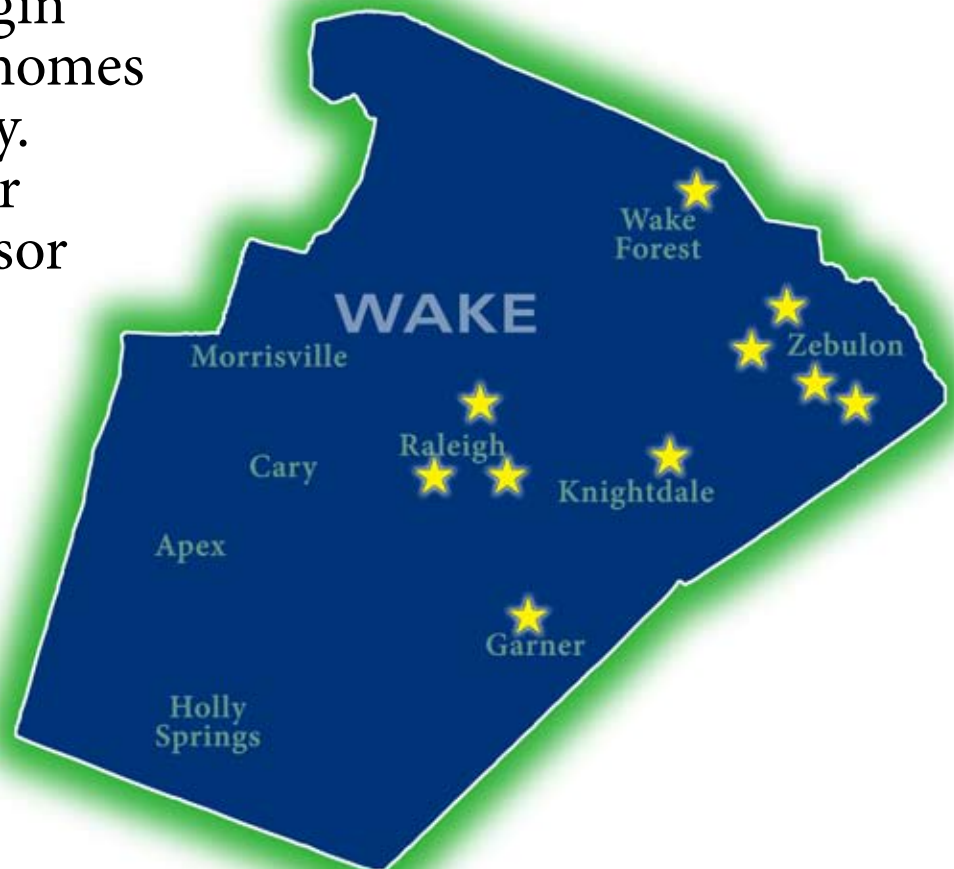
For a mortgage payment about equal to the rent Rachel previously paid, she acquired much more space, a sun-lit home, and a yard giving her the ability to have a garden. The downtown location allows Rachel and her children to walk to events and museums and easily spend time with Joshua. During the build, Habitat made modifications for Joshua's wheelchair enabling him to visit regularly. They constructed a ramp to the back door, gave the home an open floor plan, and widened doorways leading to the bathroom and one of the bedrooms.

The primary sponsor of Rachel's home was Broughton High school, which her daughter now attends. The hard work and dedication of the students, along with Habitat's crew and the

'Friday Guys,' impressed Rachel. She believes Habitat gave her a great opportunity and that it can do the same for other working people. Habitat pushed Rachel's creativity and enabled her to start her own business as a massage therapist. Within her community, there are teachers, other massage therapists, a physical therapy assistant, and a firefighter. Habitat encourages people to want more, not to settle, and to feel empowered to take control of their lives.



This fall, we will begin construction of 10 homes across Wake County. Please contact us for volunteer and sponsor information on these homes





Green building doesn't have to be expensive.

This spring, we completed our first home to be green certified through the Green Home Builders of the Triangle. We are proud to have adopted this green building standard for every future Habitat Wake home. Green building makes less of an impact on our environment and provides an even more affordable home for partner families.

Homes for the following families will begin construction this fall.

Thank you to our generous home sponsors!

Homes for:

- The Esteban Family, Garner
- The Hinton Family, Knightdale
- The Ngugi Family, Raleigh
- The Mlo Family, Raleigh
- The Tesfamichael Family, Raleigh
- The Manuel Family, Wake Forest
- The McClaston Family, Zebulon
- The Wilson Family, Zebulon
- The Rembert Family, Zebulon

Gold Hammer Sponsors

Habitat ReStore/DeConstruction Program

Silver Hammer Sponsors

Credit Suisse
Wells Fargo

Bronze Hammer Sponsors

Caterpillar
Schneider Electric

Copper Hammer Sponsors

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NC State Habitat Chapter

Nickel Hammer Sponsors

- Asbury United Methodist Church
- Church of the Good Shepherd
- Edenton Street United Methodist Church
- Forest Hills Baptist Church
- Highland United Methodist Church
- Home Builders Association of Raleigh — Wake County
- Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church
- North Raleigh Presbyterian Church
- North Raleigh United Methodist Church
- Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church
- St. Andrew Catholic Church
- St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
- St. Luke Catholic Church
- St. Michael's Episcopal Church
- Watts Chapel Missionary Baptist Church
- White Memorial Presbyterian Church

Honorarium Gifts

In Honor of Titus Allen
Janet Wilson

In Honor of Michael Brajer
Windy Walker

In Honor of Kevin Campbell in his new position
Alex Newmark

In Honor of the wedding of Robert and Lida Carlson
Alan Blair
Gladys Blair
John Blair
Robert Carlson
John Gamache

Ruth Gamache
Doris Greene
John Held
Gloria Johnson
Carol Kozar
Laura Ross
Rebecca Stockdale
David Utter

In Honor of Robert E. Cowan
Tricia Blakistone

In Honor of Dr. Cary Eaton, on his retirement from RTI
Cynthia Salmons

In Honor of Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Hopper
Claire S. Dalton

In Honor of Bryan and Nancy Jones
Gregory Wolfe

In Honor of Cyrus B. King Sr., on Father's Day
Edward G. King

In Honor of our wedding guests
Wes and Elizabeth Wright

Memorial Gifts

In Memory of Thurman Batchelor
Alan D. Batchelor

In Memory of Elizabeth Denning
Jane Barnes

In Memory of Betsy Icenhour
Ralph Ledford

In Memory of Dr. Mary Emily Kneedler
John R. Otto

In Memory of Daniel Macchia
Brenda C. Lipscomb

In Memory of Max
Philip Lunsford

In Memory of Curtis Dean Minehart
Anonymous

Patricia Avery
William Brunkhorst
Doran's Landscaping Company
Kathleen Hanley
Cindy Jones-Ondrak
Katie Ledezma
Lena S. Lewis
Ralph Minehart
Bridget Reston
Karen Ron
Eugene Seiler
Harriet Viohl
Richard Viohl
Pamela Zangrillo

In Memory of Stuart P Murphy
Janet M. Britt

In Memory of Jack Paciulli
Lloyd D. Harvey


In Memory of Donald Lee Quayle
North Carolina Rate Bureau

In Memory of Mrs. Thelma Redknop
Peggy Kobey

In Memory of Ruth Szustakowski
Donna Cavallo

In Memory of Bern Walser
Mari Asanuma
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We sincerely thank Home Depot's Partners in Sustainable Building program for contributing \$5,000 for each of these homes to support our green building efforts. This equates to a \$50,000 sponsorship.



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share it with a friend.*



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Even Record Heat Can't Stop You!

The call for decent shelter provides motivation

Record-breaking heat poses a challenge on the worksite and in the ReStore. Soaring temperatures have required some flexibility to stay safe, but you've proven that even a scorching summer can't stop our mission!

Volunteers are out early in the morning to get as much work in as possible before the afternoon heat gets dangerous. Customers have embraced new summer hours for the ReStore (opening two hours earlier at 8:00 a.m. and closing at 4:00 p.m.).

While the weather forces us to take extra precautions, it also brings to our attention the reality of thousands of our neighbors who live every day without adequate housing, insulation, air conditioning or heat. Unrelenting heat is just as threatening as the bitter cold or other dangerous weather — in fact, extreme heat kills more people every year than hurricanes, tornadoes, or other natural disasters. Living in adequate housing means a safe refuge from sleepless uncomfortable nights and a welcome respite from long difficult days.

Thank you for remembering our neighbors stuck in the heat this summer and helping make decent shelter a reality before the next heat wave!



The record heat has not derailed our efforts to complete six homes over the summer. With frequent breaks and lots of water on the worksite, it is possible to be safe and still make affordable housing a reality. ▲