

# Habitat Happenings

## For His Children

December 2011

### Hardworking single father striving to leave something behind

As a single father to two teenagers, Ricky says his kids are his inspiration. "My son and daughter are my priority," he says. "I want to leave something behind for them when I am gone, which is something my parents weren't able to do."

While growing up in Durham, Ricky didn't have a lot of breaks. As he'll readily admit, he made serious mistakes and paid for them. Seventeen years ago, Ricky walked out of prison determined to turn his life around. Since then, he has worked very hard to build a life that would make his parents proud.

Ricky works as a landscape technician for the State, a position he has held for 11 years. In the course of his work, he regularly supervises inmates on landscape detail. "I tell every one of them," he says, "if I can turn my life around, so can you. I'm no better than you are."

The first step for every homeowner partner is to start earning "sweat equity" by building Habitat homes with other families. "The first day," Ricky says, "it was about earning my hours. But after I had the experience of meeting people and working on the homes, I didn't care about getting my time sheet signed. It was about the feeling I got from helping somebody to the best of my ability."

A fast learner with a knack for training volunteers, Ricky quickly became a popular person on the construction site. Long-time Habitat volunteer house leader Bob

Blackmun can't say enough about his work ethic. "Not only does he arrive early, stay late and eagerly work, Ricky does so with exceptional patience and cheerfulness," says Bob. "Since we started working together since last fall, I've learned that Ricky not only has the construction skills to be a good house leader, but also the caring for others that is so important."

"Bob and I have bonded like brothers," Ricky says. "My goal is to be the first Habitat homeowner to volunteer like Bob does as a House Leader."

Ricky's hopes his home will be finished by Christmas. "I haven't brought my kids out to the job site because I want to surprise them," he says. "Once the house is totally finished, I want to pull up in our driveway and say to them, 'Look at this house I helped build, it belongs to us.'"

*Volunteers and staff are working hard to finish Ricky's home before the holidays. ▼*



▲ *Ricky, right, and volunteer house leader Bob Blackmun agree that over the past year of working together they have "bonded like brothers."*

## Heroes Among Us

It's no secret that ReStore Pickup drivers Romeo Brown and John Nicholson provide excellent service to people with large material donations at their home or business. But we recently



learned that you don't have to be a ReStore donor to get great help from these guys. Check out this letter Kevin recently received with a donation to our housing mission:

Dear Mr. Campbell:

Yesterday morning (Sept. 15), I got a flat tire on Glenwood Avenue. Two of your drivers pulled their truck up in front of me and very kindly changed my tire for me. I have severe rheumatoid arthritis, and this was not a task I could have done by myself. They refused to let me buy them lunch—I tried to give them a \$20 bill so I could cover their lunch for the day, but they wouldn't hear of it. So please accept this donation in honor of Romeo and John — my heroes.

Jennifer R.

**Save These Dates:**

Women Build Open House/Social, Cary ReStore — January 19, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Blueprint Breakfast — March 22

## Your support

- built 16 safe, affordable homes in partnership with 16 families. An additional 10 homes broke ground and are currently under construction.
- provided 10 low-income homeowners with exterior repairs through our new A Brush With Kindness project.
- supported the construction of 16 homes in Honduras through our title to Habitat for Humanity International.
- helped to launch a multi-year Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative commitment to the Long Acres neighborhood in Raleigh.

## And...

More than **6,000 volunteers** provided **36,000 hours of service**.



▲ We established a new partnership with Habitat Honduras and committed to funding a new home in Honduras each time we complete a house in Wake County.

*ReStore sales continued to break records in 2010-11, bringing in 33% more profit than last year. The planning and setup began for a second ReStore in Cary which opened in September 2011.*



# What is Neighborhood Revitalization?

- Continuing new construction of safe, affordable homes
- Purchasing vacant and foreclosed properties for rehab
- Expanding services to include exterior home repairs through *A Brush With Kindness*
- Collaborating with neighbors, local businesses, churches and government

Habitat Wake's first Neighborhood Revitalization effort is a multi-year commitment to the Long Acres community of Raleigh.



In 2010, this Long Acres home was condemned and torn down. ▲



◀ This is the same lot in September 2011 after a new, energy efficient home was built in partnership with Barbara G., a Triangle Transit bus driver and mother of two girls. Barbara is an enthusiastic new homeowner eager to participate in the Community Coalition.

Habitat Wake purchased this run down property to be rehabbed with a homeowner partner who currently lives in a substandard home around the corner. ►



This house was the first of 10 A Brush With Kindness homes to receive exterior repairs in 2010-2011. ▼



Your support has helped Habitat complete 14 *A Brush With Kindness* projects in Long Acres.

We've accomplished a great deal already, but there is so much more work to be done.

We extend special thanks to Platinum and Silver House Sponsors for the 2010-2011 fiscal year!

### Platinum Sponsors

An Anonymous Family  
 Bank of America Merrill Lynch  
 City of Raleigh  
 Home Depot  
 Employees of IBM

### Silver Sponsors

Credit Suisse  
 Christ Episcopal Church  
 First Presbyterian Church  
 Highland United Methodist Church  
 White Memorial Presbyterian Church  
 Talecris  
 Schneider Electric

## Contractors Circle recognizes the support of the building industry

The Contractor's Circle recognizes contractors, subcontractors, and professional trades whose contributions to our housing mission make the community a better place to live!

### Thank you to this year's Contractors Circle members:

- |                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Baker Roofing              | Otto's Exteriors           |
| Builders Product Inc.      | Pergo, Inc.                |
| Custom Brick Co., Inc.     | ProBuild                   |
| Greenscape, Inc.           | Sears Contract, Inc.       |
| KCS Cleaning               | Taylor's Nursery, Inc.     |
| Lee Brick and Tile Company | Todd's Grading and Hauling |
| Martin Marietta Materials  | Tom Buzzard & Company      |
| NC Gutter Guys             |                            |
| Newcomb and Company        |                            |



## We'd like to recognize these companies whose matching gifts make a difference

- |                   |                 |                           |
|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Bank of America   | Covidien        | Schneider Electric        |
| Becton Dickinson  | GlaxoSmithKline | Storr Office Environments |
| Cisco Systems     | Progress Energy | Washington Post Company   |
| Cooper Industries | Red Hat         |                           |

*thank you!*

**Habitat for Humanity<sup>®</sup>**  
of Wake County

Have you remembered  
Habitat Wake in your will?

For more information,  
please contact Nancy Jones  
at 744-2401 or  
nancy.jones@habitatwake.org.