



Keeping our volunteers, friends, supporters, and families informed

A letter from Troy: "Working Towards My Home"



Troy Sexton with his daughter Abby and grandson Isaiah.

By Troy, a future Habitat homeowner

There is no doubt in my mind that God led me to Habitat. After I turned my life over to God, good things happened to me. I gained custody of my grandson, four-year-old Isaiah, who had been living in a foster home, and we moved into a two-bedroom trailer. However, I could not get my daughter,

eight-year-old Abby, back with me until I could provide a home where each child had a separate bedroom. God worked through Habitat for me to get my family back so I could care for my children.

I really didn't think I was going to qualify for a Habitat home, and I was so very grateful when I was told that I had been accepted. I'm pleased to be a future homeowner with Habitat, and I've been helping to build a beautiful three-bedroom house in Dodd Meadows that will soon be our home. I have enjoyed putting in my sweat equity by working alongside Habitat volunteers and my soon-to-be neighbors, and I have worked on 15 homes.

I also enjoy bringing my kids to see our house. They've chosen colors for their rooms and look forward to meeting and playing with the other kids in their new neighborhood. They already know the names of some of these kids. Isaiah, Abby, and I look forward to the day this summer when we have a real estate closing. Then I will be a homeowner. The three of us will live in a decent home in a great neighborhood with other Habitat families. I thank God that I will be able to care for my family in peace and security.

Troy's story is really but one of many that disclose the need for affordable housing in Henderson County and the importance of the Habitat mission. His dream of homeownership and many others like his could not have become a reality without your support. Your support of \$20 a month or of any amount you can afford helps a father like Troy build a decent place to call home and to raise his family. **Please give today!**

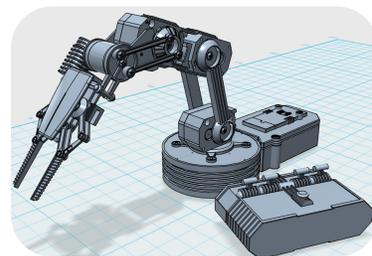


Ron Laughter

Folks, it's here now — the robot revolution

The year is 2028, and Alex Murphy — a loving husband, father and good cop — is critically injured in the line of duty and transformed by a powerful corporation into half man, half machine. They call him RoboCop. When director Paul Verhoeven released the movie *RoboCop* in 1987, he probably never imagined how close he'd get to predicting the future, but that's exactly what's happening. Military experts estimate that autonomous robotic soldiers will be available by 2035.

But we don't have to wait until 2035 for robots to enter the workforce. The robots are already here. If you've ordered gifts from Amazon this past holiday season, robots have helped. They're replacing humans at a blistering



pace. Amazon acquired Kiva Systems in 2012 for \$775 million, and now 15,000 of its bots scurry about huge warehouses, grabbing goods off shelves and bringing them to humans for packing.

You see, replacing people with machines

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The work Habitat does is possible only because of your acts of kindness, generosity, and caring support. While it is staggering to see great need in our community, it is also tremendously inspiring to see the cumulative effect of your support. With deep appreciation, we thank you for the profound changes your caring makes in the lives of our partner families.

Thrivent Financial makes second grant to Habitat

By GARY KNOCK
MEDIA CONSULTANT

Angie Hunter, Habitat's director of development, announced in February that Thrivent Financial will contribute \$72,418 as a matching grant, an amount representing 50 percent of the construction cost of one Habitat home.

Habitat will partner with at least 12 local churches to provide volunteers and to raise the balance of the cost. The home will be located in the Dodd Meadows subdivision in East Flat Rock.

This is the second Thrivent Financial grant awarded to the local affiliate. In 2008, Thrivent Financial awarded a matching grant in the amount of \$67,925. Both grants resulted from the partnership between Habitat for Humanity International and Thrivent Financial called "Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity." This partnership has resulted in construction of more than 3,500 Habitat homes in the United States and around the world since 2005.

Thrivent Financial, a non-profit Fortune 500 company, and its 2.4 million members have committed \$213 million and 4.4 million volunteer hours since establishing the partnership with Habitat International. Tom Kasischke, a local financial consultant with Thrivent Financial, said, "We are looking forward to working alongside Habitat families, Thrivent members, and others to build a home for a local hard-working family. Sharing our time and talents helps us live generously and strengthen our community."

Angie Hunter will recruit area churches to participate and Alan Stissel will serve as the project leader. Ed Hauser, a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Asheville, will serve as the project's chapter specialist.

Angie said, "This is the second house in Henderson County



Left to right: Tom Kasischke with Thrivent Financial, Angie Hunter with HCHF, Michael McGlinsky with Thrivent Financial, and Habitat volunteer Ed Hauser.

sponsored by Thrivent Builds. But what makes this house unique is the partnership with local churches to build and fund the home. We are profoundly grateful for Thrivent's support and involvement in our community." Alan noted that "Because of this generosity, more families will have a safe, affordable place to call home."

In celebration of its 100th anniversary, Grace Lutheran Church in Hendersonville has agreed to help support this Thrivent Builds project financially and to provide construction volunteers. To date, 11 additional local churches have committed to partner on the project: Hendersonville Presbyterian, Hendersonville First Baptist, Mills River United Methodist, Hope United Methodist, Hendersonville Seventh-day Adventist, St. Mark's Lutheran, Mt. Pisgah Lutheran, Fletcher Seventh-day Adventist, Grace Blue Ridge, Trinity Presbyterian, and St. James Episcopal. If your church would like to participate, please call Angie at 828-694-0340 ext. 111.

On June 4 a ground-breaking ceremony is scheduled and a wall-raising ceremony is planned for July 9. The dedication of the "Thrivent Builds Habitat Interfaith Home" will take place on Dec. 17.

Folks, it's here now – the robot revolution

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is nothing new. The Industrial Revolution got its start by replacing human labor, like weaving, with machines. In the late 19th century, Corning Glass employed thousands of glass blowers to turn out light bulbs. An expert two-person team could make two bulbs a minute. Then a Corning employee invented a bulb-making machine called the Ribbon. By the 1930s, it could crank out 2,000 bulbs a minute.

Today robots fill prescriptions, make sushi, help you with your banking, plant crops, vacuum floors, check out suspicious

bags left in public places, make automobiles, run elevators, clean windows, and even perform surgeries.

I'm telling you, the robot revolution is here. In the next few years, anyone whose job can be replaced by a robot will soon be gone. Low-skilled, low-wage jobs will be first. Middle-level jobs like accountants and bank tellers are already disappearing. And maybe the idea of RoboCop isn't crazy. Maybe it could do a better job of deciding when to shoot an unarmed citizen.

This new robotic revolution is lauded by some as being the next great thing. The rise of robots will no doubt make our world

more productive and more efficient, and that's a good thing, right? But there is little question that the transition to the use of robots will also have an important tradeoff – it will result in replacing more and more jobs that real people do today.

So where does this "advancement" take us? It takes us to a world where there are even more low-income families. And in Henderson County that means more workers who are not able to afford decent, safe housing in which to live and raise their families. Sadly, because of this dynamic, in the future there may be even more work for Henderson County Habitat to do – not less.



The Habitat Spotlight shines on



Don Walker

BY NADA SHOOK
SENIOR BUSINESS MANAGER

Many construction volunteers were first introduced to Habitat through a telephone conversation with Don Walker who has served as the affiliate's construction volunteer coordinator for the past 12 years.

Don's insight and ability to interview and recruit volunteers, usually sight unseen, has impressed and amazed everyone. He just knows how to put people at ease while explaining the commitment made by construction volunteers. He can create enthusiasm for the job and also provide an honest and accurate overview of what is really involved in being a Habitat construction volunteer.

His skill in placing volunteers on just the right crew is a real benefit to Habitat's construction team. Often volunteers cannot wait to get started after talking with Don. Sometimes after talking with him, prospective volunteers decide that construction work is not really a good fit for them and have found other areas in which they can participate.

After 12 years of service it is time for Don to get some well-deserved rest and to enjoy more time with his wife, Dawn. Habitat's Spotlight cannot shine too brightly on Don, and there is really no way that we can adequately express appreciation for his dedication and service.

Mel Ailiff takes Don's place as volunteer coordinator

BY MEL AILIFF
HABITAT VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

While it has been more than 15 years since I became involved in my first volunteer project, volunteerism remains a passion of mine.

In 2012, I worked full-time with Morris Habitat for Humanity in New Jersey as a home repair coordinator and discovered that the most rewarding aspect of my job was involvement with volunteers. I started working with Henderson County Habitat on April 4 of this year and look forward to building a vibrant volunteer program. I want to make sure that volunteers have the necessary resources and training for their work

and also have opportunities to build confidence in themselves.

Being a volunteer should involve experiencing personal success. I want to make Henderson County Habitat for Humanity the go-to volunteer program for area volunteers and to make sure volunteers have a fun and safe experience. All volunteers should go home at the end of each assignment satisfied and wanting more.

Over the next two months, I hope to meet you and gain a sense of your expectations as a volunteer. I want to know why you continue to volunteer regularly, and I want to learn what HCHFH can do to improve your experience.

I hope to recruit a number of new volun-

teers. In particular, I hope to engage volunteers for the new Home Repair Program. My goal is to provide meaningful training for volunteers in the ReStore, those who serve on committees, and those who will be involved in home construction.

As Habitat's volunteer coordinator, I am here to help and to listen. I welcome suggestions and new ideas, and I encourage you to help me to get to know you.



Mel Ailiff



Photos for this edition:

Richard DeSimone, Angie Hunter, and Layne Kasischke

Affiliate Organization & Contributors — August 1, 2015, - April 15, 2016

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Great work, Velynda!

Our AmeriCorps volunteer has used her education, love of construction and design, and friendliness to help, motivate, and support partner families during her stay with Habitat. And she's helped build their homes.

**BY NADA SHOOK
SENIOR BUSINESS MANAGER**

Velynda Whitelock, Habitat's current AmeriCorps volunteer, harbors a belief that education is a lifelong and sustaining journey to be shared with others, and her willingness to share knowledge has been frequently evidenced during her year with Habitat.

Born in New York, the oldest of four children, she grew up in Ohio and gained a personal education from

experiences that span the United States north to south and half way back again. She began her formal education at North Central State College in Ohio, majoring in drafting

and design. In search of warmer weather, she transferred to Florida Atlantic University and later to Broward College in Fort Lauderdale and completed coursework in pre-architecture. Thus began her love of construction.

Velynda combines formal education and hands-on work experience as she leads and works with volunteer construction crews and homeowners. She creatively channels her experiences in construction and design with her eagerness to motivate and support people.

Velynda is driven by a desire to continue her education and to "find the sun," and she has decided to apply for another AmeriCorps term after she completes her assignment with HCHH. While she has enjoyed the successes and challenges associated with her work with

Habitat, she admits that she "totally dislikes the cold weather." And so she hopes to "find the sun" in her next AmeriCorps assignment. She also plans to further her interest in construction and design.

When she has free time Velynda enjoys creating and crafting wood projects. Her two dogs – Lily, a Jack Russell Terrier, and Ginger, a Rhodesian Ridgeback, are constantly at her side when she is working on a craft project.

Wherever she finds herself for the next chapter in her life, it is a certainty that her tiny house will go with her. She and Bruce Gordon, Habitat's construction supervisor, are constructing two tiny houses. Velynda will move into one of these houses and live there for the rest of her time in Henderson County and then leave this tiny home for Habitat.

A second tiny house will go with her when she leaves. This is possible because tiny houses are built on a trailer frame and can easily be moved.

AmeriCorps volunteers like Velynda enhance Habitat's construction efforts, and the knowledge gained from these volunteers contributes to the implementation of construction practices that save money and help to make Habitat homes affordable.

Also, AmeriCorps volunteers are instrumental in equipping partner families with the skills necessary to be homeowners and productive members of a community.

We are very glad that Velynda shared her knowledge and herself with HCHH and hope she enjoys warm days in the future in her tiny house.



Velynda says she likes the area, but plans to 'find the sun' in her next job with AmeriCorps.



Working on the actual homes has been just part of her experience with Habitat.



Velynda works closely with workers and homeowners.



During her time here, Velynda has enjoyed the great outdoors.

Philanthropy really can make a difference

“Private philanthropy is crucial in making America the unusual country that it is. Let’s start with some numbers. The non-profit sector now comprises 11 percent of the total U. S. workforce. It will contribute around six percent of gross domestic product this year. To put this in perspective, the charitable sector passed the national defense sector in size in 1993, and it continues to grow. And these numbers don’t take volunteering into account: charitable volunteers make up the equivalent - depending on how you count - of between four and 10 million full-time employees. So philanthropy is clearly a huge force in our society.”

— Adapted from a speech by Karl Zinsmeister, vice president for publications at the Philanthropy Roundtable, on January 29, 2016. Zinsmeister’s complete speech is published in *Imprimis*, a publication of Hillsdale College, Hillsdale, MI.

**By GLENN RICHARDSON
BOARD CHAIR**

While philanthropy is appreciated and supported by a large segment of the U.S. population, it is likely that too few people truly realize the potential power of philanthropy.

The beneficial work done by nonprofit organizations simply could not be accomplished without a base of philanthropic support.

However, let’s bring this closer to home, specifically to Henderson County Habitat for Humanity. When I step back and consider the Habitat mission to build affordable housing for hard-working families, I immediately understood that the difference between what we do versus the work of commercial builders comes down to having a dedicated volunteer labor force



Glenn Richardson works at many functions, events, and dedications held by our local affiliate.

and a continuing stream of financial support from personal donations and ReStore sales.

Without these valuable resources, the Habitat mission could never be accomplished, and without each of you who have dedicated yourselves to the mission for many years, the success of Habitat could never have been realized. We must and do thank you for all of your work and dedication. Since 1989 nearly 200 partner families in Henderson County have been able to experience the dream of home ownership. However, the job is not finished, and this means that we need to double down on our commitment. We moved 10 families into new homes last year. The goal is to complete 110 homes in Dodd meadows. This goal will not be achieved without expanding our volunteer labor force and increasing private donations.

Let me suggest one way you can help Habitat financially that

you may not have considered. If you are 70 and one-half or older, you can instruct your IRA custodian to transfer any amount up to \$100,000 directly to Habitat. This transfer is not considered taxable income but does qualify for fulfillment of the required minimum distribution.

I urge you to talk with your financial adviser about this way of supporting Habitat and then call Angie Hunter, Habitat’s director of development. I hope you will consider this option and other ways of providing the necessary financial support for building more homes for people who need safe, affordable housing. Philanthropy really works.

All Henderson county Habitat homes are built according to government energy - saving standards.

Things to think about . . .

With a little help, we all have the potential to stand on our own

What if you did not have a home, where would you be?

Strong and stable homes help build strong and stable communities

Building strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter



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