



Keeping our volunteers, friends, supporters, and families informed

# What is a six-letter word that's great for the stock markets, your investment portfolio, and Habitat's programs? G-R-O-W-T-H.

In case you didn't know, December, 2013 marked the hundredth anniversary of the crossword puzzle. The *New York World* published the very first one on Dec. 21, 1913. It was originally called the "Word Cross," designed by Arthur Wynne. Since then, they've become a fun diversion and a helpful tool for building a better lexicon in any language.

My grandparents introduced me to them as a small child. They would both do the puzzles from the *Detroit News*, as well as the *Detroit Free Press*. Doing the puzzles with my grandfather gave me my initial workout on words and research as well as disappointments when those last few words just wouldn't come together to finish one of them off.

In fact, it formed the foundation for how I approach problems today – including puzzling out what we can do to better serve the affordable housing needs of Henderson County. And that very question has been at the forefront of the minds of our Board of Directors.

For the past 27 years we have answered that question by constructing new houses for qualified, low-income families. You know all about their quality, energy efficiency, and affordability, so I won't go into that again. And this program has, to date, provided otherwise unattainable housing for over 175 Henderson County families, with more in production all the time. But the question the Board has asked is, "Is building new houses enough?" Their answer was a resounding, "No!"

You see, behind the tree-line that borders the road you travel on to go to the grocery store, the hardware store, or your favorite restaurant for dinner, is an amazing collection of sub-standard housing occupied by homeowners who are unable to maintain the properties they live in. Whether because of advanced age, poor health, physical infirmity, or lack of financial resources, they have not been able to maintain the home they own in a manner that has kept it safe and in



From  
President  
and CEO  
Ron Laughter

## Introducing our new **HOME PRESERVATION PROGRAM**

good repair. They wanted to. They were just unable to. They need help, and have nowhere to go to receive that help. Enter Henderson County Habitat for Humanity.

Our Board said, "If we can build new homes with quality, we can repair homes and make them better, safer, and healthier places for people to live." From that thinking was born our newest program: the Home Preservation Program.

How does it work? Much like our new home program. The same income requirements and sweat equity requirements and repayment requirements will be integral parts of qualifying for participation in the program. Initially we will focus on exterior repairs and home weatherization. This may expand as we gain experience in performing this kind of work.

The new Home Preservation Program allows our affiliate to take the Habitat mission to all four corners of our county. We will not abandon our new home construction program. Indeed, we have plans to expand that program in the future. (More on that in a future NewsLink.) Through the Home Preservation Program, we will be able to have an even greater impact on the affordable housing challenges of Henderson County.

And how is this GROWTH possible? Through your generosity. Without your financial support, we can't provide this new service to low-income residents in our county. Please consider making a financial contribution today to help us assist more families. Thank you for all that you do to transform the lives of families in Henderson County. Isn't it amazing how powerful a simple six letter word can be?

### A homeowner story



Susan Daigle with son in his Halloween costume.

## The house that was built on faith

BY SUSAN DAIGLE  
A FUTURE HOMEOWNER

During a very painful, lonely time of uncertainty, I found myself at the home of my best friend in Dodd Meadows. My friend and I had gone to high school together, and our children, then rising kindergartners, had become friends in preschool. A year before I had brought a Habitat home application to her at our weekly church Bible study dinner.

She was then going through a difficult time, and I encouraged her to apply for a Habitat home. Within months she and her daughter were in a new home that had already been built. I helped put in sweat equity hours by installing the living room floor on her neighbor's house and by keeping her daughter when she had classes. I had watched this miracle change her life, and I remembered it well. It was in her new home that she encouraged me to follow her path. I picked up a Habitat application the next day. That spring and summer, my son and I visited Dodd Meadows when my friend invited us for dinner. She would often do our laundry

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# \$ Money, etc

## Every gift counts this holiday season

BY GLENN RICHARDSON  
HCHFH BOARD CHAIR

As the year draws to a close and you make charitable gifts, we hope you will include Henderson County Habitat for Humanity in your giving plans. From providing homeowner education classes to building new homes for working families, donations to Habitat help fulfill our mission of constructing affordable homes and providing services that empower our families.

We are proud to have helped more than 175 families in Henderson County transform their lives through decent shelter.



Glenn Richardson

As the holiday season begins, there are many different ways to give to Henderson County Habitat:

Just \$15 buys a sheet of drywall; \$25 buys a light fixture; \$50 buys a kitchen faucet; \$100 buys a commode.

Instead of giving a traditional gift, think about making a gift in honor of a loved one. We will let them know you made a gift in their name. Also, you can donate in memory of a loved one.

Get your office or neighborhood in the spirit of the holiday season by taking up a

collection and presenting it to Henderson County Habitat at the business office. This is a great photo opportunity for your social media pages. Instruct your IRA custodian to transfer any amount up to \$100,000 directly to Henderson County Habitat. If you are 70½ or older, this transfer is not considered taxable income but does qualify for fulfillment of the required minimum distribution.

Make a gift of stock to Henderson County Habitat for Humanity. To make a gift or for more information on ways to give and the benefits of our various donor levels, please visit our website at [www.habitat-hvl.org](http://www.habitat-hvl.org) or call Angie Hunter, Director of Development, at 828-694-0340, ext. 111.

Annual donors are the bedrock that supports our mission and who have made it possible for more than 175 families to secure decent, safe and affordable housing in Henderson County. Such a giving tradition does not have to end at one's death. Testamentary bequests are a way to continue giving to important charitable causes beyond our lifetimes.

A bequest costs nothing right now, can have valuable tax advantages and can leave a lasting legacy for generations to come.

Here's how to do it:

### 1. Choose what to give:

A specific bequest gives a particular piece of property. Property types include real estate, cars, boats, etc.

A general bequest gives a stated sum of money or a percentage of the estate.

A residuary bequest gives the "rest, residue and remainder" of an estate, the balance after all other bequests, debts and taxes have been paid.

A contingent bequest requires a certain event to occur before the gift can be made. For example, you could bequeath funds to a family member provided that person survives you, and, if not, name Henderson County Habitat for Humanity as the "contingent beneficiary."

### 2. Decide how you want Henderson County Habitat for Humanity to use your gift:

**Supporting  
the mission  
for years  
to come**

An unrestricted bequest allows Habitat to use the assets in the area of greatest opportunity and where they can do the most good.

A restricted bequest allows you to specify how you want the funds used. To ensure your interests are understood, the will needs to state the gift restriction. We suggest contacting us in advance to make sure we can use the contribution as you wish and craft the exact wording that will fulfill your intentions.

An endowment bequest is when the original principal remains intact and is invested to generate funds in perpetuity for our mission.

### 3. Meet with your estate planning attorney:

Whether you need to create a will, a trust or simply update an earlier version, we recommend seeking the help of an estate planning attorney who can ensure that your will or trust is legally executed. The official legal bequest language for Habitat for Humanity is: "I, [name], of [city, state, ZIP], give, devise and bequeath to Henderson County Habitat for Humanity [written amount or percentage of the estate or description of property] for its unrestricted use and purpose."

### 4. Let us know of your plans:

Please contact Angie Hunter at 828-694-0340, ext. 111, or [ahunter@habitat-hvl.org](mailto:ahunter@habitat-hvl.org) to let us know when you have named Habitat as a beneficiary of your estate. We would love the opportunity to thank you for such a special commitment.

Please join us for a free estate planning seminar where you'll learn strategies to help you plan for the future.

**When:** Tuesday, Nov 8, 2016 — 8:30 AM to 10 AM

**Where:** Dodd Meadows Community Center  
28 Hofer Court, East Flat Rock, NC  
(at the corner of Crest Road and East Blue Ridge Road)

Includes complimentary coffee and continental breakfast.

Seating is limited. RSVP by Thursday, November 3 at 828-694-0340

Sponsored by



# Habitat dedicates Dodd Meadows Community Center

Oct. 19 event to feature food, drink, tours, and a pair of political luminaries



BY NADA SHOOK  
SENIOR BUSINESS MANAGER

Following a period of extensive planning and grant-writing, Habitat will dedicate the new community center at Dodd Meadows on Oct. 19.

Habitat's president, Ron Laughter, and Grants Coordinator Warner Behley provided leadership for a cooperative effort by Habitat staff, community leaders, and funding partner Park Ridge Health to make the community center a reality.

With the beginning of home construction in Dodd Meadows, applications were submitted for a Community Development Block Grant with the North Carolina Department of Commerce and local funding was sought as well. Park Ridge Health enthusiastically agreed to be the local sponsor, and the block grant application was approved. The project was accomplished under the guidance of the North Carolina Department of Commerce in collaboration with Henderson County.

The new facility will truly be a place of community activity. Complete with a meeting room and a fully equipped kitchen, the community center will be available to nonprofit organizations in Henderson County and will become the center of activity for Dodd Meadows

families. The center will also offer adequate parking, a nature trail with flowering shrubs, a community garden, a playground for children, and sidewalk systems created to OSHA standards.

Tui Weinman, a dedicated Habitat volunteer, has spent countless hours beautifying the area surrounding the center with a rock walled flower garden. The rocks she used were salvaged from home sites, and the plants were donated by friends.

All Habitat supporters are invited to the dedication on Oct. 19 between the hours of 4 and 6 p.m. The center's street address is 28 Hofer Court in East Flat Rock. Congressman Mark Meadows and Board of Commissioners Chair Tommy Thompson will join together to cut the ribbon to dedicate the center.

The celebration will also feature two quilts which will be on display in the center's conference room. One of these quilts was completed by the Holy Comforters of St.

James Episcopal Church, and the other was made by former Habitat staff member, Susan Everhart.

Both quilts serve as reminders that many homes come together to complete a neighborhood.



Building strength, stability  
and self-reliance  
through shelter

Sponsored by  
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## Affiliate Organization & Contributors / January 1—September 30, 2016

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Steve & Carol DeWolf – Newsletter Publishers

Gary Knock – Media Consultant

Rich DeSimone – Photographer

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Gary Binney

Elphine Blaschke

# Contributors / January 1—September 30, 2016

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### Contributions

Books for Good

Four Seasons Financial Services, Inc.

GE Lighting Solutions

Mast General Store

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Thrivent Financial

## Honor & Memorial Gifts

Lauren Admire

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Tommy & Phyllis Wilson

## Church Contributions

Covenant Presbyterian Church

First Baptist Church

Grace Blue Ridge Church

Grace Lutheran Church

Hendersonville Presbyterian Church

Hope United Methodist Church

Mills River United Methodist Church

Mount Pisgah Lutheran Church

St. James Episcopal Church

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Trinity Presbyterian Church

## Endowment, Foundation & Organization Contributions

Amazon Smile Foundation

Bank of America Foundation

Community Foundation of Henderson  
County

Community Foundation of Western  
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Dennis Kushler Estate

GE Foundation, Matching Gifts  
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Pfizer Foundation Matching Gifts  
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The Glass Foundation

The Leever Foundation

United Way of Henderson County

Wells Fargo Foundation

## Gifts in Kind

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Valspar

Whirlpool

Yale

## Photos for this edition:

**Mel Ailiff,  
Richard DeSimone  
Angie Hunter, and  
Layne Kasischke**

# Habitat's Bearfootin' bear Ursa goes on auction block Oct. 22

BY SHIELA GRAPES  
1ST VICE CHAIR

**H**abitat could “bearly” wait for the bear named Ursa to be revealed downtown on Main Street on May 13! The whole process of having Ursa represent Henderson County Habitat could be compared to giving birth.

The idea of Henderson County Habitat for Humanity's participation in Downtown Hendersonville's “Bearfootin” Art Walk and Auction this year was conceived in the fall of last year and then presented to the Habitat board for approval in January. The hope was that the first Habitat bear would bring exposure and publicity to the Habitat mission. We asked you for your financial support in sponsoring the bear. The goal was to collect \$1,200 which would pay for the bear and art supplies. Habitat received more than \$1,500 which covered the cost and made it possible to make a \$300 contribution for home construction. A plaque in recognition of your support now hangs in our Habitat conference room.

Angie Hunter and I met with the artist, Suz Roach, in February to discuss artistic concepts and inspirations. The unpainted Habitat bear was delivered

to Suz in March. Ursa and her cub were revealed to the Hendersonville community in May, and she now sits on the corner of Fourth and Main streets in front of Jane Asher Antiques.

When you visit Ursa you will see a tranquil mountain landscape and a cabin with heart-shaped smoke coming out of its chimney. Habitat wanted to depict the idea that “Home is where the heart is.” The Ursa Major constellation is also seen in the night sky which in Latin translates to “Big Bear.”

The Habitat bear will be up for auction on Oct. 22 at the Downtown Flat Rock Playhouse. After the bear is sold, Habitat will receive additional funds that will support our mission. We encourage you to attend the auction and bid on Ursa. If you are unable to attend, you can place an absentee bid by calling Angie at 828-694-0340, ext 111.

Thank you all again for your support, and we look forward to this Hendersonville tradition journey with you!



**Designed by Suz Roach, Habitat's bear Ursa now sits at the corner of Fourth and Main streets.**

## A homeowners story: The house that was built on faith

*Continued from Page 1*

in her new washer and dryer and was always eager to share the abundant blessings in her new life.

She introduced me to her neighbors, and my son played with their kids. Soon, when we came to visit, the kids would all smile and wave “hello” when we pulled in and wave “goodbye” when we left. The neighborhood had become a community that welcomed us with open arms.

As we spent more time there, one of the families in particular reached out and “adopted” us and shared their Habitat journey. I will never forget the wonderful feeling growing inside my broken heart as complete strangers

became family, and how they joined us in hoping that we would get a new home in Phase II of construction at Dodd Meadows.

One afternoon, a little girl came up to me with a card she had made. She said she prayed for us to be neighbors. I was moved to tears and shared the card with Habitat staff and volunteers. That very week we got a phone call informing us that we had been accepted in the Habitat program!

Our Blitz Build was on Halloween, 2015. Surrounded by the help of new and old friends, co-workers, teachers, neighbors, members of the community, church groups, volunteers, family, and even strangers, the walls

went up on our home. Even my brother, James, drove from Raleigh to put in sweat equity hours for me.

I needed a moment to step back and take it all in, and I was as overwhelmed with gratitude then as I am now today. By Halloween 2016, we will move out of a 400-square-foot studio apartment and into to OUR three-bedroom, two-bathroom home!

Against all odds, more than 700 sweat equity hours were completed, almost a doubling of the required amount. Over the past year, I began full-time employment, took on the role of a single mom, commuted, took Habitat classes, and built a home.

I also went through a divorce,

experienced multiple family deaths, including the sudden loss of my brother, and endured hospital scares with my son's asthma.

With a broken heart and a crushed spirit I began this journey and stumbled along, completely unsure of how it would all turn out.

I woke up every day and went to bed every night thanking God for life and strength for another day. It is only now, at the end, that I can look back and see that as I built a home from the ground up with wood and nails, sweat and tears, and the helping hands of many, I was rebuilt again by faith.

For all this, I can say, thank you with all my heart.

**Habitat Business Office:** 1111 Keith Street Hendersonville, NC 28792 ☘ 8:30 - 5:00 Mon-Fri ☘ (828) 694-0340

**Habitat ReStore:** 230 S. Washington Street Hendersonville, NC 28739 ☘ 9:30 - 5:00 Mon-Sat ☘ (828) 696-9524

**Website:** [www.habitat-hvl.org](http://www.habitat-hvl.org) ☘ **Email:** [info@habitat-hvl.org](mailto:info@habitat-hvl.org)

# Our Board of Directors welcomes three new members

BY GARY KNOCK  
MEDIA CONSULTANT

This fall three new members join the Habitat Board of Directors. Each of these individuals brings useful experience and insights to the work of the board, and each is committed to the Habitat mission.

## Tom Kasischke

Tom Kasischke is most certainly not a stranger to Habitat. He first served on the board of directors during the tenure of President George Shipley beginning in 1999. He also served for five years on the Advisory Committee and has worked as a construction volunteer. As a financial consultant for Thrivent Financial, Tom has been directly involved with HCHH through each of the three Thrivent grants awarded to the affiliate. His interest in Habitat stems from his conviction that people should be encouraged and supported to live generously. He explains, "As the Lord takes us through the various stages of life, it is important to live generously, not only in a financial sense but also in service. Habitat provides such a great opportunity to do this."

Tom has been a financial consultant with Thrivent Financial for 25

years and has lived in Hendersonville with his family during that time. His wife, Layne, was the original athletic director for Veritas Christian Academy, and she now teaches physical education at the school. Brett, their son, is a captain in the United States Air Force and is currently assigned to the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. Brett's wife, Anna, works for a defense contractor. Daughter, Candice, is engaged in sports



Tom Kasischke

management and has worked with the U. S. Olympic team for both volleyball and wrestling. Candice and her husband, Zach, currently live in Ann Arbor, MI but will soon relocate to Hendersonville where Zach will open a coffee shop.

## Rob Weeter

Rob Weeter has been associated with the kitchen design industry since 1984 and started working in this industry in Pittsburgh. For a number of years he worked with a company in Greensboro and then moved to Glenwood Springs, CO where he eventually established his own business. In 2015 Rob began working for Packard Cabinets in Hendersonville and moved to Mills River. Rob and his wife, Debbie, have a 13-year-old daughter, Grace, who is in the eighth grade at Rugby Middle School. In addition to Habitat, Rob is active in Kiwanis and serves as clerk of session for Mills River Presbyterian Church.

Rob is vitally interested in helping older people remain in their homes for as long as possible. He has conducted a number of Aging in Place seminars for AARP designed to assist older people in dealing with necessary home remodeling for safety and convenience.

Rob also strongly supports efforts to care for the needs of children and believes that having a safe and secure home is vital to their development. He notes, "I have always been a proponent of helping children and part of this is helping them have a home." Rob brings a good deal of relevant experience to his new position on the board as well as personal commitments to seniors and children.



Rob Weeter

## Reid Tessler

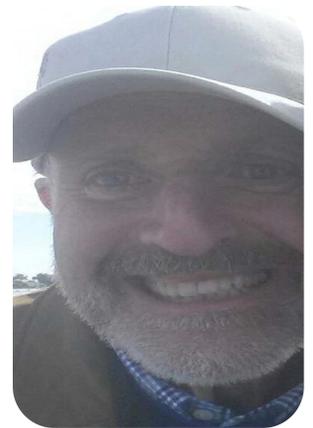
The third new board member, Reid Tessler, is a licensed general contractor who has been engaged in the remodeling of homes in Hendersonville for the past 20 years.

During this time, he has found that being personally involved with his clients and helping them communicate their feelings about their homes and their life styles is the most important part of home remodeling.

He explains that his interplay with home owners is a joyful experience and the reason why he prefers remodeling to new home construction.

Reid believes in the concept of neighborhoods and is attracted to Habitat's commitment to building and improving neighborhoods. He wants to support Habitat because of the organization's mission to build homes as a means to helping people improve their lives. In his view, "Habitat" embraces construction and "Humanity" speaks to human beings. The mission is not just building or improving homes, but of greater importance is the positive effect of construction on the lives of individuals and families.

Reid and his wife, Deborah, have been married for four years and share a very personal Christian faith. Reid explains that to him and to Deborah, "Christ is very real." He looks forward to working with the Habitat board in fashioning policies and procedures that recognize that home construction and remodeling involve people's health issues, safety issues, and economic issues, and as a Christian organization Habitat addresses these issues.



Reid Tessler



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THANKS ITS GENEROUS SUPPORTERS**

