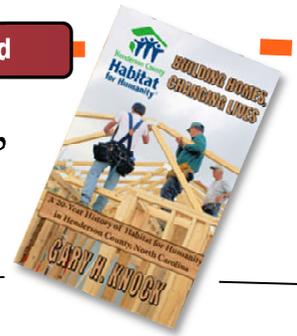


Keeping our volunteers, friends, supporters, and families informed

This edition of **NEWSLINK** is dedicated to Gary Knock, the man who wrote the book on Habitat

➔ See story, Page 6



**HCHH and Thermal Belt Habitat join forces**



Ron Laughter

## Milkshakes & Mergers

The secret to good ones is blending

**T**he invention of the electric blender and the popularity of milkshakes are very much interconnected.

Before widespread availability of electric blenders, milkshakes were more like eggnog, a hand-shaken mixture of crushed ice, milk, sugar and flavoring. The electric blender changed the whole idea of a milkshake for the better. A blended milkshake took on a new character and became popular as a delicious, whipped, aerated, and frothy drink.

While each ingredient of a milkshake is flavorful by itself, it is the merger of ingredients with the right tool, a blender, which creates something wonderful. The concept of merger is most certainly not limited to making a drinkable delight. Often organizations are improved by mergers.

Such an organizational merger has taken

place for Henderson County Habitat for Humanity. HCHH has merged with Thermal Belt Habitat for Humanity (Polk County and Landrum Area of South Carolina) to create a more robust organization which is better equipped to help families in need of decent, affordable housing.

Each of the organizations brings unique skills, capabilities, and construction experiences which enhance the newly-formed organization's impact as a major player in the creation of affordable housing. HCHH brings more than 25 years of experience in the efficient building of Habitat communities through a process of warehouse-centered construction of walls and other homebuilding components which is the envy of many other Habitat affiliates.

Thermal Belt Habitat brings the resources

and experience of 34 years of efficient building of single-family homes. The combined experiences and resources of the merged affiliates not only complement each other but create something wonderful, very much like a delicious milkshake made with an electric blender.

Henderson County Habitat for Humanity will operate in Henderson County, and will operate in Polk County as Thermal Belt Habitat for Humanity.

Additional information about this exciting new chapter in the Habitat story will be communicated in the coming weeks. At this point, it is clear that the two organizations will be stronger together and capable of contributing significantly to help hard-working families build strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter.



Bianca, upper right, beside her mother with her two children Miguel and Elena.

### A homeowner story

## A foundation for a future

BY ANGIE HUNTER  
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

**W**ith summer comes longer days and warmer weather. At Henderson County Habitat for Humanity summer also brings our busy building season – and we need your support now more than ever. Right now, there are families in Henderson County who are in desperate need of a decent place to live.

With support from you, we have already built 180 homes in partnership with dedicated volunteers and hardworking low-income families. But there is so much more work to be done.

Our community's working families are struggling to afford a roof over their children's heads. Families like Bianca and her two children need your help. Bianca works as a secretary and receptionist at Pardee Hospital while studying at Blue Ridge Community College to be a registered nurse. She will complete her RN training by fall of 2017. She was previously working as a certified nursing assistant (CNA) at the local hospitals for four years. She has a five-year old son Miguel and a two-year old daughter Elena who are very excited about their new home. Bianca was living in an over-crowded

*Continued on Page 6*

# Help us continue to meet the need for affordable housing in our community

BY GLENN RICHARDSON  
HCHF BOARD CHAIR

**R**emember the joy and sense of achievement you experienced when your family became owners of their first home?



I was two weeks old when my family moved to another rented home and they didn't own that home until a Good Samaritan offered to buy the home and allow my mother to pay him back by doing his laundry.

There were eight of us in a two-bedroom house with one toilet (not a full bath). I remember the joy in my parent's faces when the house became ours. We felt a sense of security because we wouldn't have to move again.

As a boy, just drawing that home made me happy but today there are many families that won't have that experience. Many local families live in cost-burdened, unsafe and over-crowded conditions with no hope of qualifying for a traditional mortgage.

The heart and soul of our organization is you. You've provided the funds and the labor that makes Habitat homes affordable. You are the foundation that makes Habitat for Humanity possible.

You have been a loyal supporter of Habitat and now we ask you to do one more thing as you continue your support. It is easy! Please pass this newsletter on to a friend so they too can know the Habitat mission and consider a commitment to support the goal of meeting the need for affordable housing in our community.

You've made it possible for Habitat to provide 180 homes since 1989. We need your

continued help to introduce your friends to Habitat. Bring them to Dodd Meadows and show them how we help families stand on their own. When completed there will be 114 hard-working families living in the community that you helped build.

The need is greater than you might think with a total housing shortage of 1,944 in Henderson County. With your help we can increase the number of homes built each year to help with this need.

Please talk to your neighbors, your church and civic organizations and encourage them to consider supporting Habitat for Humanity. Perhaps you are aware of a person in your neighborhood who is looking for an opportunity to work in construction or in our ReStore or perhaps become a member of our Family Selection or Support Team which provides guidance to families as they go through the steps to become a responsible homeowner.

If you know a family that has just moved into our area and is downsizing, our ReStore is a wonderful place to donate those unneeded items that, when sold, become funds to help build more homes.

And finally, our need for private donations is greater than ever as federal and state funding is being reduced and/or eliminated.

When you and your friends volunteer and donate, you are helping families take what is probably their first opportunity of the same upward mobility you experienced in your journey through life by enabling families to have safe, affordable homes to raise their children.



Habitat's bear Aurora Bearealis.

## Habitat is goin' Bearfootin' again

BY SHEILA GRAPES  
1ST VICE CHAIR

**S**pring has sprung, tulips and an array of blooms are brightening downtown Hendersonville and signaling the arrival of the Bearfootin' bears including Habitat's second one, Aurora "Bear"ealis.

Aurora is truly a work of art created by artists Miriam M. Hughes, Timothy Day, and Betty Stebbins. Aurora made her public debut on May 12 and will be auctioned on Oct. 21. A Bear Reveal Party for Aurora's sponsors was held May 4 at the Dodd Meadows Community Center.

A bear-size thank you goes to the Habitat board, staff, the wonderful volunteers, the artists, and all who created, supported, and sponsored Aurora. Our fundraising goal of \$1,200 was surpassed with a total of \$1,395 raised before the public auction.

Once again the Habitat community in Henderson County has supported the Habitat mission — helping families to help themselves.

## Glass Foundation nature playground in full swing at Dodd Meadows

**T**he Glass Foundation recently donated \$20,000 to help build a nature playground in Habitat's newest subdivision, Dodd Meadows. The Glass Foundation, headquartered in Asheville, supports projects that promote child and youth development, environmental education and preservation, and historic preservation.

The playground was designed to blend with the natural environment and includes artificial climbing boulders, balance rocks, a wood walk beam, a climbing net, swings, a slide, a handicap ramp and a shaded picnic area. Also planned for Dodd Meadows is a nature trail that will wind through the gently rolling land and a community garden where homeowners can grow their own produce.

Families who have partnered with Habitat have expressed gratitude for this gift because it promotes different types of play that are vital for a child's cognitive, emotional, physical, and social development.



The nature playground offers fun and exercise for children.

# Moving faith into action

## Thrivent again provides money, volunteers to build another home for a local family

BY ANGIE HUNTER  
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

**F**or the second year in a row, Henderson County Habitat for Humanity will partner with Thrivent Financial to build a home alongside a local family, with \$72,785 awarded by Thrivent to support construction.

Thrivent members and other volunteers through local churches and Park Ridge Health will also give of their time and financial support to assist in the home build. Thrivent Financial is continuing to partner with Habitat for Humanity in communities around the world to build affordable homes through the Thrivent Builds Homes program.

“The Thrivent Builds partnership is helping Henderson County Habitat increase the number of families served in our community

by helping increase our capacity,” said Ron Laughter, President & CEO of Henderson County Habitat for Humanity. “We are so

grateful for Thrivent’s support of our efforts to build homes in partnership with families in need of a decent and affordable place to call home. Together, we are building a strong foundation for a family, an opportunity on which they can build a better life.”

Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity started in 2005 with a mission of providing affordable housing to families – a cornerstone of becoming financially secure. A Habitat

home is a stabilizing force for a family. Better, affordable living conditions lead to improved health, stronger childhood development and the ability to save more and invest in education.

Thrivent and Habitat for Humanity have partnered in communities across the globe to make a real difference in the lives of hard-working families.

Tom Kasischke, a local Thrivent financial



Always time for some fun and laughter even on serious jobs.



The broom brigade takes a break from their work to smile for the camera.

representative and Habitat board member, said “The Thrivent Builds program provides us with more options to serve our area. The support we received last year from the local community was overwhelming, and we look forward to working together in 2017.”

While volunteer labor and donations build a Habitat home, the homes are sold to families. Families make a monthly mortgage payment on an affordable, no-interest loan, which is used to fund other Habitat homes. They also invest hundreds of “sweat equity” hours of labor into building their home to help with construction.

For more information about how your church can participate, call the Habitat office at 828-694-0340.



One of the Thrivent crews relaxes after a day of construction on a Habitat house.

Building more together

Building strength, stability and self-reliance

Get involved



PHOTOS:

All photos for this edition taken by Volunteer Coordinator Mel Ailiff



## Affiliate Organization & Contributors / January 1—December 31, 2016

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Steve & Carol DeWolf – Newsletter Publishers  
Gary Knock – Media Consultant  
Rich DeSimone – Photographer

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Elaine & Don Bailey

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‘Your footprint will remain in Henderson County for years to come.’

## Saying goodbye to Gary Knock

**Thanks for your excellent talents and work, valued friendship, and the lasting memories you leave with us.**

BY NADA SHOOK  
SENIOR BUSINESS MANAGER



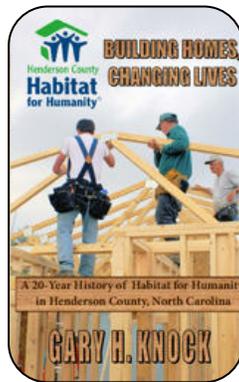
Dr. Gary Knock

Working with Gary Knock, “the professor,” in 2009 to chronicle the history of Henderson County Habitat in his book *Building Homes, Changing Lives*, proved to be more than an everyday experience for me. I was privileged to witness and gain insight into who Gary is as a person in addition to his well-known talents as a university professor, academic dean, psychology counselor, research guru, and author.

In Corinthians, Paul spoke of being solidly connected to each other in love as we work together. While Gary’s knowledge has produced endless educational benefits to those around him, the connection that he shares in his personal philanthropy is greater still. His knowledge has connected with his peers to produce value, the desire to connect is yet more helpful. Paul teaches us to use what we know to bless others with no expectations of acknowledgment. Gary Knock truly exemplifies these teachings.

Gary and his wife, Barbara, retired to Henderson County in 2000. Retirement was seldom realized. Copious hours have been spent working with Henderson County Habitat and Western Carolina Community

Action Board of Directors and their various committees. As Gary edited the Kiwanis newsletter, he served as a dedicated Kiwanis committee member. Countless hours were given for his church. These acts and many more partially define 13 years dedicated to the enrichment of Henderson County.



The cover of the book Gary wrote about Habitat.

His time, his talents, and his treasures, given by such a dedicated person, surely has made an enormous impact on the organizations where Gary has served. To have known and worked with Gary has given me a gentler awareness of stewardship. I am reminded by Gary’s friend, Steve DeWolf, “I think the story should be straight up and sincere, not sappy, syrupy, or maudlin. That’s not Gary’s style.”

On behalf of the Henderson County Habitat affiliate, the board, and the staff, we express a genuine thank you for our 13 years of friendship. Blessings to you and Barbara as you transition to your new home in Westchester County, NY. Your footprint will remain in Henderson County for years to come.

### A good run with a good friend

We were not sure what to expect when we heard this guy named Gary Knock, an academic, a college dean, wanted to do some writing for the Habitat newsletter.

Our fears were quickly allayed when we met Gary. Friendly, interested, eager to help — that was Gary.

Very quickly we found we had important things in common — pizza, beer and the Democratic Party. Most of all we all wanted to produce the best Habitat newsletter yet.

We meshed quickly. Gary’s work on the newsletter has amazed us and made our job of putting it all together so easy it was fun. Through our work we became more than partners in a project. We became good friends.

We hate to see you and Barbara go, Gary. But our wish for you is for all the best. We had a good run and a great ride, partner.

Our hope is when you miss these mountains, you’ll come back. There’s still more politics to talk over a good pizza and some craft beers.

Steve & Carol  
DeWolf

NewsLink Publishers

## A homeowners story: A foundation for building a future

*Continued from Page 1*

home because that was all she could afford, but she wanted more for her children.

“I didn’t think I would qualify for a home, but they considered that three people living in one bedroom was a need. I had no idea that I was capable of doing a lot of the things I ended up doing. I loved working side by side with all the wonderful volunteers who helped me build my home. I worked two jobs while attending school, studying and putting in my sweat equity hours on the weekends. At times, I didn’t think I could do it but I’m happy to say I did! The kids and I are so excited to move into our very own home. They picked out the colors of their bedrooms and can’t wait to start playing with the neighborhood chil-

dren. For me, it’s knowing that we won’t have to move again and can start planning for our future that gives me comfort” said Bianca.

Bianca’s mortgage payment for a three-bedroom home will be less than she was paying for that one bedroom rental. With average rent for a three bedroom apartment at \$1,194 in Henderson County, too many low income parents are living paycheck-to-paycheck with the stress of not knowing if they will make enough to pay rent next month.

For families like Bianca’s, becoming a homeowner through Henderson County Habitat for Humanity is truly life changing. Families who partner with Habitat have been shown to lead healthier, more productive lives.

They can focus on lifelong dreams such as furthering education and gaining better employment.

With a permanent and stable place to live, children are able to focus on their schoolwork. Clearly, healthy living conditions in Habitat homes leads to improved health.

With your help, Habitat homeowners achieve the strength, stability and independence they need to build a better future for themselves and their families. **Everyone deserves a decent and affordable place to live.** We need your financial support to get more families and children into decent and affordable homes in 2017. Please consider completing the enclosed donation envelope and sending your gift today.



# Blitz Building



## SELEE Corporation does its first Blitz Build, likes it so much it's planning a second one in the summer

BY MEL AILIFF  
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

**H**abitat volunteers do amazing work to help families thrive in our community. One example of the power of our volunteers is our Blitz Builds where a group of volunteers work to raise the walls of a Habitat house in one day. SELEE Corporation is one such group.

SELEE Corporation has partnered with Henderson County Habitat for Humanity in the past but recently has wanted to become more involved. On Jan. 14, a team from SELEE came out to raise the walls of a new home in Dodd Meadows and presented a check to help purchase the supplies to build the home.

Group leader, Jonathan Benson, said, "Having the opportunity to work with Habitat for Humanity

on one of their Blitz Builds was a very rewarding experience for everyone here at SELEE Corporation. It's truly amazing to start the day with nothing but the foundation laid and then leave at the end of the day with all of the walls up and something that resembles a house. We're looking forward to participating in another Blitz Build this summer!"

As the availability of affordable housing continues to decrease, Henderson County Habitat for Humanity is working to change that by building safe and affordable homes alongside volunteers and hard working families. More volunteers and corporations like SELEE are desperately needed. Everyone deserves a decent place to live, and everyone can do something today to make that possible for another family. Call the Habitat Administrative Office for more information at 828-694-0340!

'It's truly amazing to start the day with nothing but the foundation laid and then leave at the end of the day with all of the walls up and something that resembles a house.'

## Got a minute? Check out our new website: [www.habitat-hvl.org](http://www.habitat-hvl.org)

**H**enderson County Habitat for Humanity is pleased to announce the launch of our new website! The new website is designed to be updated easily, allowing you to access current and useful information quickly. It is simple to connect with us!

✂ Click the donate button on any page to make a one-time or recurring donation

✂ Click the email icon at the upper right on any page and enter your information to sign up for our e-news

✂ Go to the [Contact](#) tab to send us your feedback

✂ "Like" us on Facebook

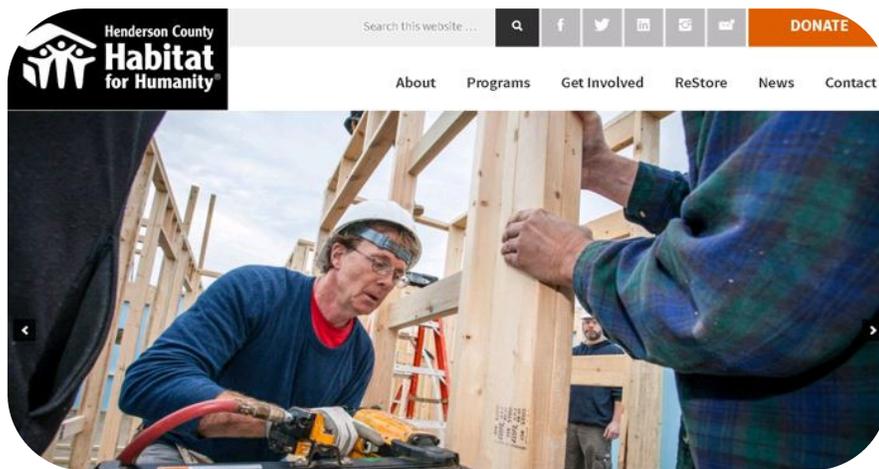
✂ "Follow" us on Twitter

✂ "Join" our LinkedIn network

✂ "Follow" us on Instagram

✂ Register for specific volunteer opportunities or register as a new volunteer on the Volunteer page

We look forward to staying connected with you!



This is what the top portion of Habitat's new website looks like.

**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)



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