



NEWSLINK

We build affordable homes on the foundation of Christian love, where families are provided a secure environment and together a community is established.

Habitat builds dreams and futures

I was in the middle of a divorce when my amazing daughter was born. She healed my broken heart, but my broken bank account was more difficult to repair. I first rented a room in a friend's home. I thought I might never again be able to afford to rent a place of our own. That's how poorly I envisioned my financial future.

I was working as the Assistant Manager of a Starbucks, in training to be the Café Manager. I realized the nights and weekends the job would require would not work out with my role as a single parent, so I went back to school full-time, while working 30 hours a week, when my daughter was two. With help from Section 8 (subsidized housing) I was able to get us our own apartment. It was a very small, one bedroom, 480 sq. foot apartment, but I was happy to have a place of our own. I finished school and started my new career as a hair stylist. I hadn't anticipated that building up a clientele takes a few years, so it was a struggle until I found a job at Great Clips in Arden. Working in this shop, I was able to establish myself and even begin to save towards my dream of a home of our own.

I figured the best case scenario would be getting a mobile home or a small, old and decrepit stick built home. I was working and saving and not spending too much money, not spending my tax return and so on, year after year. I felt like a hamster on a wheel with no way to get off and no end in sight. While I was doing this, the housing market exploded and everything became unaffordable to me, dashing my dream of a home.

When I walked into the information session at Habitat I was discouraged and I felt hopeless. I never expected or imagined in my wildest dreams what I found at Habitat. I went from my greatest hope being a derelict shack to a brand new quality home with all new appliances. Imagine how that feels on my end. That contrast. It takes a while to sink in. Almost unbelievable. It seemed like far more than I deserved. It is literally giving me a life and a future that I have spent years dreaming of and struggling towards - but the reality far exceeds the dream! How often does that happen in life?

The reality left behind is a lifetime of renting with rents ever increasing. When you finally can't afford the increased rent, what happens? Your family is forced to move to a place with the very lowest rents, usually in a less safe environment, and this puts your children at the starting point to make bad acquaintances and bad choices that can ruin their lives. I am not being dramatic. The environment where you live, where you bring your children up, has a huge impact on their future. This is the generational blessing of what Habitat does. Instead of growing up with crime, drugs and poor choices outside the window, my daughter will look outside and see that dreams do come true. This is a great gift to my daughter.

I am so proud to work with the amazing Habitat volunteers building our home. The last thing I want is a free ride, but I just cannot do it all myself, hard as I may try. Habitat doesn't simply build homes or communities, you know. Habitat builds dreams and futures. You help construct better lives. Without your help, without your volunteering and donations, the dream of a safe, stable home simply stays out of reach.

I am so grateful for the security of our own home. I am so grateful that my daughter will grow up in a safe and stable environment. You have blessed us beyond my wildest dreams.



Lisa tells her story at the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner.



The Scottish Farmer's Tale

Ron Laughter President & CEO

His name was Fleming, and he was a poor Scottish farmer. One day, while trying to make a living for his family, he heard a cry for help coming from a nearby bog. He dropped his tools and ran to the bog. There, mired to his waist in black muck, was a terrified boy, screaming and struggling to free himself. Farmer Fleming saved the lad from what could have been a slow and terrifying death.

The next day, a fancy carriage pulled up to the Scotsman's sparse surroundings. An elegantly dressed nobleman stepped out and introduced himself as the father of the boy Farmer Fleming had saved.

"I want to repay you," said the nobleman. "You saved my son's life."

"No, I can't accept payment for what I did," the Scottish farmer replied waving off the offer. At that moment, the farmer's own son came to the door of the family hovel.

"Is that your son?" the nobleman asked.

"Yes," the farmer replied proudly.

"I'll make you a deal. Let me provide him with the level of education my own son will enjoy. If the lad is anything like his father, he'll no doubt grow to be a man we both will be proud of."

And that he did. Farmer Fleming's son attended the very best schools and, in time, graduated from St. Mary's Hospital Medical School in London, and went on to become known throughout the world as the noted Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of Penicillin.

Years afterward, the same nobleman's son, who was saved from the bog, was stricken with pneumonia. What saved his life this time? Penicillin.

The name of the nobleman? Lord Randolph Churchill...His son's name? Sir Winston Churchill.

So, what's my point in telling this story, you ask? The very selfless act of Farmer Fleming is the same selflessness that you display all the time. Whether it is volunteering to allow the Habitat program to work, making financial contributions to help fund our important work, or referring individuals and families in need of safe and affordable housing to our program, you, my friends, are the Farmer Flemings of our age. And like Farmer Fleming's compassionate action, your compassion and willingness to help has an effect far beyond the immediate result. Research shows that children who live in stable, secure, decent environments are far more likely to continue their education beyond grade school. Who knows what they may accomplish in the future? We and our partner families thank you with all our hearts for all that you do. You make the difference.

FYI: Henderson County Habitat does not call you to solicit donations. We may sometimes call to thank you for a donation, but we do not solicit over the phone and we do not send gifts you don't need. We use your entire donation to accomplish our mission.

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner 30 years of building Habitat homes

Our annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner to honor our amazing volunteers was held on October 15 at Grace Lutheran Church. The evening included dinner, music, and raffle prizes that were donated by local businesses. A photo booth was set up outside the dining area.

Three Habitat homeowners told us their stories. We heard from a future homeowner who is in the process of building a home for herself and young daughter, a homeowner whose family of four have been in their home for two years, and a homeowner whose family has lived in a Habitat home for over 30 years. They talked about what their lives were like before they became Habitat homeowners and the difference a safe, decent, stable environment makes for a family, especially the children. Several times they brought us to tears with their struggles and heart-felt gratitude.

Awards were given for:

- Outstanding Construction Volunteer- Jim White
- Outstanding ReStore Volunteer - Jeanne Newkirk
- Lifetime Achievement Award - Bill Durant
- Nuts and Bolts Award - Tom Kingsbury
- Habitat Champion Award - Paul Richards



Volunteer Bill Pankhurst and Board member Tom Kasischke pose in the photo booth.



Lisa and her daughter attended the Dinner where Lisa talked about how building their new Habitat home will be life-changing.

“For a community to be whole and healthy, it must be based on people’s love and concern for each other.”

Millard Fuller
Founder of Habitat
for Humanity



Tom Kingsbury wins the Nuts and Bolts Award.



Habitat Bear 2019 - Bluebeary’s Garden

The Downtown Hendersonville Bear Auction was held in the Public Works building on Saturday, October 19th. The place was packed! Our Habitat Bear sold for \$3,600! We will receive \$2,100. (Downtown Hendersonville takes half of the selling price up to \$3,000 to help fund next year’s event. Anything over \$3,000 goes directly to the beneficiary organization.) The person who bought our bear is from Arkansas. She had a proxy bidder. She is a cyclist and was riding through downtown and saw the bears. The Habitat Bear will be traveling to Arkansas! We are grateful to all the sponsors of our bear who made this possible.

We have already reserved a bear for 2020 and we are so happy that our 2019 bear artist, Heidi Mayfield of Art on 4th has agreed to paint the 2020 bear too!



1111 Keith Street
Hendersonville NC 28792

We literally “raised the roof” on a new Habitat Home under construction. The roof was built on the ground, then lifted into place by a large crane. It took around three days to construct and shingle the roof and less than 15 minutes to place it in position on the house. Several Habitat affiliates have used this technique, including one of the Carter work projects.

We decided to experiment with this because we are expecting a large group of 170 who are coming to build three homes in one week in June 2020. Using this technique, more people will be able to help construct a roof because it will be on the ground, so construction will move faster and be much safer.

Habitat Construction Superintendent, Bruce Gordon, explained that we will not be doing this for every home, but the technique will be used when it is most appropriate, and it is good to know we have this option.

Raising the Roof!



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