



# 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 Builders

The common thread that brought these 4 men together to create our Construction Team, was their personal need to use their collective knowledge to help others. While we consider our volunteers the backbone of Habitat for Humanity, our construction team would be the tendons that hold it all together. They are the organizers of the volunteers and provide support for the homeowners while they complete their sweat equity.

Bruce Gordon, our Director of Construction, came on board with Habitat in December of 1998 when we were finishing up the 30<sup>th</sup> home in Henderson County. He has contributed a lot to the growth within this organization in the past 22 years, as we have now completed over 200 homes in the county. Bruce reflects, "As time went by I had been praying that the Lord would open doors for me to serve Him more. Habitat was looking to hire a full time supervisor to oversee the construction, and I realized that this was the open door I was looking for, and I walked through it."

Joe Skridulis, Site Supervisor, has been involved in production and custom home building for the last 25 years, building anything from starter homes to million dollar plus homes. "My favorite part of working for Habitat is the variety of future homeowners and volunteers we have. It's really satisfying to talk to or wave at the families who have settled into their new homes that we have all had a part in constructing."

Morgan Monshaugen, Supervisor, has been in construction since 1994. His desire to build and to work with wood has led him across the country and finally to North Carolina to work with

antique hardwood and reclaimed lumber. "I have always had a desire to use my knowledge and skill to build homes for people in need. Now, I get to do just that working with Habitat. I love being able to pass that knowledge along to the volunteers and I love knowing that the work we do will change people's lives."

Steve Wilkinson, Construction Associate, has been in industrial and farming work most of his career, learning how to operate and maintain heavy machinery such as forklifts, tractors and backhoes. His construction experience has come from helping friends with building projects in Scotland, where he comes from. Steve says, "I love being able to help build homes for families who need safe, affordable housing."

## Meet The Thursday Crew

There are about 10 members of our "Thursday Crew," a group of men who regularly volunteer on Dodd Meadows Habitat build sites. This crew is responsible for the installation of the siding on the Habitat houses. The ways in which they got involved with Habitat for Humanity vary – for some it was church groups, for others, it was the desire to do something in retirement, and for some it was both.

It's volunteers like the Thursday Crew, and others, that are the driving force behind Henderson County Habitat's efforts. Whatever the reason, it is the camaraderie and the chance to do something good in the community that keeps them coming back. We are a volunteer organization, and the professional staff is here to facilitate and encourage the volunteers. To volunteer for Habitat for Humanity, call (828) 733-1909 ext. 103. No prior building experience is needed to participate.



## **The Most Effective Bioweapon of World War II**

Her name was Anne Miller. She was from Connecticut, age 33, very sick, and likely to die. Anne had a streptococcal infection. Her body temperature spiked at times to 107; that alone should have killed her. Meanwhile, Anne's blood was filled with microbial poison. Transfusions and sulfa drugs were ineffective. Per medical protocols, doctors at Yale-New Haven Medical Center notified her family and called for a pastor.

Still, one doctor had heard of an experimental drug. It was a military development, and subject to strict secrecy. He only knew about it because he had a friend who had a friend . . . Anne's doctor called Merck Pharmaceuticals in New Jersey. Eventually, he found someone who would make a life-and-death decision. The next day, a special package arrived at the hospital.

On Thursday, March 12, doctors at Yale administered the first dose of Merck's medicine to Anne. The next day, Anne's fever began to abate. She received additional doses of the drug over the weekend. On Monday morning, Anne called for a nurse. She wanted breakfast.

Anne recovered and went on to live another 57 years. She died in 1999 at age 90. The New York Times published her obituary. Anne Miller was the first patient ever saved by penicillin. Indeed, Anne was the first successful test patient for one of the most powerful bioweapons of World War II.

Anne received those precious doses of penicillin in March 1942. By then the U.S. was three months into the war, but the war had been raging in Europe since 1939. Soldiers across the world were dying of infections. Military doctors begged for some way to save them. So, nations went to work, starting their search for any promising ideas that had been shelved for one reason or another. War shines a light on undeveloped ideas, after all. It spurs funding, allocation of resources, functional development, and implementation. That was the case with penicillin. And, in its own way, penicillin helped the Allies win the war.

Lately, we have been fighting a war of sorts of our own. It has been named a global pandemic, and the enemy has been COVID-19. And that war has caused our affiliate to reassess how we have gone about doing the business of the Habitat mission in the past, and to reconceptualize how to best move forward. Unlike many affiliates, who shut down operations and waited for the pandemic to pass, our affiliate redesigned our way of doing business so that we could continue to provide the affordable housing so desperately needed by our community while keeping our volunteers and staff safe and healthy and keeping all of our staff fully employed so they could continue to support their families. Never missing a beat, we have continued to construct houses for qualified families and help them achieve the American Dream.

For that, we have to thank our volunteers, who agreed to a whole new way of engaging with Habitat, our donors, who continued to support our efforts despite the general tendency to redirect philanthropic support to COVID-related efforts, and our staff, who willingly assumed new roles and bore new burdens to advance the mission of Habitat. To all of you, I say a heart-felt Thank You!! Without all of you, we could have been like one of our sister affiliates, and closed up shop and stopped serving families in need. But that's not who we are!





## WELCOME OUR NEW HOMEOWNER

Welcome home, Kristan! She holds the keys to her new, energy-efficient Habitat home on May 26, 2021. We wish her and her two children the best of luck as they start a new chapter in their lives. Thank you to the staff at First Bank for their partnership in the mortgage lending process to keep the home affordable for the Brown family and to the McDuffy Law Firm in Mills River for all of their assistance in the closing.



## LARGEST TEAM ON THE SITE SO FAR THIS YEAR!

On a beautiful Saturday morning in East Flat Rock, volunteers from Hendersonville First Baptist Church came out for a Blitz Build. In just one day, we raised the walls to support a family's future home. This was a true community effort! Thanks again to all of those involved.



When you come out to the build site, we promise you that you will also learn something new and build confidence in yourself! Is your church, company or group community-oriented? Contact Kayler at [kdebrew@habitat-hvl.org](mailto:kdebrew@habitat-hvl.org).



1111 Keith Street  
Hendersonville, NC 28792

## New Look, More Selection, Same Purpose!

We are so excited about all the changes happening at the Henderson County ReStores. Come in and check out our new look. We have new exciting inventory coming in every day. Since most of the items are donated from people and companies in your community, the selection varies depending on what has been donated and because of that ever-changing selection, you'll see different inventory every time you shop.



When items are donated to our ReStores, they get a chance at a second life rather than being taken to a landfill. It's a great place to scout out that unique vintage or retro piece of furniture for your next DIY adventure or home improvement project and save big on furniture, appliances, renovation materials, flooring, lighting, cabinetry, kitchen and bath fixtures, and much more! Try our NEW online donation pick up scheduler, it's easy and convenient <https://onlinedonationpickup.com/habitat-hvl>.

Follow us on Facebook @hendorestore for upcoming events at the ReStores.

- ◆ DIY Classes
- ◆ Food Trucks
- ◆ Clothing Store Pop-Ups
- ◆ Doggy Spa

Thank you for your on-going support, and we look forward to seeing you soon!



Henderson County Habitat for Humanity, 1111 Keith Street, Hendersonville, NC 28792  
[www.habitat-hvl.org](http://www.habitat-hvl.org), 828-694-0340 or call 828-696-9524 to schedule donation pick-ups