

## DODD MEADOWS NEIGHBORHOOD PLAYGROUND



Each afternoon you can hear kids laughing as they play a game of pickup soccer in Dodd Meadows. Their challenge is they play in an asphalt parking lot, with cars driving by and only rocks to mark the sidelines and goals. They talk of a real field to play on, but at present that dream seems far away.

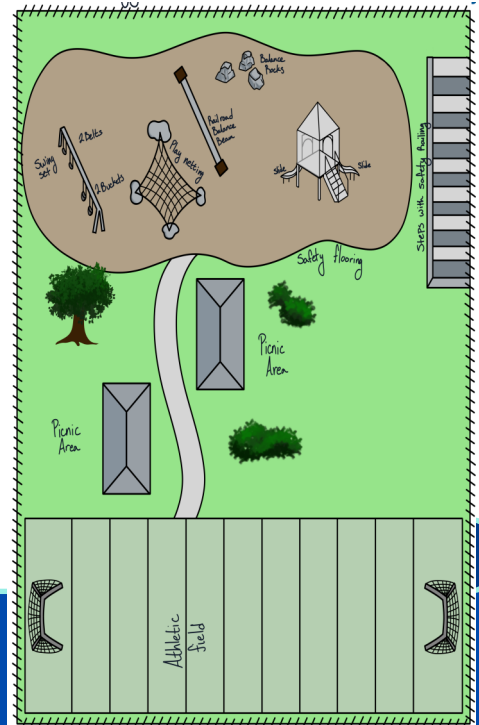
Dodd Meadows is a Habitat for Humanity community in East Flat Rock, built by volunteers and homeowners. It currently boasts 65 homes with five under construction. These houses belong to families who before had little hope of home ownership. They benefit from the mission of Habitat – to build safe, affordable housing.

“Spring Into Action” is a month long Habitat fundraiser to improve and expand the playground, where children can safely run, play and exercise. Habitat is asking for your help. Join in the action!

## Playground Area Elements and Project Goals

### (\$100,000 Needed)

- ◆ New Athletic Field (over 11,000 sq. ft.)
- ◆ Improve Safety Ground Cover
- ◆ New Picnic Area With Tables and Shade Trees
- ◆ Safety Handrails for Steps to Playground
- ◆ Additional Playground Equipment
- ◆ Safety Fence for Play Area



## March Event Highlights

### KICK OFF EVENT

- ⇒ **March 4, 2022 - Kickoff event at Oklawaha Brewery—7 p.m. —Featuring The Greybirds—A portion of the night's profits will be donated to the Playground Project.**

### BENEFIT DINNER FOR HABITAT (Limited Seating)

- ⇒ **March 30: Brandy's On Main Street—Call 828-694-0340 for more information.**

**\*See more events on back!**



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## "Tea. Earl Grey. Hot."

*By Ron Laughter, President and CEO*

When Captain Jean-Luc Picard wants a steaming beverage in his ready room aboard the Starship Enterprise, he just utters those words. The ship's "replicator" then assembles the necessary atoms – including those for the cup – and produces it, ready for the drinking. Picard thinks nothing of it – it's hardly more remarkable to him than a microwave oven is to us today. Just as we now use radio waves to excite atoms and generate heat in our own kitchens (which would have been mind-blowing in the 1950s), his replicator uses some fancy energy technology that is never quite specified in Star Trek: The Next Generation to get atoms to self-assemble into food and drink.

That's science fiction, but it's actually not impossible. When you see an industrial 3-D printer working today, with a little poetic license you can glimpse the beginnings of something similar. A bath of liquid resin lies inert, a primordial soup. A laser begins tracing patterns in it, lightning fast. Shapes form and emerge from the nutrient bath, conjured as if by magic from nothing.

Okay, poetic license revoked – we're still a long way from molecular self-assembly, or at least in any useful way. A 3-D printer can only work with one material at a time, and if you want to combine materials you need to have multiple print heads or switch from one to another, like the different color cartridges in your desktop inkjet printer. We can only work at a resolution of about 50 micrometers (the thickness of a fine hair), while nature works at a thousand times finer detail, of a few tens of nanometers. And there's no human intervention required in the way a 3-D printer works: it does all the assembling itself, with the brute force of a laser solidifying a powder or liquid resin, or melting plastic and spreading it down in a fine line.

But you get the point. We can imagine something, draw it on a computer, and a machine can make it real. We can push a button and an object will appear (eventually). As Arthur C. Clarke put it, "Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic." This is getting close.

Just as technology has changed over time and will continue to change into the future, our Habitat affiliate has changed over time as well. Ten years ago, when I took over the reins of Henderson County Habitat for Humanity, we were a well-kept secret doing good work building affordable homes. But since that time, we have grown in both size and stature, becoming the "go to" authority on affordable housing in our service area, and broadening our reach by including home preservation and repair to our expanding new home construction efforts. This metamorphosis of sorts was due in large part to the vision and dedication of our board of directors, volunteers, and staff. I would like to think that my leadership played some small role in that as well.

Two years ago, I told the chairman of our board that I intended to retire. My intent then, as now, was to turn over the reins to a new leader no later than late summer or early fall of 2022. The board has been in the process of finding a new President and CEO, and I am ready to transfer power to someone with new energy and a new vision of the future. I have truly enjoyed my time at Habitat, and I will miss the wonderful people with whom I have had the privilege of working. But it is time for new leadership, and it is time for me to pursue other dreams and aspirations. Thank you for your trust in me over the past ten years. Looking ahead, there is much good work left to be done and new things to be accomplished. As Captain Picard would say, "Make it so."

**Thank You Volunteers!**  
**Save the Date - Volunteer Appreciation Event**  
**Oklawaha Brewery - March 26th - 3 to 5 p.m.**





## Meet Our New Homeowners!

Samone Hackett is a young woman who never stops working to provide the best for her children. She is set to become one of the newest Habitat homeowners in the Dodd Meadows community in East Flat Rock.

Samone, her daughter Lyric (age 8) and son Cody (age 4) are approved for a four bedroom, two bath home. The house has an open floor plan and a laundry room, making good use of space at 1242 square feet. They are looking forward to each person having a bedroom and space of their own.

She applied in November of 2020. "Applying was easy, but figuring out my things like my debt to income ratio was challenging," she says. Samone determined exactly where her income was going each month and created a budget for her family. "Habitat also wants you to stay at a steady job for a while," she adds. Samone has been a medical assistant for the past year and a half.

Even if you have doubts, go ahead and apply," she says. "It's a process and it takes time, but in the end it's worth it." Best wishes, Samone, Lyric and Cody!

## The Adventurous Shopper

Kelly Orr of Hendersonville never shies away from trying something new – and shopping at the Hendo ReStore is another new experience. Kelly, who moved to Hendersonville from Nashville, is decorating her new home with items from the ReStore.

Kelly served 11 years in the Air Force before becoming an EMS dispatcher. Now she serves as a security manager at Carriage Park and is a friendly face as people drive through the gate. Her love for Hendersonville goes back to her childhood, when she spent summers with her grandmother. The draw was so strong that she bought her house, sight unseen, because it was near her grandmother's property. Kelly now lives with her 100-pound German Shepherd mix named Mila, who appeared at her door one day and decided Kelly's home was hers too.

Now her new house, cozy with fantastic mountain views, is largely ReStore decorated. "I figure shopping this way, you can buy things you love and help somebody else too," she says.



**Bringing Light to Others** - Volunteer Tom Kingsbury adds light and hope to Habitat homes in three Habitat counties. He is both the volunteer leader of the electrical crew and a member of the Homeowner Selection Committee. Volunteering for the past four years, he retired from his job on a Friday and began helping Habitat the following Monday. He knew two people who had received Habitat homes. "For them, it was like winning the lottery," he says. "One mom was able to go back to school now that she had stable housing." Seeing their progress led him to volunteer.

Tom comes from a family that learned to "DIY" before the term came to be. His father was an engineer who did all his own home and car maintenance. His mother was a nurse who taught him the value of volunteering. Joining the Coast Guard right after high school, his first assignment was in Kodiak, Alaska. It was in the service that he met his wife, Leslie, who was one of the first female members of the

Coast Guard. "I think it was holding a variety of jobs that gave me the confidence to tackle things," says Tom. Habitat thanks Tom and all volunteers who contribute so much to our homeowners.



1111 Keith Street  
Hendersonville, NC 28792

Donate



## The Arcade Basketball Tournament Is Coming!

Hendersonville's own version of March Madness will kick off March 4<sup>th</sup>. Bring your friends (and a \$20 donation). Test your shooting skills on our old school arcade basketball game for a chance to win that night's championship! You'll take home bragging rights and – yes – a trophy! All donations will go to give the children of the Dodd Meadows community a playground where they can safely play and exercise.

### Dates and locations for the tournament rounds are:

- Tuesday, March 8: 2<sup>nd</sup> Act - 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 16: Dry Falls Brewery – 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. (plus \$1 for every pint sold donated to Habitat)
- Tuesday, March 22: South Rock Grille – 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- Saturday March 26: Oklawaha Brewery – 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.



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