



## Habitat Spartanburg Sept. 2020 Newsletter

Summer 2020

**DONATE Now.**



### Warrick Dunn Charities Furnishes Habitat Spartanburg Home, Provides \$5,000 for Closing Costs

New Habitat Spartanburg homeowner Brandy Ivery and her two sons received the surprise of their lives just after they closed on their new home Aug. 4.

Habitat Spartanburg Executive Director Lee Close drove the family to their new home where they met former NFL running back Warrick Dunn who hosted the family on a tour of their new home, complete with furnishings, filled cupboards -- even an apple pie to celebrate the family's new start. Dunn also presented Brandy with \$5,000 for mortgage assistance.

Dunn was raised by a single mother, a police officer, who was shot while off-duty escorting a merchant to the bank. He now focuses on providing single parents who are first-time homeowners with a jumpstart -- a hand-up to set them on a new path along their journey.

Aaron's, a leading provider of lease-purchase solutions, partners with Warrick Dunn Charities to make the presentations.





[Warrick Dunn Charities](#) -- founded by Dunn, the former Atlanta Falcons and Tampa Bay Buccaneers running back, in memory of his mother -- selected Brandy Ivery, a single mother of two, to receive a fully furnished home and \$5,000 in mortgage assistance. Brandy's new home, funded through federal HOME funds, is located in Drayton.

Ivery's home was the 180th home furnished by [Warrick Dunn Charities](#).

Dunn, the former Atlanta Falcons and Tampa Bay Buccaneers running back, has been lifting up families for 23 years.

"I'm so proud of my team for finding a way to bring these homes to life, regardless of the difficult circumstances presented by COVID-19," Dunn said. "We have now completed 181 homes as part of this longstanding program, and each home and family represent a singular testament to my mom's memory."

Ivery said it was difficult to put into words what the surprise meant to her.

"Having a place to call home is everyone's dream, but walking into a dream home -- a place that we can feel safe and free from so many challenges that we faced is really awesome," Ivery said.

Coverage of Warrick Dunn's surprise [here](#) and [here](#).

**Currently, Habitat Spartanburg is only allowing regular volunteers who are familiar with construction and health/safety guidelines to volunteer on construction sites.**



### **2020 CEO Build Underway; Four Homes Completed during COVID-19 Pandemic**

Habitat Spartanburg is so grateful to the sponsors for funding the 2020 CEO Habitat Build in the Cleveland Heights area of Spartanburg.

[Mark III Properties](#), [Milliken](#), [AFL](#), [Wells Fargo](#), [Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System](#) and [United Way of the Piedmont](#) are sponsoring the 2020 CEO Build.





Habitat Spartanburg and Spartanburg flagship companies kicked off the 2020 CEO Build on Aug. 18 on North Vernon Street.



Esther and Domingo Vargas are shown with a literacy basket presented by the Spartanburg County Public Libraries.

"These flagship companies and organizations have made it clear that affordable housing is vitally important to our community," said Habitat Spartanburg Executive Director Lee Close. "Their investment means a deserving Spartanburg family that would have never qualified for homeownership will have their dreams realized."

Michele Johnson, who will be the owner of the 2020 CEO Build, has completed the 350 hours of sweat equity she needs to own her home. Johnson was so dedicated to completing her hours that when her car needed repairs, she walked two miles to the construction site to work.

Habitat Spartanburg is dedicated to helping deserving, low-income families realize the dream of homeownership -- even during a pandemic. Since March, Habitat Spartanburg has closed on four homes and continues to build with regular volunteers. The Critical Home Repair Program has assisted nine families with critical, exterior repairs such as roof problems, chimney stabilization and gutter issues.

In addition, Habitat Spartanburg has been able to close on four homes -- and host home dedications (safely and at a distance) -- since the COVID-19 Pandemic began. Thank you to [The Johnson Group](#) for financially sponsoring the [American Credit Acceptance](#) Home.

This home was built largely with American Credit Acceptance associates and is now home to Esther and Domingo Vargas.

Habitats Spartanburg and Cherokee were able to close on the 2019 Partner Build, sponsored by the [JM Smith](#) Foundation, [Broad River Electric Cooperative](#) and [BMW](#) - Plant Spartanburg and is now home to Yvonne Foster in Chesnee.

[Bank of America](#) made it possible for Habitat Spartanburg to renovate a beautiful home on Heather Drive for Lakeisha Foster and her family.

Federal HOME funds, through [Spartanburg County](#), were used to build a beautiful home in Drayton for Brandy Ivory and her two sons.



Yvonne Foster, owner of the 2019 Partner Build Habitat Home, shows her quilt made by the Piedmont Piecers Quilting Guild.

Thank you sponsors and volunteers! Special thanks to the following for offering gifts to our homeowners during their dedication: [Carolina Foothills Federal Credit Union](#), Piedmont Piecers Quilting Guild and the [Spartanburg County Public Libraries](#).

## Masking a Difference

Habitat Spartanburg was one of at least 19 state Habitat for Humanity affiliates to distribute masks for a statewide "Masking a Difference" distribution last week. Distributed by FEMA, Habitat affiliates statewide served as pickup points for nonprofit organizations. Statewide, 112,000 masks were distributed.



## Habitat ReStore Thrift Store Open; Safety Precautions in Place

Habitat Spartanburg's ReStore Thrift Store offers a variety of construction materials, furniture, appliances and housewares at discounted prices to customers. Due to COVID-19, the ReStore is open 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.



The Habitat ReStore Thrift Store, located at 2270 S. Pine St., offers a wonderful selection of furniture, appliances, housewares and construction materials. Please support the ReStore Thrift Store and help Habitat continue our mission to provide safe, decent and affordable housing in Spartanburg.

All customers are encouraged to wear masks and staff has a vigorous cleaning schedule.

ReStore staff has resumed household pickups.

The ReStore was closed for 2.5 months beginning March 21 due to COVID-19. During that time, the thrift store lost \$130,000 in revenue, but generous corporate and foundation sponsors have offered operational support during this time.

One of the most popular features of the store is the Silent Auction, which typically culminates in a Live Auction on alternating Saturdays. During the pandemic, staff has eliminated the Live Auction portion, but the Silent Auction is open for bid during Auction Weeks. The next Auction Week will begin on Tuesday, Sept. 15. The Auction showcases terrific donations of electronics, lawn equipment, hard-to-find treasures, and more. For more information, visit the [ReStore's Facebook page](#) or call the ReStore at 864.583.1332.



## Upcycled Art Show Now VIRTUAL

Habitat Spartanburg is pleased to announce the 2020 Upcycled Art Show Auction will be held virtually. Mark your calendars for Nov. 5 through Nov. 19 and look for more information in

your inbox or email

Lynne Shackelford at

[lynne.shackelford@habitatspartanburg.org](mailto:lynne.shackelford@habitatspartanburg.org) for more information.





## TOURNAMENT CANCELLED

### BILLY L. PAINTER MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

TO BENEFIT HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF SPARTANBURG

HABITAT SPARTANBURG'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MADE THE  
DIFFICULT, BUT NECESSARY DECISION TO CANCEL THIS YEAR'S  
TOURNAMENT DUE TO THE RISKS OF COVID-19.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT PARTICULARLY DURING  
THIS DIFFICULT TIME.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, [HABITATSPARTANBURG.ORG](http://HABITATSPARTANBURG.ORG)  
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Help Us Continue Our Work!

