

## Building More than Houses — Habitat Elevates Families



### First Presbyterian, Billy Painter Memorial Golf Tournament Sponsoring 2 Homes

Habitat for Humanity of Spartanburg has been blessed over the past 32 years with sponsors — corporate, faith, individual, schools, foundations and government agencies — who believe in our mission of lifting deserving, low-income families out of substandard rental housing and into a home of their own — realizing the dream of homeownership.

The backbone of our work is the many faithful volunteers and the lifeblood of our work are the sponsors.

Two homes currently under construction on Salem Street near the Duncan Park Neighborhood. The home at 123 Salem St. is generously sponsored by First Presbyterian Church — Habitat Spartanburg's longest and most faithful supporter.

This home will be the new home of Cherelle Beam and her daughter. Cherelle is an associate at the Dollar General Distribution Center and her coworkers have volunteered on her home.

The home at 125 Salem Street is sponsored by two years of proceeds from the Billy L. Painter Memorial Golf Tournament. This will be the new home of Tangelina Graham, her son, daughter, uncle and niece. Tangelina is a medical technician at the Spartanburg County Detention Center, where she has worked for two years.

“My life — and the life of my daughter — is about to change dramatically forever thanks to Habitat for Humanity,” Cherelle said. “We no longer have to be afraid. We no longer have to pay rent. This is a lifelong investment.”

Tangelina said her new home will be a blessing — and she will pay the acts of kindness forward.



Above: Habitat Spartanburg Executive Director Lee Close (left) with Cherelle Beam and her daughter and ministers from First Presbyterian Church on Wall Raising Day.

Left: Members of First Presbyterian Church leave good wishes and blessings on the studs used to build the First Presbyterian Habitat Home.

Bottom: Members of the Billy L. Painter Golf Committee: Michael Greene, Bob Page, John Barber, Luke Connell, Darwin Simpson and David Jordan at the sponsor sign. Members Thad Strickland and Craig Williams were absent.



## Habitat Spartanburg Board of Directors

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## From Our Director — Lee Close



### Dear Friends,

So much has happened in the time since our last newsletter – homes 134 and 135 are currently under construction in Duncan Park just off Lucerne Drive. We are elated to build one of these homes in memory of Billy L. Painter, a long time servant of Spartanburg and especially of Habitat. The Billy L. Painter Memorial Golf Tournament has raised funds over the past two years to build this home. The other home is the 16<sup>th</sup> Habitat home fully funded by First Presbyterian Church and we are deeply grateful for this long time support from one of our original faith partners.

As mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, we are blessed with long time faithful sponsors of homes as well as new sponsors. We are in the final stage of completion on the 10<sup>th</sup> Denny's Habitat Home and are grateful beyond measure to Denny's Corporation for giving back to this community. The JM Smith Foundation continues to bless Habitat in support of our work, and this year brought us a new faith partner, Inman First Baptist Church! Our first home in Inman was built by Inman First on a lot donated by Inman Mills. We continue to reach beyond the Spartanburg metro area to serve more communities.

Our first ever CEO Build brought support from The Milliken Foundation, The Johnson Group, Denny's, JM Smith Foundation, BMW, CONTEC, Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System, and the United Way of the Piedmont. Leaders of all these sponsors were present for the wall raising and illustrated the community support we enjoy in Spartanburg. Additionally, we were blessed with sponsorship of a home in the past year by the Wade Family Fund, and received support from education with funds from Pauline-Glenn Springs Elementary (yes, elementary students raised funds to help build a home!) and from Boiling Springs High School.

After much planning and effort, we have begun offering Critical Home Repair services and have completed three projects, with several applications in process. We plan to offer exterior repairs such as roofing, porch repair, ramps, etc. to assist homeowners who may no longer be able to maintain their homes as needed. We hope this will open new ways to serve in the neighborhoods where we build as well as serve our veteran population.

Work to support our neighborhoods continues as well. Workshops are offered monthly on maintenance, lawn care, decorating, pest & snake safety and many other topics. Our residents and homeowners in process have participated in Finance and Homebuyer Education classes with great results. Recruitment has been successful with hard work by the Family Selection Committee and we now have seven homeowner families in the Sweat Equity process and several applications in process.

The Habitat ReStore is a place of ministry and we give thanks to donors of excellent goods and faithful customers who understand why the ReStore exists. Revenues have grown steadily for six years. We are seeking to make some site improvements to alleviate parking congestion and improve the customer experience. It is a happy place with courteous associates; well run, clean, organized, and uplifting.

Our staff and board are renewing the Strategic Plan to put resources in place for greater growth in new home construction as well as our new Critical Home Repair program. To fund growth, we are considering for the first time a possible major gifts program either in the form of a capital funds campaign or a planned giving campaign. I can never give thanks enough for the special spirit of the stakeholders in Habitat for Humanity of Spartanburg. Our donors, volunteers, partner families and the incredibly dedicated staff give their all every day to deliver performance which makes us proud to be part of this ministry. I offer my sincere thanks to all of you, for in some way you are a part of this ministry and I am grateful to be a part of this mission.

**Blessings,**  
Lee



## Save the Date

Habitat Spartanburg and Events at Drayton are partnering with ArtWalk to host the inaugural Upcycled Art Show. All upcycled pieces will be auctioned live during this fantastic event at Drayton Mills.

**Thursday, June 20**

**5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.**

**Silent Auction from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.**

**Live auction begins at 7 p.m.**



BENEFITING HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF SPARTANBURG

**Our Vision: A world where everyone has a decent place to live.**

# Scenes from Habitat Spartanburg



Habitat Spartanburg has enjoyed new partnerships recently — partnerships that have allowed us to stay true to our mission and serve more families. In 2018, Habitat Spartanburg kicked off its CEO Build with support from eight flagship corporations and organizations. JM Smith Foundation and Boiling Springs High School sponsored the 2018 Women Build and Pauline-Glenn Springs Elementary partnered with the JM Smith Foundation to build a home. Inman First Baptist Church built the first Habitat home in Inman. Denny's built the 10th Habitat Home, a benchmark for the Spartanburg-based company. The Wade Family Fund sponsored an entire Habitat Build — and the list of supporters goes on. With your continued volunteer and philanthropic support, we can continue to build more and do more to provide affordable housing to Spartanburg families.

## Our Newest Homeowners



**Lisa Simmons**  
Owner of the CEO Build  
Habitat Home



**Rosaura Gallegos**  
Owner of the 2018  
Women Build Home



**Ceundra Murphy**  
Owner of the Inman First  
Baptist Habitat Home



**Doresha Haney**  
Owner of Home Sponsored by  
JM Smith Foundation and  
Pauline-Glenn Springs  
Elementary School



**Principina Burgess**  
Owner of Una Habitat Home

# Habitat Transforms Lives

## Habitat CEO Build

Habitat Spartanburg is grateful for the CEOs of eight Spartanburg flagship corporations and organizations for participating in the inaugural CEO Build. Each company made a gracious gift toward the new home now owned by Lisa Simmons.

The collective effort of this group is an outward display of corporate philanthropy, which has transformed the life of a Spartanburg family.

Lisa Simmons, who was living in a dangerous neighborhood in an apartment with multiple issues including mold, said her dream of becoming a homeowner would never have been possible without the commitment of the following companies: Milliken Foundation, Johnson Family of Companies, BMW, Denny's Corp., JM Smith Foundation, Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System, CONTEC and the United Way of the Piedmont.



## 2018 Women Build

Habitat for Humanity of Spartanburg is committed to improving the lives of individuals and families who work hard and have the desire to lift their families out of substandard rental housing into a home of their own.

Many Habitat homes are led by single mothers who want a better life for their children — one in which they can grow, succeed in school, play in a safe yard and neighborhood, and flourish as a family.

Women Build projects allow females to work shoulder-to-shoulder with other females and Habitat families, learning new skills while empowering other women to achieve the dream of homeownership. Women Build projects provide opportunities for hands-on learning and allow women the opportunity to transform lives — and neighborhoods.

This year, the JM Smith Foundation and Boiling Springs High School sponsored the Women Build Habitat Home, which is now owned by Rosaura Gallegos and her family. Individual supporters Maureen Johannigman and Dr. Annamaria Kish also made generous gifts toward Women Build 2018.



## Save the Date

Billy L. Painter Memorial Golf Tourney

Monday, Sept. 23, 2019

Musgrove Mill Golf Club

# Habitat Homeowner Cindy Johnson: Homeless No Longer

*Cindy Johnson is one of seven Habitat homeowners in 2018 who achieved their lifelong dream of homeownership*



Cindy Johnson with her sons and pastor at the dedication of her home, generously sponsored by the Wade Family Foundation. Cindy and other Habitat homeowners must serve 350 hours of sweat equity on their homes, or other Habitat homes under construction.

Cindy Johnson is a single mother of three sons who left an unhealthy marriage eight years ago. She moved to Spartanburg to be closer to family and to start fresh, but she knew she would have her share of struggles.

"It was a challenge," Cindy said. "One of my sons had health issues that took a team to deal with and we set our goals and moved forward one step at time."

Cindy and her sons were homeless and through the Spartanburg Interfaith Hospitality Network (SPIHN), they lived in churches a week at a time.

"That was tough, but we were so thankful to have SPIHN," Cindy said. "I made up my mind that no matter where we were, I would keep my boys enrolled at the same school, I would keep them in therapy and keep them in Boy Scouts. No matter how far I had to drive, I vowed to do those things."



When her sons went out-of-state to visit their father during the summer, Cindy started volunteering at Habitat — while she was still homeless.

"I got to know the volunteers — they are wonderful — and I knew I wanted a Habitat home for myself and my boys," Cindy said. "Setting goals has been key for me — I set goals and people in Spartanburg in various agencies have helped me and it has

meant everything to me."

Cindy eventually received a Section 8 housing voucher and lived in an apartment and applied for the homeownership program.

"What a blessing that was the day I found out I had been accepted," Cindy said. "I had worked for so long — and had so many people supporting and helping me along the way."

# Habitat Spartanburg Begins Critical Home Repairs

A primary strategic goal of Habitat for Humanity in Spartanburg is to help homeowners remain in their homes and preserve Spartanburg's older housing stock. Many Spartanburg County homeowners are unable to pay for critical home repairs such as roof work and wheelchair ramps.

Our goal is to assist homeowners who need critical home repair services and allow those homeowners to live in their home while work is completed. In addition, making much-needed improvements allows homes in Spartanburg's oldest neighborhoods to retain their value and keep those neighborhoods intact.

Habitat Spartanburg has opened its Critical Home Repair application process and will prioritize applications from veterans and homeowners who live in the areas of Habitat's focus: Northside, Highlands, Spartanburg Regional Neighborhood and South Converse Street Neighborhood. Applicants must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, have owned and lived in their home for the past two years (mobile homes don't qualify



for this program) and meet specific income guidelines. Habitat staff will evaluate an applicant's income at no charge when the application is submitted.

Applicants must be current on all housing cost payments including their mortgage and property taxes and have the ability to make a one-time payment to cover 10 percent of the total repair costs.

"The Critical Home Repair program is a service the Board of Directors and staff have felt led to provide for several years," said Executive Director Lee Close. "The program makes sense for us because we have the capacity and staff. Other nonprofits already provide similar services, but we know there is great need out there, so we're attempting to fill a much-needed service gap."

The Critical Home Repair application is available on the Habitat Spartanburg website at [www.habitatspartanburg.org](http://www.habitatspartanburg.org), and Family Services Coordinator Sarah Burnett is available to answer questions at (864) 279-7875 or [sarah.burnett@habitatspartanburg.org](mailto:sarah.burnett@habitatspartanburg.org).



## THANK YOU, PIEDMONT PIECERS!

Every Habitat Spartanburg homeowner receives a handmade quilt from the Piedmont Piecers quilting bee. Every quilt is different and represents a new start for those deserving families who now have a home of their very own.

## How Can I Help?

When you give to Habitat, every dollar you contribute is used to purchase construction materials for the work site. YOUR dollars are used to build homes.

Visit [www.habitatspartanburg.org](http://www.habitatspartanburg.org) to donate, volunteer or become a homeowner. We can't build safe, decent and affordable homes for deserving families without your help.



## Event Saturdays: Don't Miss Out

If you have never shopped at the ReStore on a Saturday, you don't know what you are missing. Each Saturday there is something new and exciting for everyone to enjoy. Alternating weeks of a 20% off managers sale and a live auction, you will catch quite a deal on items from door knobs and light fixtures to vehicles such as cars, trucks, boats, and more! Shoppers that come in the ReStore during the day of the live auction are greeted by volunteers waiting to serve popcorn, water, and soft drinks. Bargain bidders that are not able to attend auctions are allowed to bid silently for a week prior to the event. We cannot continue to host our auctions without generous donations from the community.



## We Pick Up—Help a Deserving Family with your Donation

The Habitat Spartanburg ReStore was established to provide a self-sustaining funding source and to provide our local community with low-cost building materials and housewares. Let us haul away your gently used couches, cabinets, counters, and more! Call us with your donations today—we pick up items for FREE!

### **Why donate to the Habitat ReStore?**

- ⇒ Quality reusable items are diverted from the landfill and repurposed.
- ⇒ All donations are tax-deductible and you avoid paying hauling/trash disposal costs. Items are offered at discounted prices.
- ⇒ Your item donation and purchase helps raise money to fund the building of Habitat Spartanburg homes.



## The ReStore Mission

The primary mission of the ReStore is to generate revenue for the homebuilding efforts of Habitat for Humanity of Spartanburg.

The Habitat ReStore also aims to offer quality household goods and building materials to the public at reasonable prices and to divert unnecessary waste from local landfills.



**10% OFF**

Habitat for Humanity of Spartanburg appreciates all the generous support from our valued customers, volunteers, donors, and community partners. Please visit our ReStore and enjoy this coupon as our appreciation to you!

**Coupon Expires: June 30, 2019** *Coupon Not Valid on Auction Items*



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## Get Involved! You Can Make a Difference

- ⇒ **Volunteer:** Your day of service impacts a family, boosts confidence levels, and foster teamwork.
- ⇒ **Donate:** Your contribution builds more than just homes; it funds programs for families to attend classes and receive education on homeownership, financial management and home maintenance.
- ⇒ **Shop:** Stop by our ReStore located at 2270 S. Pine St. Your visit prevents thousands of pounds unnecessary waste being dumped into the local landfill.

## VISIT OUR WEBSITE

[habitatspartanburg.org](http://habitatspartanburg.org)



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*Habitat for Humanity of Spartanburg is an ecumenical Christian ministry that changes lives by building decent, affordable homes in partnership with Spartanburg County families in need. Since 1987, Habitat Spartanburg has built 135 homes in our community, providing more than 500 mothers, fathers, and children homes to call their own. By offering financial stability training, affordable homeownership and critical family services, Habitat for Humanity of Spartanburg's goal is to eradicate substandard housing in the community. For more information, visit [www.habitatspartanburg.org](http://www.habitatspartanburg.org).*



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