

Building More than Houses — Habitat Elevates Families



(Top left) AFL associates and Habitat Executive Director Lee Close pose with Crystal Thompson, the future homeowner of 182 Bon Air Ave. AFL is fully sponsoring the home and providing volunteers to construct the home in the Habitat at Regional neighborhood.

(Lower left) Crystal Thompson and members of her family sign the studs of the home during the Wall Raising Ceremony.

(Right) AFL associates raise the walls on 189 Bon Air Ave.

AFL Associates Building Home for Thompson Family

(Editor's Note: This story originally appeared in the Upstate Business Journal and is shared with you with their permission.)

BY TREVOR ANDERSON

Upstate Business Journal

On Tuesday, Sept. 5, the Duncan-based global manufacturer of fiber optic products connected one Upstate mother and her five children with their future home in Spartanburg County.

AFL, in partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Spartanburg, hosted a wall-raising ceremony for Crystal Thompson and her family at the construction site of their four-bedroom home at 182 Bon Air Avenue near Spartanburg Medical Center.

"AFL has a number of core values — nothing more important than giving back to the community," said Kurt Dallas, executive vice president of cable and connectivity for AFL. "We are honored to participate with Habitat for Humanity of Spartanburg."

Thompson, who currently lives in Chesnee, works in the cafeteria at Westview Elementary School in Spartanburg County School District 6.

She said the outpouring of support from AFL and its employees, as well as the Spartanburg Habitat affiliate, was more than she "ever even dreamed."

"First of all, I'd like to thank the Habitat family," Thompson said during the ceremony. "My sponsors AFL, I appreciate you guys so much for helping my dreams come true. I really do. My mother and brother is here who has always been my support system. I love you guys... Most of all I'd like to thank God for making this happen."

When complete, Thompson's home will be the 14th new dwelling



constructed by Habitat Spartanburg and its partners during the past three years in the small neighborhood located on the fringes of the city's Northside community.

The homes have been built on properties on West Centennial Street, and Pierpont and Bon Air avenues that were either gifted to Habitat by Spar-

tanburg Regional Healthcare System or acquired by the faith-based nonprofit.

Lee Close, executive director of Habitat Spartanburg, said the new homes and their residents have helped revitalize an area that had become debilitated by blighted properties and crime, including prostitution and drug activity. Close said the organization hopes to build at least five more homes in the neighborhood.

"Habitat for Humanity is all about partnership," Close said. "Our mission is to make sure deserving families have good homes to raise their children in."

Lynne Shackleford, director of development and marketing for Habitat Spartanburg, said each home the organization builds represents a \$70,000 investment and requires about 2,500 volunteer hours to complete.

Homeowners are selected based on meeting certain criteria, including their need for assistance, financial stability, and willingness to provide "sweat equity," such as helping with the construction of their home or other community involvement activities. Mortgages vary, but loans are typically interest free with low monthly payments.

• **AFL — CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

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From Our Director — Lee Close

Dear Friends,

It was truly a joy to share with many of you the celebration of the 30th Anniversary of Habitat for Humanity of Spartanburg. Our wonderful event was held at Harvest Park in the burgeoning Northside Neighborhood on September 7th – a perfect evening. Since July of 1987, Habitat has completed 125 homes with numbers 126 and 127 currently under construction. My thanks go to the 30th Anniversary Planning Committee: Charlotte Verreault, Chair, Cathy Bagwell, Meg Clayton, Fran Dunn, Ralph Settle, Hootie Solesbee, and Andrea Wilcox for a lot of hard work and a great outcome.

The 18th Annual Habitat for Humanity Golf Tournament was held on September 25th at Musgrove Mill Golf Club. It was our honor along with the Painter family to hold this event in loving memory of our dear friend, Billy Painter. Billy was dedicated to the Spartanburg community and to the mission of Habitat for Humanity. He served on the Board of Directors, the Finance Committee, and the Golf Committee. This year's tournament set a record, raising over \$40,000 to be used in building a Habitat home. I thank the Golf Committee: Michael Green, Chair, John Barber, Thad Strickland, Craig Williams, Bob Page, Luke Connell, David Jordan, and Darwin Simpson for months of planning and hard work.

We celebrated the dedication of the 9th Denny's Habitat Home with owner Brandy Tillotson at 212 Bon Air Avenue on September 15th and the Interfaith Habitat Home with owner Tiphon Bolden on October 24th. Elsewhere in this letter you will learn of our work on the AFL Habitat home and the homes in the Drayton Community in partnership with Spartanburg County and Pacolet Milliken. Pursuit of the Habitat mission to provide safe, decent, and affordable housing for deserving families continues unabated.

Work to support our neighborhoods continues as well. Neighborhood organizations have been established in both the Una and Habitat at Regional neighborhoods to enable residents to work together to keep their neighborhoods safe. Residents have chosen the names Sycamores (Una) and Regional Neighborhood Associations, have elected officers, and host events regularly. The street lights have been replaced in Una courtesy of a grant from the Mary Black Foundation. Our residents and homeowners in process have participated in Maintenance and Homebuyer Education classes with great results. Recruitment has been successful with hard work by the Family Selection Committee and we now have six homeowner families in the Sweat Equity process.

The Habitat ReStore continues to be a place of ministry and thanks to donors of excellent goods, and faithful customers who understand why the ReStore exists, revenues have grown steadily for the past four years. The Fiscal Year ended on June 30th and the ReStore set another record for revenue. They so successfully underwrite our operating costs that we can say confidently that every dollar donated to Habitat in Spartanburg is used to buy building materials to provide housing in accordance with our mission. It is a happy place with courteous associates; well run, clean, organized, and uplifting.

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. As we seek ways to increase our level of service with homes, education, and family safety and security, more volunteers and more sponsorship dollars are needed to enable us to fulfill our mission. 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



• AFL — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Habitat homes are Energy Star 3.0 Certified, which means utility costs are typically cheaper compared with traditional homes.

Thompson's home is the 127th build for Habitat Spartanburg since its inception in 1987.

Close said to-date, AFL's sponsorship of Habitat Spartanburg amounts to about \$100,000, including Thompson's home and the large metal container the organization uses for on-site storage.

In 2014, AFL, which is a subsidiary of Japan-based Fujikura Ltd., sponsored its first Habitat Home in Greer in partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Greenville County as part of the celebration of the company's 30th anniversary.

About 240 of the company's associates volunteered to help build that home during a four-month span, according to AFL's website.



Welcome,
Steve Hoffman!

Habitat Spartanburg is excited to welcome the newest member of our staff, construction supervisor Steve Hoffman. Steven is an experienced carpenter and construction supervisor and has already proven himself as a knowledgeable and key team member. Steven is patient with new volunteers and is able to lead a construction site — a great partner for Larry Porter, Habitat's other construction supervisor.

Habitat Spartanburg Celebrates 30 Years



Our Newest Homes



Spartanburg Interfaith Alliance Home
257 East Hampton Ave.



Drayton Project in Partnership with Spartanburg County and Pacolet Milliken
549 Calvert St.



Drayton Project in Partnership with Spartanburg County and Pacolet Milliken
553 Calvert St.



AFL Habitat Home
182 Bon Air Ave.

On Sept. 7, Habitat Spartanburg celebrated 30 years of building safe, decent and affordable housing for deserving families. The Servando family (top left) shared their homeownership journey and one of our faithful, regular volunteers, Charlene Lyle (third from top left) shared her reasons for volunteering. We've had a wonderful, productive 30 years and we're not resting on our laurels — the work continues as long as families need safe, affordable housing. Others pictured: Habitat Spartanburg Executive Director Lee Close and Board Member Hootie Solesbee (top right) chat during the festivities. (Center left) Board Chairman Ken Meinke welcomes guests to the Hub City Farmer's Market. (Third from top right) Board Member Isaac Dickson and his wife Darlene enjoy the evening. (Bottom left) Event Committee Member Fran Dunn (center) and Gloria Close chat with Spartanburg County Foundation President Troy Hanna.

Habitat Neighborhood News



Habitat Family Olympics

Five Habitat homeowners and their families participated in a special program offered by the Children's Ministry Team at Southside Baptist Church this summer. The program educated families on seven core competencies: relationships, communication, physical health, work-life balance, community involvement, financial literacy, and spiritual growth. The Children's Ministry Team led participating families through discussions and activities designed to strengthen each family's understanding of and commitment to healthy practices in these areas.

Sycamores (Una) Neighborhood Association

Thanks to the efforts of the Sycamores Neighborhood Association, more than 40 residents have engaged in ongoing community efforts in the Una area.

In the past few months, these homeowners have painted over graffiti in their neighborhood, obtained repairs for street light outages, and made significant efforts to hold each other accountable for their homes, yards, and vehicles. The Neighborhood Association hosted a community potluck and a community yard sale this summer to help residents get outside and get to know each other, and they are now in the process of drafting bylaws, planning a holiday event, and researching other possible improvements to the neighborhood, such as Neighborhood Watch signs.

Among the Association's most significant achievements has been new and improved street lighting. The Mary Black Foundation provided Habitat Spartanburg with funding for new LED street lights to be installed throughout the neighborhood, and the Association gathered commitments from nearly half the residents to pay for ongoing costs. The much-anticipated lights were finally installed on Friday, Sept. 8 and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. What used to be a pitch black neighborhood is now almost as bright as a commercial parking lot, and homeowners have said that they finally feel safe going outside at night again. The Association's walking group, which meets every other week to patrol the neighborhood, also expressed joy that the new lights will allow them to continue their walks even as sunset comes earlier in the winter months!

Proud of your work, Sycamores!

Regional Neighborhood Association

Our newest homeowners in the Regional Neighborhood are off to a great start! They have formed the Regional Neighborhood Association, which meets monthly to plan formal initiatives to keep their community on the right track. In the past few months, these homeowners have elected officers, established bylaws, and registered their Association with the City of Spartanburg. They also organized a neighborhood clean-up day and a community yard sale, which raised some money for their Association and helped them get to know their neighbors better.

They are also paying it forward to future homeowners coming to their neighborhood! Two more participants in our homeownership program accepted properties on Bon Air Avenue, and these participants came with their children to the neighborhood clean-up day to start getting to know their future neighborhood! And at least one family currently in the neighborhood dedicated a Saturday to helping these program participants build their future homes!

Way to Go, Regional Neighborhood Association!



Lawnmower Maintenance Class

The Habitat Spartanburg team offers regular educational opportunities for our homeowners and homeowners-in-process. This summer, faithful Habitat volunteers Jim and Pat Sawyers agreed to offer a lawnmower maintenance class during which families learned the proper way to take care of their lawn mowers. The class was well-received and we have similar opportunities planned. Email Family Services Coordinator Sarah Burnett, sarah.burnett@habitatspartanburg.org, with questions or ideas.

Habitat Spartanburg Pays Tribute to Billy Painter

Billy Painter was a humble, giving and special individual who worked to improve outcomes at Habitat Spartanburg through his service on the Board of Directors, Finance Committee and Golf Committee. Billy believed giving deserving families the opportunity to own their own home was the cornerstone of raising a family in a healthy environment. This year's tournament, held at Musgrove Mill Golf Club, was in memory of Billy Painter.



Billy's family (from left) Drew, Linda and Brad Painter.



Congratulations to the winners! First place Low Gross (White Oak): John Barber, Doug Cecil, Foster Chapman and Tim Pope (56)



First Place Low Net: Joey Haney, Trent Seay, Caroline Haney and Richard Smith (51).

Other winners were: Second Place Low Net, Roebuck Buildings; Third Place Low Net, Billy L. Painter Team; Closest to the Pin Winners: Derham Cole, Conner Chitty, Thomas Young, Brian Pruitt and Randy Judy. David Ellis was the Putting Contest Winner!

Thank you to all of the players, sponsors and volunteers who made this year the best tournament ever! We appreciate you and hope you'll consider supporting the 19th Annual Golf Tournament on Monday, Sept. 24, 2018.



BANK OF AMERICA GIVES BACK

Bank of America associates, including Senior Vice President Stacy Brandon (fourth from the right) present Habitat Spartanburg Executive Director Lee Close with a \$17,500 grant to purchase land in the Northside Development Area for future Habitat homes. Bank of America employees spent a day volunteering on a Habitat Spartanburg home in the Drayton community as part of its Global Build Week, a week in which employees around the world participated in affordable housing projects.



Caitlin Wurst helps with merchandising in the ReStore.

Habitat Volunteers are the Best Volunteers!

Call 591.2221, ext. 105 or
carrie.vaughn@habitatspartanburg.org
 to register today!

Sherman College of Chiropractic provides work study opportunities for more than 20 students. Participating students work in the ReStore from 4 to 20 hours weekly, depending on the quarter they are enrolled in the school's program. Students answer calls, assist in loading/unloading donations, auction events, Women Build events, and with customer service. Many students also voluntarily donate sweat equity hours for families they meet in the homeownership program.

**Thank you, Sherman College, for your
 commitment to Habitat!**



Dori Simpson answers a customer's call in the ReStore.

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 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 auctions 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 and home store materials. 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 build of Habitat Spartanburg homes for purchase by hardworking, deserving families in our community.

To schedule a pick up at your location, contact the ReStore at 864-583-1332.



The ReStore Mission

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

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, 2018 Coupon Not Valid on Auction Items

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 Street. Your visit prevents thousands of unnecessary waste being dumped into the local landfill.

**VISIT OUR
WEBSITE**

habitatspartanburg.org



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habitatrestore9

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 125 homes in our community, providing over 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.



Contact Us!

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