



**Habitat  
for Humanity®  
of Spartanburg**

# Notes from the Toolbox

MAY 2017

## We Build More than Houses — We Build Neighborhoods



(Top) Habitat Spartanburg Construction Supervisor Jeff Brockman (burgundy shirt) gives home framing instruction to Homeowner in Process Tiphon Bolden.

(Top and bottom left) The Spartanburg Interfaith Alliance, South Converse Neighborhood Association members, Habitat Spartanburg Board members and other community members raise the walls on the Spartanburg Interfaith Alliance Home on East Hampton Avenue.



## Spartanburg Interfaith Alliance: Building HOPE

*(Editor's Note: This story appeared in the March 16 edition of the Herald-Journal. Reprinted with permission.)*

**By Alyssa Mulliger**

An ongoing effort to improve housing in South Converse got another boost on Thursday, March 16 as the walls were raised for another Habitat for Humanity home.

Once a vibrant area for African American-owned businesses and homes, the South Converse landscape was significantly altered in the 1970s when many older shops and homes were razed in an attempt at urban renewal.

In recent years, the city has focused its efforts on filling in the empty lots with new homes that encourage ownership, and has worked with Habitat of Spartanburg on several projects.

"Habitat has been a key partner with the city for a long time now in bringing new housing stock into several of our neighborhoods," said Will Rothschild, a spokesman for the city. "The South Converse neighborhood is a great neighborhood filled with potential. It's historic, has great community leadership and is close to downtown. It's really good to see new (housing) construction happening there."

Mitch Kennedy, the city's community services director, said individual private investment over the past decade began moving South Converse in a positive direction. Along with its infill housing strategy, the city also has invested in South Converse Street Park and the Mary H. Wright Greenway, he said.

"At one time there was extensive vacancy in South Converse, a neighborhood that had quality infrastructure from a housing standpoint," Kennedy said. "In that neighborhood, a vacant lot can stand out like a sore thumb."

Lee Close, executive director of Habitat for Humanity of Spartanburg, said the South Converse neighborhood is where the nonprofit got its start nearly 30 years ago in Spartanburg. Around a dozen Habitat homes were built on Winsmith Avenue and Celestial Street, and many of those homeowners have finished paying off their mortgages, he said.

Since then, Habitat Spartanburg has continued to build in the South Converse neighborhood, including 165 Cambridge Circle in 2015 and 257 East Hampton Ave., the latest home to break ground.

"We are doing a lot of work in this area and it's an important part of Spartanburg and of Habitat's history," Close said. "This neighborhood is one of the up-and-coming neighborhoods of Spartanburg. This is going to be a wonderful place for a family to live in the future."

The East Hampton Avenue site is Habitat Spartanburg's 124th home and will take about three months to build. The Spartanburg Interfaith Alliance, which comprises about 75 churches and faith groups, is fully sponsoring the \$70,000 home. Several volunteers and faith leaders helped raise the exterior walls on the home and will continue to volunteer on the site.

**Our Mission:** 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.

## Habitat Spartanburg Board of Directors

### Chairman

Ken Meinke

### Vice Chairman

Tim Metz

### Secretary

Russell Blackburn

### Treasurer

Patrick Cutler

### Immediate Past Chair

Kimberly Cordone

Dr. Camille Bethea

Isaac Dickson

Kristin Gray

Marilyn Hollifield

Rev. Stuart Jones

Maj. Art Littlejohn

Tim Metz

David Proctor

D. Ralph Settle, Jr.

Justin "Hootie" Solesbee

Charlotte Verreault

Andrea Wilcox

## From Our Director — Lee Close

Dear Friends,

Since my last letter to you, our faithful Habitat for Humanity supporters, the Spartanburg Habitat affiliate has been engaged in nonstop activity. We have closed on the Wells Fargo Habitat home on Bon Air Avenue with Tekesha Baker and family, and on the Chesnee home with homeowner Nancy Tafuri. For both homes, we had outstanding participation in the home dedication ceremonies asking God to bless these homes for these wonderful families. In the ensuing months, we have built the ninth Denny's Habitat home, two homes on Vernon Street in partnership with Youth Build, and have just raised the walls for a home in the South Converse neighborhood sponsored by the Spartanburg Interfaith Alliance. One of the Vernon Street homes is our first to incorporate barrier free design as an accommodation for the handicapped child of the homeowner to be. Our pursuit of the Habitat mission to provide safe and affordable housing for deserving families continues unabated.

In addition to home building, our work to offer educational opportunities and support for our neighborhoods continues as well. Neighborhood Watch organizational meetings have been held in both the Una Habitat and Habitat at Regional neighborhoods to enable residents to better partner with law enforcement to keep their neighborhoods safe. Our residents and homeowners in process have participated in Home Maintenance and Homebuyer Education classes with great results and we are working on a new education module which will dive deeper into family Financial Management. Recruitment has been extremely successful with hard work by the Family Selection Committee and we now have ten homeowner applications approved and families in the Sweat Equity process.

The Habitat ReStore continues to be a place of ministry and thanks to faithful donors of excellent goods, and faithful customers who understand why the ReStore exists, revenues have grown steadily for the past four years. The ReStore so successfully underwrites 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; well run, clean and 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 delivery in homes, education, and family safety and security, more volunteers and more sponsorship dollars are needed to enable us to fulfil our mission. To everyone who reads this newsletter I offer my sincere thanks, for in some way you are a part of this ministry. Each of you share with us as we seek to fulfill our mission of changing lives by providing safe, decent, and affordable homes in partnership with Spartanburg County families in need. Watch for news of our upcoming celebration of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Habitat in Spartanburg next fall.

*Blessings,  
Lee*



## Mary Black Foundation Grant to Bring Street Lighting to Una Neighborhood

The Mary Black Foundation has awarded a \$7,500 grant to replace nine street lights — and to add an additional light — in the Una Habitat Neighborhood. The grant is part of \$1,126,600 in grants to 10 nonprofit organizations serving Spartanburg County.

The grant will provide new LED bulbs and extended arms on existing utility poles to help brighten streets surrounding the single-family homes in the center of Una.

Una Habitat homeowners have voiced their concerns about

loitering, possible drug activity and other criminal behavior in the area and believe lighting will be a crime deterrent. The residents also plan to start a Neighborhood Watch.

"We are so grateful to the Mary Black Foundation for their investment," said Executive Director Lee Close. "We are hopeful that this partnership will help drive positive development in the neighborhood and will serve as an outward signal to the neighborhood that others care and are willing to help."



### HOMEOWNER MAINTENANCE CLASS

Habitat Spartanburg Construction Coordinator Peggy Magarahan, left, discusses proper painting techniques with Habitat homeowner Jennifer Jackson, right. As part of our commitment to homeowner success, Habitat frequently provides home maintenance classes and financial workshops for our future, and current, homeowners. For more information, call or email Family Services Coordinator Sarah Burnett at 864.591.2221, ext. 106 or [sarah.burnett@habitatspartanburg.org](mailto:sarah.burnett@habitatspartanburg.org).

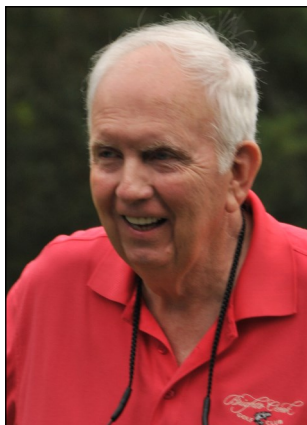
## Bill Painter Memorial Golf Tournament

In honor of Bill Painter's commitment to Habitat Spartanburg and the annual Golf Tournament, the Golf Tournament Committee has named the 18th annual tournament in memory of our friend. The Bill Painter Memorial Golf Tournament will be held on Monday, Sept. 25th at the Musgrove Mills Golf Course.

The Golf Committee has begun meeting to plan the tournament so make plans now to be a part of this Habitat tradition. For many years, Mr. Painter served on the Habitat Board of Directors and on the Golf Committee.

A true champion of the community, Mr. Painter had widespread influence and was known for his gentle demeanor and was a tireless activist for the causes he held dear to his heart. He was married to Linda Jenkins Painter and the father of Drew and Brad and had five grandchildren.

He served as president and CEO of First Federal Savings and Loan and First Spartanburg Financial Corp. He was the chairman of many organizations in Spartanburg County including the Chamber of Commerce, DOT committees, among others. He also served a Spartanburg Methodist College trustee and on the President Advisory Board of Wofford College, BB&T and was a Spartanburg Regional Healthcare Systems Fellow.



Bill Painter

## Habitat Spartanburg to Celebrate 30 Years

This year marks Habitat for Humanity of Spartanburg's 30th anniversary. It's been 30 years since a dedicated group of community members embarked on their mission of providing affordable housing in Spartanburg to those who were deserving.

Flyers from early meetings challenge Christians to address the need for improved housing in Spartanburg — "Christians must do whatever is necessary to cause people to think and act to bring adequate shelter to everyone," one report in the Herald-Journal read.

Since our incorporation on July 21, 1987, Habitat Spartanburg has built 124 homes — providing hundreds of families with a safe, affordable home of their own. Habitat Spartanburg is now building seven homes annually and looks forward to many more years serving Spartanburg.

Make plans now to join us at the Hub City Farmer's Market on the Northside on Thursday, Sept. 7 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. as we celebrate our successes and look forward to our future.

### Our Newest Homes



**YouthBuild Home**  
581 Vernon St.  
Northside



**YouthBuild Home**  
589 Vernon St.  
Northside



**Spartanburg Interfaith Alliance Home**  
257 E. Hampton Ave.  
South Converse  
Street Neighborhood



**HOME Funds Home in partnership with Spartanburg County and Pacolet Milliken**  
549 Calvert St.



### **MONDAY VOLUNTEER GROUP**

The Habitat Spartanburg ReStore thrift store is closed on Mondays, but there's plenty of activity happening inside. Every Monday, a dedicated group of volunteers comes into the ReStore to repair appliances, lawn mowers, equipment, organize bookshelves and assemble furniture to prepare the ReStore floor for business. The dedication of these volunteers is incredible and we salute them for their service.



### **Habitat Volunteers are the Best Volunteers!**

Call 591.2221, ext. 105 or  
[carrie.vaughn@habitatspartanburg.org](mailto:carrie.vaughn@habitatspartanburg.org)  
 to register today!





## 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**

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



**HabitatSpartanburg**



**HabitatSPTBG**



**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 more than 114 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](http://www.habitatspartanburg.org).

## Contact Us!

**(864) 591-2221**

**Executive Director:**

Lee Close Ext: 102

**Director of Finance and Administration:**

Teresa Putman Ext: 104

**Director of Development and Marketing:**

Lynne Shackelford Ext: 100

**Family Services Coordinator:**

Sarah Burnett Ext. 106

**Construction Coordinator:**

Peggy Magarahan Ext:103

**Volunteer Coordinator:**

Carrie Vaughn Ext: 105

**ReStore Manager:**

Joe Walker Ext:108

**Construction Supervisor:**

Jeff Brockman: (864) 621-7122

**Construction Supervisor:**

Larry Porter: (864) 279-7914

**ReStore:**

(864) 583-1332

