

## Executive Director's Message

It was just about a year ago that this newsletter introduced me as the new Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of Forsyth County. It was with mixed emotion that I left my South Florida Habitat family to join one that had been led by such a strong and dynamic person. Sylvia Oberle built a team and an organization that changed the face of the Boston-Thurmond community and created **hope** in families and communities.



Michael Campbell

I also must commend the community for the warm embrace and friendly smiles that I received in relocating to this wonderful "Arts and Innovation" community. I am humbled by the generosity of people and corporations. Truly, there is compassion in this community to create and embrace change that helps all people of all walks of life.

During my immersion into what is the most intriguing community I have ever lived in, I have found that Habitat Forsyth can reach out and touch so many more people as it shares its blessings with townships within the county as well as other communities in adjoining counties.

We have been taught that it is far better to give than it is to receive, and that everyone has the capacity to give -- and through that giving, more will prosper.

Anyone reading this has the opportunity to make a difference -- for Habitat and other organizations in our community.

**Deuteronomy 26:2** instructs us *to take the first portions of your fruit and give to the house of the Lord.* Your blessings of time, talent and treasures have enabled us to continue to pursue our mission of "Seeking to put God's love into action by building homes, community and hope." The hope that is stimulated by new homes, new neighbors and the thousands of volunteers that come out to participate in changing lives of people they have never met and may never see again does exemplify what God's love truly is.

As each of you read and reflect on this message and the information throughout this newsletter, please think about donating to us and actively getting involved with us to **put God's love into action.** I look forward to continuing to meet, greet and work alongside all of you -- with a great staff and a great organization that has blessed me with so much every day.

Remember: Think, Do and Give,

Michael E. Campbell



1023 W. 14th Street  
Winston-Salem, NC 27105



Call us for free pickup of donations:  
336.893.8494

Store locations:

608 Coliseum Drive  
Winston-Salem, NC 27106

619 North Main Street  
Kernersville, NC 27284

115 East Dalton Road  
King, NC 27021

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The Homefront  
Spring 2017



## Unity and Faith Builds Bring Faith Organizations Together

At a time when many people feel our country is divided, Habitat's Unity and Faith Builds are bringing local individuals and faith organizations from all walks of life together to work toward a common goal: building a home for a local family.

In 2016 an interracial, interfaith coalition came together for the 2016 Unity Build. These 12 Winston-Salem faith organizations contributed financing and labor to build a home for the family of Alice Everett. This was the sixth Unity Build since 2000. Two more are in the planning stages for 2017.

Each Habitat home requires \$65,000 in sponsorship donations. By maximizing the BB&T Challenge match of \$25,000 for each of the two houses, the goal for the 2017 Unity and Faith Builds is to raise the other \$80,000 by September to provide homeownership opportunities for two families.

As a part of this collaboration, members from a variety of churches gather for monthly prayer and informational breakfasts. These gatherings are fellowships that are hosted at a variety of places of worship from the Christian, Muslim, and Jewish faiths.

Congregational commitments are to:

- Give a financial gift of a level fitting their capacity
- Provide representatives for prayer breakfast gatherings
- Engage the congregation in learning about Habitat and giving of time and treasure
- Participate in fundraising, building and dedication ceremony for the house.



Alice Everett and daughter Mahogany on the day of the Unity Build kick-off. The house, dedicated in February, was Habitat Forsyth's sixth Unity Build. Two more are planned in 2017.

Monthly gatherings are beginning this spring. Please join us for this opportunity to share information about our faiths and to build relationships! Our goal is to start the homes this summer and complete them by the end of the year.

For more information, contact Pam Anglin, Habitat's director of resource development, at [pam.anglin@habitatforsyth.org](mailto:pam.anglin@habitatforsyth.org) or 336.306.8418.

## Habitat Honors Volunteers Who Go Above and Beyond

Habitat recently honored a number of special people for their outstanding volunteer service.

On November 21, several volunteers received National Philanthropy Day Awards given by the Triad chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. **Brenda Sloan** received the Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser award; **Spencer Bennett** received the Outstanding Emerging Philanthropist award; **Lathan Verwoerd** was named Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy, and the **Home Builders Association of Winston-Salem** were named Outstanding Philanthropic Organization.

At the annual Volunteer Appreciation Party held on March 20, Habitat honored **Sandy Stinson**, **Patricia McGill** and **Elmer Hayashi** with Lifetime Achievement Awards; **Ed Fasano** as



Architect Peter Epermanis (shown here with wife Suzanne) received the Lifetime Achievement Award and the Affiliate Achievement Award.

Lifetime Achievement Award. **Peter Epermanis**, a local architect, received the Affiliate Achievement Award and a Lifetime Achievement Award. Since 1994, Peter has spent countless hours designing and modifying 18 different Habitat house plans to complement local Winston-Salem architecture.

ReStore Volunteer of the Year; **David Smelcer** and **Piedmont Federal Savings Bank** as the Committee Member and Corporate Partner of the Year; **Don Lendle** as the Operations Volunteer of the Year; **Doug Frail** of Which Wich as the Resource Development Partner of the Year; **Deborah Womack** of **Forsyth Cooperative Extension** as the Organization Partner and Volunteer of the Year; and **The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints** received the Faith Volunteer/Partner of the Year and a

**Lou Baldwin** — President  
**David Twine** — Vice President  
**Julie Hatch** — Secretary  
**Aprille Bell** — Treasurer  
**Mark Dunnagan** — Past President

Amber Baker	Louis W. Doherty	Robert E. Leak, III
Greg Beier	Bob Gfeller	Kismet Loftin-Bell
Spencer Bennett	Kenneth Holly	Paula McCoy
Susie Campbell	Emily Hull McGee	London Mickle
Ken Cavanaugh	Sharon Jefferies-Jones	Brenda Sloan
Jennifer deGuzman	Steve Lawing	Sandy Stinson

Executive Director: Michael Campbell

**every voice** can advocate and help more families build strength, stability and independence.  
**every home** improvement gives children a better chance for a stronger future.  
**every connection** creates an opportunity to build a better life.  
**every one** needs a foundation to build the future.  
**every faith** can be put into action.  
**every brick** is a building block.  
**every gift** makes a difference.

An independent affiliate of  
Habitat for Humanity International



Monday-Saturday, April 3-8  
Eat out to support **Habitat's Youth Ambassadors!** See list of participating restaurants on our home page at [habitatforsyth.org](http://habitatforsyth.org).



**Hammerbird 5K and One Mile Run/Walk**  
Saturday, April 22  
**Kimberley Park Elementary School**  
5K route passes by 80+ homes that Habitat has built, remodeled or repaired.  
**Register now at**  
[habitatforsyth.org](http://habitatforsyth.org)



Wednesday,  
September 20



Golf Tournament  
Friday, October 13

## Save the Date for These Important Events!



## Homeowner Helps Others Locally and in Nicaragua

"God has had me on an *adventure*," Tim Rhodes said.

Tim's journey has taken him through years of recuperating from a serious car accident, becoming a Habitat homeowner, then going to Nicaragua with a Habitat team to help build a home for a family there. Now Tim is using his boisterous humor and enthusiasm to spread the Habitat story and pass on the lessons he's learned.

Tim admits that his life wasn't on track before a car accident in 2006 left him in a coma for 15 days. With a hairline skull fracture, broken ribs, a collapsed lung, bruised liver and a hand broken in multiple places, he was completely dependent upon his family to take care of him for months.

Depressed, angry, and in pain, Tim had thoughts of revenge against the other driver. But then he thought of his young daughter. "I wanted to be the best I could be, for her. She inspired me. So I forgave him. And once I forgave him, God really started working in my life."

When he was able to walk with a cane, Tim began working part-time, eventually as a prep cook. He vowed to his daughter, who by then was a teenager, "I'm going to get us a house."

Unfortunately, his first two applications to Habitat were turned down because he did not earn enough income. Undeterred, he was approved on the third try, after he qualified for Social Security Disability. "I was SO excited," he recalls.

After putting in time doing volunteer hours and taking homeownership and financial management classes, Tim was assigned a house originally built in 1934. It had fallen into significant disrepair before being purchased by Habitat. Still unable to drive, Tim rode the city bus to the house after getting off work to



Tim Rhodes and his dog Molly live in a Habitat house on North Cherry Street that he helped remodel.

help with the renovations. He learned to cut wood for baseboards and helped make the concrete slabs that support the pillars on the front.

As he approaches his third anniversary as a homeowner, Tim jokes about being a man running a household. Although he still deals with chronic pain, he works part time as a security officer and crossing guard at two local schools. He

also regularly helps his daughter, now 20, and his older son and daughter-in-law by looking after two grandchildren, ages 1 and 9. He keeps a freezer fully stocked with items like chicken and fresh fish he caught himself to cook.

Right now, he is letting a nephew stay with him as he works to save money for his own car and apartment. "I made him do what we did in the Habitat program: Write down three goals on a piece of paper. I told him, 'Every month you should be making progress on these goals.'"

The trip to Nicaragua in fall 2016 was a "trip of a lifetime," he said. As part of Habitat International's Global Village program, Tim was among 10 volunteers from Habitat Forsyth who traveled to Nicaragua to build a house for Claudia Araica, her husband Jaime and their four children. All volunteers pay their own way. A generous donor pays most of the expenses for one Habitat homeowner to be part of the team, and Tim raised about \$500 by hosting a fish fry in his back yard.

Although he has been around poverty all his life, the conditions in Nicaragua were overwhelming, Tim said. The family's community has outhouses, little electricity, and no running water. A truck comes through periodically to deliver water that families store and use for days for drinking, bathing and cooking.

Because of Habitat, Tim said, "I've done things I NEVER thought I would do, like going to Nicaragua. I wanted to go and help build a house for someone else, like other people have done for me."



The 2016 Global Village team helped build a house for the Araica family in Nicaragua.

### Join the 2017 Global Village Project

This year the Habitat Forsyth team will build in Guatemala. For more information on travel dates, costs and more, contact Joni Yoder at 336.765.8854, ext. 102 or [joni.yoder@habitatforsyth.org](mailto:joni.yoder@habitatforsyth.org).



## Lodge Available to Community Groups

The new Jimmy Johnson Volunteer Lodge has been getting a lot of use by the Collegiate Challenge program!

By the end of the 2016-2017 fiscal year, 536 high school and college students will have stayed in the Lodge over 18 weeks of doing service for Habitat. These visiting students, some from as far away as Canada, choose to spend their fall, winter and spring breaks volunteering instead of taking a vacation or relaxing at home. Our summer schedule is also filling up with church youth groups with the same spirit of service. We are grateful for the many hours these students work on Habitat homes and in the ReStore.

When not being used for Collegiate Challenge, the Lodge is available to community groups and faith organizations who want to hold meetings and retreats there. In addition to a large kitchen and several common areas, the Lodge can accommodate up to 40 overnight guests in bunk beds.

For more information about renting space at the Lodge, e-mail [debbie.cesta@habitatforsyth.org](mailto:debbie.cesta@habitatforsyth.org) or call 336.765.8854, ext. 105.



Students from the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford, the University of Pittsburgh at Titusville, LaSalle University and Villanova University recently spent their spring break week volunteering for Habitat.

## Habitat Holding John 3:16 "Blitz Build" Four Houses to Start in Bowen Park April 3-8

Habitat Forsyth will kick off its second Neighborhood Revitalization effort with a bang: a "blitz build" that will start four houses in the Bowen Park neighborhood during the first week of April.

Thanks to the generosity of the John 3:16 Fund, the United Way of Forsyth County, Home Depot and community donations, three houses will be built by volunteers on Ansonia and Short streets in Winston-Salem. Weather permitting, the goal is to have all three "dried in" by April 8.

A fourth house, one block away on Manchester Street, is supported by the Publix Foundation and will be built entirely in a week by Veritas Construction and Thompson Building Group. That house will be dedicated on Saturday, April 8 at noon.

"This blitz is truly an example of many people and organizations coming together to put God's love into action," said Mike Campbell, Habitat Forsyth executive director. "The John 3:16 Blitz Build will bring together

individuals and churches, around the inspiring message of one of the world's most beloved Bible verses, to fundraise and build Habitat homes. At the same time, Habitat's role as the housing partner of the United Way's Place Matters Initiative and our long relationship with the Home Builders Association is resulting in more homes for local families."

Habitat owns several more lots in the Bowen Park and Dreamland neighborhoods and has begun accepting repair applications as well, many from older residents who will benefit from Habitat's "aging in place" renovations. The neighborhoods, as well as 11 others, are part of the Place Matters Initiative area around the Smith Reynolds Airport.

The goal of the blitz build is to provide four new homeownership opportunities and an improved Bowen Park neighborhood. "We know that a Habitat home is a stabilizing force and creates a situation where families save more, achieve higher education goals, and have better health. Given these important benefits, Habitat is an ideal partner to help make Bowen Park a better place to live."



## Habitat Involved in Numerous Local Poverty Initiatives

Forsyth County and the City of Winston-Salem have much to be proud of: a strong, well-connected community with compassion, innovation, wonderful institutions and a vision for the future that includes opportunities for our young people. But there are also challenges that -- despite the best efforts of our elected officials, City and County staff, not-for-profit organizations, faith communities and neighborhood leaders -- continue to leave many of our fellow citizens struggling to get by day-to-day. Persistent generational poverty keeps our community from being fully inclusive of the skills, talents and abilities of all citizens and an equitable place for all.

Income poverty in 2015 was 23% for Winston-Salem -- significantly higher than North Carolina and the United States as a whole. For Forsyth County that number is 18.1%. Poverty is even higher for women, children and people of color. This trend has remained relatively unchanged over the last 10 years despite much effort.

"Asset poverty," a different measure of financial stability, shows an even more disturbing result. Households in asset poverty do not have enough resources on hand to cover the cost of living for 90 days or more. That measure is the one that tells us that a family is one financial crisis away from being insolvent and unable to take care of their basic needs. In Winston-Salem, 39% of households are in asset poverty

and in Forsyth County, the number is 31%. Again, our community is well above the state and national results of 27%.

What role does Habitat play in helping to move the needle on poverty in our community? Habitat's mission of providing safe and affordable housing through Neighborhood Revitalization is just one component, but a very important one. Families with stability in housing experience better job security and health outcomes. Their children are more likely to graduate from high school and continue on to higher education. Families are more likely to begin saving money for emergencies and retirement and to build assets through homes they own. Habitat's repair of neighboring homeowners' houses and helping seniors age in place provides additional security and stability in the community.

There are a number of initiatives currently underway to help address the underlying issues of generational poverty, and Habitat is playing a role in many of them. Mayor Allen Joines recently released a report resulting from the Poverty Thought Force's work over the last year. This report makes 56 specific recommendations across 5 "action areas," with 11 specific to housing issues. Habitat is already actively working on many of these initiatives in collaboration with other organizations, as you can see below.

### United Way Place Matters

This initiative is taking place in 13 neighborhoods near the Smith Reynolds Airport. Habitat is launching its Neighborhood Revitalization program in two of the neighborhoods -- Bowen Park and Dreamland. This is a collaboration among the Liberty East Redevelopment Corporation, Experiment in Self Reliance and the YMCA. Also, the United Way's Aging in Place Initiative, through which Habitat is collaborating with Winston Salem State University and Senior Services, is working to provide repair and access modification services for low-income elderly members of the community.

### Strong@Home

A multi-generational program working with 150 families with young children, helping them build good parenting practices, improve their financial stability and achieve the goals they set as a family for the success of their children. Led by Family Services and including Imprints Cares, Goodwill, and Financial Pathways of the Piedmont.

### C4C

Led by the Second Harvest Food bank, this pilot initiative is helping to address the underlying causes of food insecurity in the Cleveland Avenue and Boston-Thurmond communities. The areas of cause being examined, in partnership with the residents, are housing, health, income, employment and food access.

### Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Asset Building Coalition

Composed of non-profit agencies, financial institutions, governmental agencies and financial educators, this group is working to create a strong standardized financial education program for Forsyth County. This includes banking programs to help low-income residents access low-cost financial products and a place-based pilot program to determine if having a high-touch model of service delivery makes a stronger impact on poverty reduction.