

Message from the Director

Great Gift Ideas from the Habitat ReStore

Spoiler Alert: If you are a friend or family member on my Christmas gift list, you might want to stop reading this column now!

For the rest of you, I'll share a great shopping tip: Many of my gifts this year are coming from the Habitat ReStore, and many will be something a little bit unusual!

Not that I am a superb gift-buyer, by any means, but I have found the Habitat ReStore to be a terrific place to find that one-of-a-kind, whimsical or otherwise special gift for family and friends. So a couple of years ago, I made a personal commitment to buy all my Christmas gifts at the ReStore. It has since become a fun challenge, one that I start as early as June or July.

Throughout the year, students in the pottery classes at the Sawtooth School for Visual Art donate leftover pieces to the ReStore, which have become unique decorative or functional gifts for all ages. Pallets of donated promotional products yielded a set of coffee mugs, designed by the Idaho Tourism Board using potatoes in a parody of masterpieces by Leonardo Da Vinci and Grant Wood. At 25 cents each, they are great gifts for my childhood friend living in northern Idaho.

The weekly silent auction is a veritable treasure chest of possible gifts, collectibles, or antiques that are worth a steady look. This year, my nephew is

getting a set of hand-painted espresso cups from Mexico, and a neighbor will receive a silver serving bowl with etchings of fruit designs.



Other gifts – such as serving trays, painted wine glasses and even a garden bench – are for-sale items crafted by our Shab-to-Fab volunteer group.

I hope I've piqued your curiosity – and maybe thrown down a challenge or two – about what you can buy at the Habitat ReStore for those on your Christmas list, or for birthdays all year round. The best part, in addition to the thrill of the hunt, is that you are supporting affordable housing in our community at the same time. Proceeds from our ReStore, located on Witt Street near Knollwood and Stratford, go directly into Habitat's building program. In the last five years alone, the Habitat Forsyth ReStore has generated almost \$1 million in net proceeds to help fund our mission.

Soon you will hear more about Habitat Forsyth's plans to move its ReStore to a more visible and accessible location late next year. With a heightened presence in the community, sales are projected to increase by more than 50 percent. That means even more support for our mission AND even more trolling for gifts!

Check us out! I challenge you!



Sylvia Oberle
Executive Director

339 Witt Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27103
www.habitatforsyth.org • Office 336.765.8854 • ReStore 336.765.2951

HomeFront

Youth United Wins National Award for Advocacy

The Youth United group of Habitat Forsyth recently received the 2012 Build Louder Award from Habitat for Humanity International. The group was honored during the National Youth Leadership Conference in Peachtree, Ga. for its advocacy efforts in educating the public and lawmakers about the need for quality, affordable housing.

During the 2011-2012 school year, led by former youth programs coordinator Claire Wisely, the Youth United group sent hundreds of house-shaped paper mailers with messages about the problem of poverty housing to state elected officials. Some of the paper houses were signed by people who attended a pancake supper fund raiser that the group held. The students also created a visual display, using soda can tabs glued to wood, to demonstrate that one of three people in the world lives in poverty housing. The display was placed in public areas to raise awareness about poverty and Habitat's mission locally.

Youth United, made up of students from middle and high schools, raises money for, and builds, a Habitat house each year. Although there are many Youth United chapters nationwide, Habitat Forsyth's is one of very few that also works on advocacy efforts. As a result, it received one of only two Build Louder awards given this year.

Accepting the award on behalf of Habitat Forsyth were Molly Williams, 2012-2013 youth programs coordinator, and Youth United members Ben Cowgill and Alex Rickabaugh. Cowgill said the Youth United students benefit from learning that Habitat is about more than just building houses, and that working to influence public policy is integral to Habitat's mission. "Youth United groups should make advocacy a priority," Cowgill said. "It would take Habitat a ridiculously long time to build a house for every person who needed one; it might not be done in our lifetimes. Through advocacy, we can directly affect more people. Influencing legislation can protect families from losing homes and enable others to afford them on their own."



The 2012-2013 Youth United Steering Committee with the Build Louder "Golden Hammer" Award. **Front Row:** Candace Mulherin; Grace Carter; Turner Myers; Alex Rickabaugh; Jessica Speer; Danielle Cantrell; Ayana Southerland; Courtney Cash. **Back Row:** Jay Cavanaugh; Morgan Mikkola; Ben Cowgill; Brady Buchanan; Chris Healy; Chris Cuthrell; Harrison Toohey.

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Habitat Holiday Ornaments on Sale Now

Deadline for Annual Appeal Gifts is Dec. 31

Remember to make your annual appeal donation to Habitat by Dec. 31 in order to receive a tax deduction for 2012!

You can fill out the form inside and enclose it with your gift, or make a secure donation online at www.habitatforsyth.org.

Questions? Call Brad Zabel at 765-8854, ext. 138.

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Don't Forget to Shop and Donate at the ReStore!
Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Telephone: 765-2951
341 Witt Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27103

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Habitat Begins NR Home Preservation, Remodeling Work

Since the official kick-off of the Neighborhood Revitalization program this summer, Habitat Forsyth construction staff and volunteers have been hard at work doing exterior home preservation projects on existing homes in the Kimberly Park neighborhood area.

Habitat is halfway to its goal of doing 10 preservation projects during the 2012-2013 fiscal year, said Kelly Mitter, NRI coordinator. The homes are all owner-occupied; most date back to the 1930s and 1940s. Projects have included minor repairs to roofing, gutters, porch railings and front steps, the repainting of exteriors, and landscaping work as well.

The goal of Habitat's NR program is to revitalize entire neighborhoods through repairing and remodeling existing homes, in addition to continuing to build new ones. The Kimberly Park neighborhood was chosen as the initial NR thrust because Habitat has built 55

homes in the area since 1985. To qualify for the home preservation program, homeowners must live in the target area, meet the same income guidelines as traditional Habitat families, perform sweat equity hours, and contribute to the cost of the work.

The next step of the NR program is to undertake major remodeling on six houses in the area by next summer, Mitter said. All are unoccupied and are being acquired by Habitat from the owners or from banks. After the homes receive extensive interior renovations, modern wiring and plumbing, Habitat families will purchase them.

Habitat is collaborating with other agencies and members of the newly revived Boston-Thurmond Neighborhood Association, who participated in "visioning" sessions earlier this year to identify how they would like to improve the community. The group also organized a Community Day in June. "We are very pleased to be working with the leadership of the neighborhood association on these exciting projects," Mitter said.



Volunteers do exterior preservation work on a 14th Street home during the Jimmy Johnson Labor of Love.

Leonard Ryden Burr, Forsyth Tech Sweep ReStore Spaces Awards

The 7th Annual ReStore Spaces, presented by the Winston-Salem Regional Association of Realtors, gets bigger and better each year. About 400 people gathered in the ReStore and the Habitat warehouse for the party on Nov. 2, and the event raised a total of \$26,000 for Habitat.

By the time of the party, design work and fund raising had been going on for weeks. Eight groups of designers, made up of local professionals and college students, were teamed with local real estate firms and Habitat families. Design teams worked to find and repurpose just the right ReStore items -- and products made by event sponsor Liberty Hardware -- to create their assigned "rooms." The public was also invited to "vote" in advance online -- at \$10 per vote -- for their favorite team to win the Community Choice Award by raising the most money for Habitat.

Attendees were amazed at the designers' ingenuity at reusing and repurposing items. An old upright piano became a desk large enough for two people. An antique window and pieces of a chandelier became a wall hanging. A simple steel garbage can was decorated with sports photos for a "man cave."

Congratulations to the team of **Leonard Ryden Burr, the Forsyth Technical Community College design students, and Habitat family Shakeeda and**



The Forsyth Tech Design Team

Antwan Lowery, which raised \$2,900 to win the Community Choice Award. The team also swept the Judges' Choice Award and the People's Choice Award for their work in creating a "boy's bedroom."

The Liberty Hardware Award for most creative use of Liberty items went to Brittney Frennett and Natalie Jones, who created an unusual game with towel bar rings and ping-pong balls for the "man cave."

Many thanks to the Realtors and Liberty Hardware for their ongoing support of this wonderful event!

Moravian Candle-Style Habitat Ornament For Sale

Everyone has them on their list -- those people who already have everything, or are just plain hard to shop for! Consider giving them the official 2012 Habitat Forsyth holiday ornament, designed by WXII anchor and Habitat volunteer Cameron Kent, and decorated by our own Habitat volunteers.

This year's ornament is a Moravian-style candle, complete with faux wax drippings. Ornaments are \$25 apiece, including shipping anywhere in the U.S. You can also specify that the gift be in

honor or memory of someone. Best of all, ornament purchases help Habitat provide more quality, affordable housing right here in Forsyth County.

Hurry, while supplies last! The deadline for having the ornament shipped is Dec. 19 to ensure it will arrive on time.

We are also offering holiday cards for sale at \$5 apiece. Order both cards and ornaments at www.habitatforsyth.org, call 765-8854, ext. 101, or stop by our office or the ReStore.



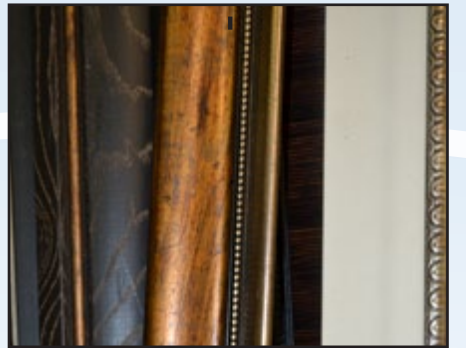
Got Stuff to Get Rid Of? Just Ask the ReStore.

Are you cleaning out the basement, remodeling a home or office, or have inventory you need to clear out of your business? If so, the ReStore accepts a wide variety of items.

Recent examples have been as diverse as beautiful, only slightly imperfect picture molding from a manufacturer, furniture and linens from an estate sale, and a new

garden bench and quilt from a local retailer. Some of these items have even been placed in our silent auctions.

Not sure whether the Restore will accept certain items? It never hurts to call and ask. Our two friendly procurement specialists, Lynn Byrd and Vince Cannino, are on hand to answer your questions at 765-8854, ext. 109.



New, only slightly imperfect picture molding was recently donated to the ReStore.

Two Building Trips Abroad Planned for 2013

David Patterson, former Habitat board chair, is leading a team of volunteers to Yunnan, China for a Habitat for Humanity Global Village project from March 1-11, 2013. "No previous Habitat experience is required," he said. "Just pack a great attitude, adaptability, flexibility, and a desire to experience new things!"

Yunann province is known for its outstanding natural scenery and the strong cultural identity. Due to frequent natural disasters, however, Yunann is also one of China's least developed provinces. For more information, about the trip, visit <http://chinahabitat.wordpress.com>, or contact Patterson at habitat.gv.davpat@gmail.com.

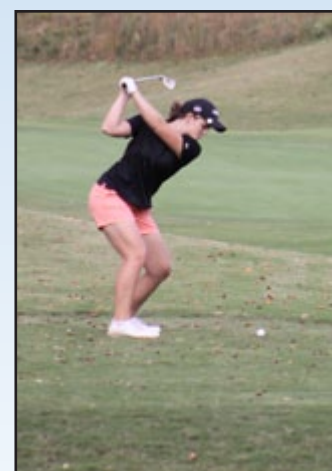
Habitat Forsyth is also sending a team to Nicaragua in 2013. An information session about that trip will be



Many houses in China's Yunann province lack sanitation and ventilation systems.

held Tuesday, Feb. 19 at 6:30 p.m. in the Highland Presbyterian Church Activity Building in Winston-Salem. Contact Debbie Cesta at 765-8854, ext. 105 or debbie.cesta@habitatforsyth.org for more information.

110 Play in Habitat Golf Tournament



Courtney Finocehinario takes a swing during the 4th annual tournament.

The Fifth Annual "Drive One for Habitat" golf tournament took place on Oct. 12 at a new location this year: Salem Glen Golf and Country Club.

Perfect 72-degree weather meant a great day on the course for about 110 golfers, capped by a delicious ribs dinner cooked by construction staff member Joe Brown.

In the end, the tournament netted \$27,000 -- a new record. Many thanks to major sponsors Hartley Ready Mix, Lowder, Inc., and Brewer Equipment Co. Mark your calendars now for the 6th annual tournament, to be held Friday, Oct. 11, 2013!



Give Soon for 2012 Tax Break!

Need a tax deduction for 2012? The deadline for annual appeal gifts is Dec. 31.

Your unrestricted gifts help Habitat with operating and other expenses. Please consider making a gift to Habitat! You can fill out the form to the right and enclose it with your gift, or make a secure donation online at www.habitatforsyth.org.

When you give to Habitat, you can be assured your funds are put to good use. We are proud to have a **four-star rating** -- the highest -- from **Charity Navigator**, a national organization that rates non-profits in the areas of financial stability, accountability and transparency.

www.habitatforsyth.org **Donate Today** 336-765-8854

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Telephone _____ e-mail _____ Church Membership _____
 Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____. Make check payable to Habitat for Humanity of Forsyth County.
 Please charge \$ _____ to my credit card. Visa MasterCard  
 Account # _____ Expiration Date _____
 Please set up a monthly quarterly gift of \$ _____. Signature _____
 Call me at _____ to set up a bank draft.

I am interested in donating property. I am interested in becoming a volunteer.

Mail to: Habitat for Humanity of Forsyth County, Inc., 339 Witt Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27103-1953 - Phone: 336-765-8854.

You can now donate online at www.habitatforsyth.org. Click on the "Donate Now" button on the home page.