

Habitat NEWS



Stewards Fund Matching Gift Challenge

Your support could be doubled!

Join us in building strength, stability, and self-reliance for more families like Stacey (pictured) in Orange County by making your gift count TWICE today through the Stewards Fund Challenge! Gifts from new donors, increased gifts from existing donors, and gifts from lapsed donors received between February 1 and June 30 will be matched and have double the impact.

To make a donation, visit our website at **orangehabitat.org/give** or use the enclosed slip and envelope. Contact Grace Johnston at **(919) 932-7077 ext. 219** if you have questions about your giving.

Thanks to you, five families moved into Habitat homes before the end of the year.



Per Ser, Mue Ju Paw, and 3 year old Sarah Paw at their home dedication

The end of the year is always a busy time with holidays and family gatherings, but the end of 2018 was especially busy at the Habitat office. Between December 13 and December 20, five families in the Tinnin Woods neighborhood in Efland closed on and were able to move into their Habitat homes.

"We are so excited to welcome and congratulate our newest Habitat homeowners. Their hard work and dedication was inspirational to all of us," says Homeowner Services Director Steve Drake.

One of these families is Per Ser, Mue Ju Paw, and their two children. They were living in an overcrowded one-bedroom apartment where mold was posing a health and safety risk, and their rent was rising at an unaffordable rate. Now, they own a three-bedroom home thanks to funding partners United Church of Chapel Hill and UNC Habitat for Humanity.

"In our country, we do not have lots of opportunity. We are making a new life that is so much better. We are very glad to be here," said Per Ser at his home dedication on November 7.

We are so excited to welcome home our new neighbors!



Bawmu Thaw and Kyi Thein at their home closing.



The Solis Family during their home dedication on Dec 8.

Jennifer Player named Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of Orange County



Jennifer Player and Susan Levy at Susan's Retirement party on November 10.

The end of December marked the official retirement of Orange Habitat's Executive Director, Susan Levy. Hired in 1992 as the organization's first paid employee, Susan grew Habitat for Humanity of Orange County into a nationally recognized Habitat affiliate, impacting more than 50 families each year through repairing existing homes and building new homes both locally and abroad.

The new year presents the opportunity for even more growth and homeownership for families in Orange County under new Habitat leadership. **As of January 1, our very own Jennifer Player has succeeded Susan Levy as Habitat for Humanity of Orange County's Executive Director.** Jennifer joined Habitat in the summer of 2014 as the Director of Development. For the past three years, she worked alongside Susan to learn the ins and outs of her position, including a year and a half as Habitat's Associate Executive Director.

"I am grateful to Susan and the Habitat Board of Directors for choosing to invest in my development so that I would be ready for the job when the time came. While Susan would be the first to tell you that there is always more to learn, I feel confident in my ability to lead Habitat into its next phase, and ready for the exciting road ahead," says Jennifer.

We're excited to see what the future holds for Orange Habitat with Jennifer leading the way!



Staff Spotlight: Jesús Gutiérrez

Jesús joined Orange Habitat as the Construction Manager in August 2017, though he has been involved with Habitat for much longer. In December, Jesús traveled to Puerto Rico with Habitat for Humanity International's Disaster Corps to aid in Hurricane Maria relief work, and will travel to Honduras in June as a Habitat Global Village Trip Leader. Though his work and travels take him all over, he loves calling North Carolina home!



What is your favorite quote?

"I slept and I dreamed that life is all joy. I woke and I saw that life is all service. I served and I saw that service is joy."
- Mother Teresa

"Do or do not. There is no try." - Yoda

What is your favorite memory of working with Habitat?

Every global trip I've taken.

What does home mean to you?

Security.

Who are your real life heroes?

Cesar Chavez and Representative John Lewis.

If you were stuck on a desert island, what three things would you bring?

I'd bring three books: 100 Years of Solitude by Gabriel García Márquez, Beach Music by Pat Conroy, and La casa de los espíritus by Isabel Allende.

What does your perfect day off look like?

I really love my job which allows me to be on site working with future homebuyers and volunteers. But when I'm not on site, I love preparing and cooking carne asada for friends and family.

What talent would you most like to have?

To be invisible/unnoticeable.

What skill would you like to master?

To be able to control the powers of the Force.



High Heels and Hard Hats Fashion Show

Join us for the 5th Annual High Heels and Hard Hats Fashion Show! Guests can mix and mingle as local celebrities strut their stuff on the runway to raise money for affordable housing in Orange County. Get your tickets now before they're sold out! Tickets on sale now at www.orangehabitat.org/fashionshow.

April 6, 2019
7-10pm

The Rizzo Center
Sponsor & VIP
Reception at 6pm



The stuff you don't need, builds homes!



Shop. Donate. Volunteer.

The Habitat for Humanity ReStore is a nonprofit home improvement store and donation center that sells new and gently used furniture, home accessories, building materials, and appliances to the public at a fraction of the retail price. The Habitat for Humanity ReStore is proudly owned and operated by local Habitat for Humanity affiliates in Durham and Orange counties, and proceeds are used to build homes, community, and hope locally and around the world.

Habitat ReStore Location:

5501 Durham-Chapel Hill Blvd.
Durham, NC 27707
Phone: 919-403-8668

Store Hours:

Monday – Friday 10AM – 6PM
Saturday 9AM – 5PM

Contact Us:

info@restoredurhamorange.org

Donation Questions:

donate@restoredurhamorange.org

Contact Us and Stay Connected!

919-932-7077 | info@orangehabitat.org | www.orangehabitat.org |    @orangehabitat