

Habitat NEWS



Leave your Legacy with Habitat!

Over the past 30 years, Habitat has been the recipient of over \$660,000 in planned gifts. As a result, eight families have received a hand up out of substandard and unsafe housing. After providing for your family, we hope you will consider a legacy gift that makes supporting families working toward independence a part of your life story. A legacy gift is not only cost-free during your lifetime, but also lasts another lifetime for a Habitat homebuyer.

"I envision my 'perfect community' as all-inclusive and all-welcoming; a place where professors, housekeepers, professionals, food service workers, retirees and people of all walks of life live harmoniously side by side; a community where diverse and affordable are embraced characteristics and not labels," said Habitat Board of Directors Member, Wednesday Crew Member, and Legacy Society Member Rick Tugwell. "I want to ensure that Habitat will be able to continue building foundations for families and communities beyond my lifetime. Habitat can give you the tools to move your legacy forward."

Affordable homeownership fosters the skills and confidence in families they need to invest in themselves and their communities. Giving families the tools they need to overcome housing instability leads to life changing results for entire communities. As you create or revise your estate plans, we hope you will consider creating a legacy with us to help families build strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter in Orange County.

For more information visit:

www.orangehabitat.org/plannedgiving

or contact **Janice** at jkalin@orangehabitat.org.

PHE, Inc. ensures continuation of “Hands for Habitat” Partnership



“Our staff keeps asking when we can do this again and build another house!”

School is out for the summer, but we look forward to building a new home with a new group of students this fall!

This year marks the construction and dedication of the ninth “Hands for Habitat” home. This home, located in Hillsborough, was surrounded by the homebuyer family, donors, partners, and some very special volunteers at the dedication ceremony on May 11.

“Hands for Habitat” is a unique program where students in the Construction Trades program at Orange High School come to the Habitat jobsite to build a home as part of their coursework. The students spend their first and second class periods throughout the year building the home from the ground up.

At the beginning of this year, the partnership was in danger of disbanding when a previous partner was unable to provide funding. Thankfully, PHE, Inc., a Hillsborough-based company, was moved by the students’ passion and the Habitat model and stepped up without hesitation to sponsor the home at the \$50,000 level.

“We are very excited to be a part of this partnership with Habitat,” said Katy Zvolerin, Director of Public Relations at PHE, Inc., during the May 11 dedication. “Our staff keeps asking when we can do this again and build another house!”



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This home will not only provide stable, affordable housing for Latoya and her three young children, but also provided a group of high school students with skills and experience they can carry into a career path after graduation.

“I would drive by sometimes when I knew the students were building,” said homebuyer Latoya Mewborn. “I cannot believe what they have built and I’m so lucky that my family will get to live in this home!”

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Building Inclusion and Affordable Housing



Volunteers helped fundraise toward the building of a home for Florencio, Zoraida, and their four children.

In May, Judea Reform Congregation and the Levin Jewish Community Center partnered with Habitat to host a build day for people of *all abilities* and their family and friends, to participate in the Habitat mission of building stability for our neighbors.

Volunteers helped fundraise toward the building of a home for Florencio, Zoraida, and their four children. They also volunteered their time to paint baffles and build and paint porch railings. The project raised a total of \$3,369 and engaged more than 36 participants.

The day was filled with laughter, joy, hard work, and giving back. At the end of the build, everyone was asking, "When can we do this again!?"

"Seeing the joy on everyone's faces was priceless," said Janice Kalin, Habitat's Director of Development. "It was a beautiful example of neighbors helping neighbors and seeing the community come together to build a better future for all. I can't wait until we have our next Inclusion Build!"

Habitat strives to be a place of **inclusion for everyone**, with a **mission that everyone can participate in**. Thank you to all of the participants who made this day such a success. Together we are building a world where everyone has a stable place to live!

If you would like to learn more about Habitat's inclusion opportunities, please contact **Savanna Melton** at smelton@orangehabitat.org.



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Staff Spotlight: Susan Levy



Susan became Habitat for Humanity of Orange County, NC's Executive Director in December of 1992, and was the organization's first full-time employee. Under her leadership, Habitat has provided affordable homeownership opportunities and much-needed repairs to nearly 350 local families. She is a proud Tar Heel, holding a Master's Degree in City and Regional Planning with a specialization in Housing and Community Development from UNC.

Who are your heroes in real life?

Martin Luther King Jr., Delores Huerta, Mother Theresa, and Dorothy Day just to name a few. Some local heroes are people like Rev. Robert Seymour and Mayor Howard Lee, who were leaders in the local civil rights movement.

What is your favorite journey?

Every summer throughout my childhood, my parents would wake us up in the middle of the night, and we would leave our home to drive the 1,000 miles to my grandparents' house. I cherish my wonderful and vivid memories of those visits.

What books on your shelf are begging to be read?

I have a book called *Radical Acceptance* by Tara Brach that is calling to me right now. In general, though, I love to read novels, and I just finished a really good one called *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie.

What skill would you like to master?

I'm not sure if this is a skill, or has more to do with an innate ability, but I have always admired really persuasive and eloquent public speakers.

What is your favorite memory of working with Habitat?

Home dedications are my favorite events; you get to experience the joy felt by homebuyers who are realizing their dream of owning their own home, along with the comradery and shared effort among all of the partners that helped build the home.

What was the best news you ever received?

The call saying I was being offered the position of the first Executive Director of Habitat in Orange County. I really didn't know what I was getting into, but I knew that it was the right place for me to be at the right time in my life and the life of the organization.

What is your favorite memory of your first home?

The first home I really remember was a small three-bedroom ranch, very similar to the homes we build, that I lived in with my parents and three siblings. What I liked best was that my best friends lived close by and I could walk or ride my bike to their homes. Home was a place where my friends were welcome, and where I felt secure and loved.



Women Build 2018

Thank you to everyone who made our 10th Anniversary Women Build Week a huge success! **We exceeded our \$25,000 fundraising goal**, and we couldn't have done it without you! For more details visit: www.orangehabitat.org/womenbuild

The stuff you no longer 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 – Saturday 10AM – 6PM
Sunday 11AM – 5PM

Contact Us:

info@restoredurhamorange.org

Donation Questions:

donate@restoredurhamorange.org

Contact Us and Stay Connected!

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