

# habitat<sup>®</sup>

THE MAGAZINE OF HABITAT FOR HUMANITY INTERNATIONAL



Healthier, more  
financially  
stable lives

SEPTEMBER 2016  
[habitat.org/magazine](http://habitat.org/magazine)



# Home as a source of empowerment



“Families need a helping hand, a way to help themselves so that they can build a better life”

With your help, Habitat for Humanity homeowners are able to overcome the barriers that so often exist between their families and better, healthier and more financially stable lives.

You don't have to look very far to see that more and more families are finding themselves in a struggle to keep a decent roof over their heads. Caught in punishing cycles of unpredictable rent increases, overcrowded conditions or lack of access to land and affordable financing, too many families in your community and around the world live every day with uncertainty, stress and fear.

Habitat and our model of affordable homeownership help to change that. As I meet the families who partner with us and talk with our staff and volunteers in communities far and wide, I'm always struck by the lasting difference a hand up can make. Decent shelter is something we all need to thrive, and I am deeply moved by the stories like the ones you will read in this issue that demonstrate so clearly how the stability of a home helps someone become strong and self-reliant.

I rejoice when a father shares how his child's health has improved in a decent, affordable home. I'm inspired by the mother whose growing confidence and newly acquired skills are propelling her toward additional educational and vocational opportunities. I celebrate that more teachers, musicians, policemen, pastors and brick makers are able to live affordably and decently in the same neighborhoods where they work. And I watch with hope as a next generation has the chance to grow up in a safe, healthy space, with plenty of room to play and explore their potential.

Imagine the possibilities for all those families in your community and around the world who are eager to build or improve a place they can call home. Imagine individuals who have great ideas and tremendous energy for contributing to the neighborhoods where they live.

Now realize that, so often, all they really need is a helping hand, a way to help themselves so that they can build a better life for themselves and their families. Imagine what you can do to help create more opportunities for that kind of success through Habitat!

It's imperative that our work continue to grow, and that growth begins with your continued generous support. I thank you for sharing our vision of a world where everyone has a decent place to live and for everything you do to help make it a reality for more families every day.

**Jonathan T.M. Reckford**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Habitat for Humanity International

## HABITAT'S VISION

**A world where everyone has a decent place to live**

Driven by the vision that everyone needs a decent place to live, Habitat for Humanity has grown from a grassroots effort that began on a community farm in southern Georgia in 1976 to a global nonprofit housing organization in 1,400 communities across the U.S. and in over 70 countries.

People partner with Habitat for Humanity to build or improve a place they can call home. Habitat homeowners help build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage.

Through financial support, volunteering or adding a voice to support affordable housing, everyone can help families achieve the strength, stability and self-reliance they need to build better lives for themselves.

Through shelter, we empower. To learn more, visit [habitat.org](http://habitat.org).

## LET US HEAR FROM YOU

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**Habitat for Humanity®**



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A close-up photograph of a person's hands adjusting a green hard hat. The person is wearing a blue shirt. The background is a red brick wall. The top portion of the image is a white horizontal siding, suggesting the person is working on a house.

# All of us, together

Habitat for Humanity brings homeowners and volunteers together to build homes in your community and all over the world. And there are so many additional benefits that follow as we put up walls and pour concrete.

There are the bonds and friendships that form and last a lifetime.

There is the belief that each and every one of us deserves the chance for a better future. And that with a little help, we all have the potential to get there.

There is the joy that comes from tearing down the barriers to opportunity that hold families back, sometimes for generations. The joy that comes when our children have a yard to play in and a quiet place to study.

There is the understanding that we are all in this together. A decent home with an affordable mortgage builds strong and stable families. And strong and stable families build strong and stable communities.

Habitat homeowners and volunteers work side by side to make all this happen. We celebrate together.

WORLDWIDE

## “Brand of the year”



Habitat for Humanity has been named “Brand of the Year” in the social services nonprofit category based on the 2016 Harris Poll EquiTrend® Equity Score. This is the second consecutive year that our brand has been recognized for its strength in brand equity.

In addition, Habitat earned the distinction of being named the “Most Loved” and “Most Trusted” brand within its category this year.

“It is truly a blessing for Habitat to be honored by the public in this way for a second year in a row,” says Habitat CEO Jonathan Reckford. “Every donation and helping hand Habitat has received over the years made it possible for us to help millions of homeowners worldwide create a place to call home for themselves and their families.”

The Harris Poll EquiTrend Study is an annual survey that measures the brand equity of for-profit and nonprofit organizations in the U.S., ranking them on overall brand equity, which is based on three key factors: familiarity, quality and consideration.

Habitat for Humanity received the highest numerical Equity Score and the highest numerical score related to Love and Trust among Social Services Non-Profits included in the 2016 Harris Poll EquiTrend® Study, which is based on opinions of 97,120 U.S. consumers ages 15 and over surveyed online between December 22, 2015 and February 1, 2016. Your opinion may differ. “Highest Ranked” was determined by a pure ranking of a sample of Social Services Non-Profit brands.



CAMBODIA

## New start, new life



Forty-four families recently worked in partnership with Habitat Cambodia and Dutch volunteers to build 20 houses and 24 toilets in Siem Reap, one of Cambodia’s poorest provinces.

New homeowner Li describes how he ate together with volunteers during their breaks and how, despite a lack of common language, they were still able to share stories and jokes.

For Li, the week was inspiring, and he says that it drives him to keep the new house in perfect condition. In the future, he says, “I dream that Habitat can support other villages, just like mine.”

The four-week Siem Reap build was supported by the Dutch DIY and construction company De Sticho Groep and marks another milestone in Habitat Cambodia’s growing partnership with Habitat Netherlands, who coordinated the event and underwrites Habitat Cambodia’s “New Start, New Life” project. The project aims to provide holistic housing, water and sanitation support to vulnerable families across Cambodia.

**Builder magazine has ranked Habitat for Humanity as the No. 1 private homebuilder on Builder 100, its annual listing of the largest U.S. homebuilders. This is the second year in a row Habitat has been recognized as a top builder of affordable housing in the U.S.**

Each year, Builder compiles data from U.S. builders and ranks them by the number of closings for Builder 100. With 3,237 closings in 2015, Habitat topped the private homebuilder list and placed No. 16 on the comprehensive list.



In late August, Habitat’s 2016 Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project built 19 homes and completed 10 beautification and six aging in place projects in Memphis, Tennessee. Thanks to Carter Work Project supporters, by the end of the year, a total of 99 families will have new or improved places to call home.

# streng

## Read more online

Find this issue and more news, features, photos and videos at [habitat.org/magazine](http://habitat.org/magazine).

### ECUADOR

## Helping families after disaster

Maria's family was one of thousands affected by the 7.8-magnitude earthquake that devastated Ecuador in April. As the ground shook, the walls of her house cracked, and the whole structure became unstable, making it impossible for the Maria and her infant daughter to return home after the disaster.

In response to the devastation, Habitat partnered with ShelterBox and local foundation Prograd to distribute 2,600 tool kits whose contents can help families like Maria's construct safer, more comfortable emergency shelters.

For Maria, this tool kit is the first step toward rebuilding her home in Ecuador's Manabi province. She is certain that her family and her neighbors will recover their strength to make Los Gilces the vibrant fishing community it once was.

"We Manabites are warriors," she says, "and we believe that everything will be better in the future."



### HONDURAS

## Healthier housing

The Lenca are the largest indigenous group in Honduras with an estimated population of 100,000. They engage in mostly subsistence agriculture, growing corn, beans and coffee. Many live in poorly constructed homes made of adobe and wattle.

In order to help improve their living conditions, Habitat Honduras – in partnership with Habitat Canada, the Gracias municipality and local Lenca leaders – has begun a healthy housing program. By plastering walls, installing concrete floors and eco-friendly stoves, and building latrines, the community's sanitation and health will be improved. As of April, 317 home improvements have been completed in the Lenca community.

# th



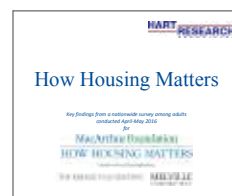
### RECENT READING

## Persistent need

Two recent studies – one released by the MacArthur Foundation, the other by Harvard University's Joint Center for Housing Studies – shine a light on issues related to affordable housing and their impact on families in the U.S.

The MacArthur Foundation's "**How Housing Matters**" survey shows that:

- Americans are increasingly pessimistic about the nation's escape from the housing crisis of the past several years. The number of people who say the crisis is over stands at 29 percent, down 6 percent from last year.
- Eighty-one percent of Americans say housing affordability is a problem in the U.S.
- Ninety-four percent of people think having stable, affordable housing is key to being able to achieve a secure, middle-class lifestyle. But nearly seven in 10 say it is harder to acquire affordable housing compared to previous generations.
- Fifty-three percent of respondents say they have made sacrifices or tradeoffs in order to cover a rent or mortgage payment.
- And yet more than 60 percent of people believe there are solutions to the lack of affordable housing.



Harvard's "**The State of the Nation's Housing 2016**" found:

- The number of cost-burdened renters stands at 21.3 million. That figure is up 3.6 million since 2008. A household spending more than 30 percent of its income on housing is considered cost burdened.
- The number of people living in neighborhoods with poverty rates higher than 40 percent more than doubled from 2000 to 2014. The report showed 13.7 million people living in high-poverty areas in 2014, up from 6.5 million in 2000.



These realities are why Habitat builds with families in communities like yours and around the world. Your support helps us increase access to affordable housing, advocate for solutions to housing issues and promote the stability that a decent, affordable home can provide.

UNITED STATES

# Habitat's Home Builders Blitz

In June, professional builders in 31 states worked alongside nearly 250 Habitat homeowners to build or repair homes during Habitat's nationwide Home Builders Blitz.

Across the country, Habitat recruits and partners with professional builders who provide labor, funding and materials, giving local Habitats the ability to empower more families through shelter. This year, Ply Gem, a North American manufacturer of building products, was the event's presenting sponsor.



NICARAGUA

## Shelter from the rain

The rainy season in San Rafael del Sur was always the worst time of year for Betsayda, her husband, Jose David, and their three children.

"I used to cry when it rained because everything inside our shack got wet. We had to move our only bed to a corner where it wouldn't get soaked from the downpour," Betsayda says. "Water came rushing under the door; dishes, toys, everything floated around, and there was nothing we could do. The next day, we had to look for our things in the mud."

In desperation, she began to save a little money to buy construction materials. She soon realized it would take her a long time to build a house, so she turned to Habitat Nicaragua. In a few months, she and her husband became proud homeowners.

"Even with all the time in the world, we would not have been able to build this house ourselves," she says. "We needed someone like Habitat to help us take the first step."

"Today, we can live and sleep through rain, thunder and lightning — in peace and without worries — because our house gives us protection. We know we are safe."

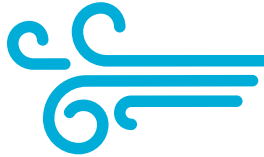


"I knew I had a safe, stable, solid home to go to after school. I had a place where I could be a child and not worry about growing up too fast. And I had a place where I could focus on my education."

Shauna, who grew up in a Twin Cities Habitat home in Minnesota and is now studying at Lawrence University on a full scholarship







# 1,455

Canadian volunteers who helped build homes around the world by participating in Habitat Canada Global Village volunteer trips in 2015. The volunteers worked alongside families building strength and stability in 27 countries.



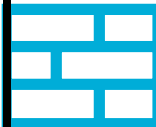
# 80 years

Age of a home rehabilitated by Bennington Area Habitat for Humanity. After an energy audit of the 1930s home, Efficiency Vermont concluded that Habitat's work on the house reduced airflow leakage by 58.9 percent and increased heat efficiency by 44 percent.



# 300

Locations across the U.S. that hosted new home construction and neighborhood revitalization projects in April as part of Habitat's National Women Build Week, sponsored by Lowe's.



# 15,000

Families in India and Kenya who will be able to improve their homes through access to small loans and affordable, eco-friendly building materials and services, thanks to a new partnership between Habitat and the IKEA Foundation.



Pieces in which a donated modular house was delivered to Oahe Habitat in Fort Pierre, South Dakota, after having made the 189-mile journey from its construction site in nearby Watertown.

# Homeownership changes lives

We'd like to introduce to you to seven families who have partnered with Habitat for Humanity to build or improve a place they can call home.

Among them are a pastor, a brick maker, a teacher, a hair salon owner and a retired policeman. Some have lived in their homes for years, while others are just starting out. All have this in common: Their hard work and partnership with Habitat are helping them achieve the strength, stability and independence they need to build a better life for themselves and their families.



**Evan,  
Kitte,  
James  
and  
Sean**

East Palo Alto,  
California



Evan calls his Habitat house a force multiplier, and here's what he means.

The affordable mortgage that he pays for his home in the San Francisco Bay Area allows him to support his family and continue his life's work and passion: teaching. With those high school diplomas in hand, his students, in turn, will leave their imprint on the world. "Teaching is all about taking students and encouraging the development of their growth and character," he says.

Not all that long ago, Evan wasn't so sure that he could afford to continue to teach after Kitte stayed home to raise their two young sons. Evan and Kitte met while working in disadvantaged schools through Teach For America — Kitte taught students in special education classes.

Living in the Bay Area on a teacher's salary is tough and getting tougher all the time. "This is a really hard place to make enough money teaching to pay for housing and to live," Evan says. "It is a real challenge for schools to get and keep qualified teachers." He knows teachers who work in the area and commute two hours each way to afford a decent home.

Evan and Kitte had been paying 60 percent

of their income to rent a home in one of the area's less expensive communities. "We had a lot of mold and moisture problems in that house," Evan says. Their younger son, 6-year-old Sean, has allergies. "We were dealing with coughing and asthma issues with him," Evan says.

Several years ago, when Evan was principal and a biology teacher at a small Christian school, he was clearing the clutter from his desk when he ran across fliers that Greater San Francisco Habitat had dropped off.

"I looked at one and realized that I was right smack in the middle of the income range to qualify," Evan says. "And in this real estate world of making a buck, here was this program that was completely surprising and wonderful."

Today, Evan and Kitte pay an affordable mortgage for their rehabbed Habitat home in East Palo Alto, where they have put in a dozen raised beds teeming with vegetable and flowers. Sean's cough has gone away but he's kept his love of insects, which he constantly graces the house with.

Evan's old school closed, but he has job at a different one teaching biology. "Habitat has allowed me to stay in education," he says. "As I said, it is a force multiplier."

**"Habitat  
has  
allowed  
me to  
stay in  
education"**

# Asaad, Nagham and Bashar

Des Moines, Iowa



**“We wanted to make sure our son grew up in a safe environment.”**

Asaad and his wife, Nagham, left Iraq in 2003 because of their son. “We wanted to make sure he grew up in a safe environment,” says Asaad, who worked for the United Nations in Baghdad before the war. Today, the family lives in a Habitat home on a quiet street in Des Moines and Bashar, now 14, is a star student.

“He is doing super great,” Asaad says. “He was great before we came to America. Living in a good environment here adds to him being even more successful.”

The family spent several years in Jordan before immigrating to the United States. Greater Des Moines Habitat asked Asaad if he would translate for other Iraqi families applying for homes. “I sat there and listened to these families and felt this was a good opportunity,” he says. “I grabbed myself an application.”

Asaad, who works as a payment processor for Citigroup, and Nagham, a clerk with the Principal Financial Group, qualified for an affordable mortgage with Des Moines Habitat. They completed their hundreds of sweat equity hours working in the Habitat Restore and on various build sites.

“We had been living in an apartment on a busy street — the cars, the ambulances, the noise,” Asaad says. “I remember the first night we moved into our house. It was so quiet.”

Favorite things about his home are the yard and the basement, yes, the basement. “My friend calls it my ‘man cave,’” he laughs. “Sometimes, when I am not feeling alright, I go there, and I am feeling alright.”

Asaad also likes the feeling he gets from volunteering with Des Moines Habitat, interviewing prospective families. “Sometimes I attend the house dedications and take pictures,” he says. “I do this because I feel I owe Habitat a lot. I worked my whole life to help others. Maybe that is just a part of me.”



# David, Harriet and their big extended family

Kakutevillage, Uganda

People in David's village fondly call him "The Mayor" and are proud of all that he has accomplished. He not only has built a new brick home – the talk of the village — but also has installed electricity.

David and his wife, Harriet, live in Kakutevillage, in central Uganda, where they have a brickmaking business, a two-acre banana farm and another farm that raises pigs. They feed, clothe and pay to educate 15 children — theirs and those of David's brother.

Many families in Uganda don't have access to mortgages and hesitate to apply for home improvement loans because they don't trust the banking system. Habitat Uganda is making affordable loans available to low-income families. David has taken out three loans, which have dramatically changed his family's life.

The family once lived in a mud-walled house in a compound, far from the village's main access road. "The situation was very bad, very bad indeed," David says. "If you are in a house that does not give you pride, then your body is not fine and neither are the children."

David is now seen as a trusted leader. "I am a treasurer at the church," he says. The electricity in his new home is helping the children be better students. "Being able to have the lights on after dark," he says, "helps them study well in the night."

"Having the lights on after dark helps the children study well in the night"



## Gabe, Sylvia, Oscar and Lucy

Portland, Oregon



A child changes everything, even more so when the child is Oscar. His mother, Sylvia, describes the 3-year-old as a happy, strong and determined boy who, in the face of some big challenges, surpasses expectations. Oscar didn't get enough oxygen at birth, resulting in cerebral palsy, vision problems, developmental disabilities and other special needs. He cannot speak or walk.

Sylvia gave up her work with at-risk teens to stay home and care for Oscar. His dad, Gabe, also felt compelled — inspired really — to change things up. "I realized that I needed to get busy following what I felt like God was calling me to do," Gabe says.

He is now a pastoral associate at a church in a tight-knit community in Portland that has rallied around the family. "This neighborhood is the kind of place where my wife and I want to raise our kids," Gabe says. And now they can.

Habitat Portland/Metro East has been working with community partners to build affordable housing there. One of the new Habitat homes is designed to accommodate people with disabilities. This will be Oscar's house, where he will grow up with his new baby sister, Lucy.

"Having a Habitat home means stability and affordability, which is something that is in very short supply in Portland," Gabe says. "It means that we can enjoy living where we are. It means more opportunity for our son."

## Momajon and XXXXX

Dushanbe, Tajikistan

Most families in Tajikistan only dream of doing what Momajon and XXXXX have done: building a home all at once. That's because most families can only afford piecemeal construction — building when they have saved to buy enough bricks to build a wall, or enough cement to lay a floor, or even enough wood to finish a roof. Families often live in one room until the next one is completed. The process can take years.

Momajon and XXXXX were able to build their house at one go with the help of low-interest loans from a microfinance bank and construction

planning from Habitat Tajikistan. "We built our house from scratch," says Momajon, who shares her home with extended family and her grandchildren.

In Tajikistan, financial institutions are only willing to lend for short periods at high interest rates. To help ease the housing crisis, Habitat Tajikistan has worked with microfinance banks and institutions to create loans with lower rates and longer repayment periods. Habitat Tajikistan also trains loan officers to accurately estimate building costs and provides construction

The family has been living in an expensive rental. Gabe and Sylvia have to carry Oscar in and out and around their apartment, which has stairs and standard doorways and is not wheelchair-friendly. “Oscar is getting bigger and bigger, and it is getting harder and harder to carry him up the stairs,” Gabe says. “It is also getting less and less comfortable for him being passed around.”

“My son loves to go out and be with large groups of people. He loves going to the school, the church, the park,” Gabe continues. “That would happen less and less living where we are. It would not only isolate Oscar, but it would isolate our whole family.”

Their new home has an entranceway with no steps and wider doorways and hallways. It also can accommodate other adaptations that will be needed as Oscar grows up. “Our Habitat home is going to take a lot of obstacles out of the way, and that is a real big deal,” Gabe says.

A professional carpenter before changing careers, Gabe is completing the hundreds of sweat equity hours required by Habitat by working on his and other families’ homes. In addition to his full-time job, he is taking college courses in religious studies and driving for Uber. “Yes, yes, we are busy, super busy,” he laughs. “People with children with disabilities, they make things work. We are making it work.”

And that means a comfortable home for everyone, including Oscar. “Owning this home will give us so much peace of mind,” Sylvia says, “and allow both Oscar and Lucy to have the stability and quality of life they deserve.”

“Our Habitat home is going to take a lot of obstacles out of the way”

guidance through manuals and advisers.

Momajon sells clothes at the local bazaar, and XXXX draws a policeman’s pension. They had been living in a place where they shared bathrooms and kitchens with other families and struggled to send their children to college. Now, through a series of short-term loans, they have an affordable home and a comfortable life. “We always dreamed of owning our own home,” Momajon says.



“We are able to commit and invest in this home and have something for our future.”



## Matt and Valentina

New Orleans, Louisiana

Matt and Valentina moved into their purple Habitat house this past spring and are committed to becoming anchors in their new neighborhood.

The move also gives Matt the opportunity to put down roots in the hometown he loves while continuing to do what he loves, which is making music. “It feels good to be part of the culture of the city and reinforce its musical heritage,” says Matt, who plays the saxophone and clarinet with several bands. Currently touring the country, Matt is looking forward to getting home and getting going landscaping the yard.

The couple lives a few minutes from Musician’s Village, a neighborhood dreamed up more than a decade ago by musicians Harry Connick, Jr. and Branford Marsalis with New Orleans Area Habitat to support families and preserve the city’s musical roots. One of the homeowners in the village suggested that Matt and Valentina attend a Habitat informational meeting.

“I had not entertained the possibility of owning a house because I haven’t made all that much money, and we didn’t think we could afford

one,” Matt says. “Once it became a possibility, it was super exciting. We are able to commit and invest in this home and have something for our future. And it is important to have neighborhoods in New Orleans where people know each other and look out for each other.”

Valentina, originally from New York City, knows that Matt is where he belongs. “You can’t keep a New Orleanian out of New Orleans,” says Valentina, who works for a recruiting firm. She was game when Matt suggested they go with the purple exterior. “If there is a city where purple works,” she says, “it is New Orleans.”

The couple built their home alongside volunteering students. “I got to bond with them, and it was nice to see all these connections take place,” Valentina says. “I also got this great experience of saying, ‘I built my own house.’ I know exactly how good the insulation is.”

Visit [habitat.org](https://www.habitat.org) today to find out how you can make a lasting difference for others.



# Ronessa and Chrislynn

Paterson, New Jersey

Ronessa is just a few years shy of paying off her mortgage with Paterson Habitat. That partnership, she says, has given her so much more than a home.

Before becoming a homeowner, she was required to take financial literacy courses. She took that knowledge and opened her own business, a hair salon.

“Habitat showed me how to have a strategic plan,” she says. In fact, she named her company A Strategic Plan Beauty Spot. “The name only means something to me. Everyone else calls it ‘Ronessa’s place on the corner,’” she laughs.

Ronessa loves the independence that Habitat has allowed her to have. In return, she volunteers her time as a member of Paterson Habitat’s board. “I wake up grateful that I am a homeowner and that I control my circumstances,” she says.

Those circumstances include having raised two daughters in her home. “If I had to pay a regular mortgage and for college and run a business, could it have happened? I’m not sure,” she says. “But I was able to do it.”

Ronessa still has her third child, Chrislynn, at home. The 10-year-old is a straight A student and very active in their church, Ronessa says with pride. When she is not in school, Chrislynn likes to hang out with her mom at the beauty salon.

“At the end of the day, we get to come home to our house,” Ronessa says. “It is a great feeling.”



# every smile

comes from a place of safety and security that only a home can bring.

Through monthly donations, **HopeBuilders** provide a consistent and reliable source of funding that allows Habitat to reach more families in need of decent shelter. **Sign up today!**

Find out how your support can help families like these!

[habitat.org/hopebuilder](https://www.habitat.org/hopebuilder)

# Everyone builds for a reason.

# What's yours?



“Habitat is a great equalizer that provides value for everyone, whether it’s the volunteer, the family, the site supervisor. It doesn’t matter who you are when you show up and what you know. You are of value. That is a great thing.”

HABITAT AMERICORPS ALUM  
T.J. BURGHART





JOHN AND PENNY, HABITAT METRO DENVER HOMEOWNERS

**Penny:** We lived in a little two-bedroom house with all five kids. It was a pretty sad-looking house.

I wouldn't change that because that's part of who we are. It definitely made my children appreciate once we moved. I mean, they saw what hard work does – where they came from and what you can achieve.

I've heard them tell their friends, "We live in a Habitat house." They know that their parents weren't handed something, that we worked for it. I think that shaped their personalities and their outlook on what they want to achieve for their families.

**John:** The house itself is like a foundation for everybody. This is the beginning of a whole new era of family, that's the way I see it. It's just like we're the beginning ...

**Penny:** ... Of the family tree.

**John:** Of the family tree. Yeah, that's how I see it.

# new beginnings

"It will be a fresh start for me and the kids. They keep asking me every day, 'When are we going to move in?' They can't wait.

"It will mean so much. It was never really about me. It was for my kids."



GEORGE, GREATER MOUNT AIRY HABITAT HOMEOWNER

# my kids



"I think the most important thing in my life is my kids, my family. I want them to grow up successfully. I want them to finish their studies, find a good job. I just want to see them happy, that's it.

"It was my dream to have our own house. It's beautiful, and I think there's more opportunity. We're blessed we're here, and we're happy. I love everything here."

ANGELIE, HABITAT PHILIPPINES HOMEOWNER

# love and family

“We rented from place to place with no place to really call our own. As a kid, I was constantly changing friends, neighborhoods and schools. In my head, I wanted to do things differently for my own kids. I wanted us to own our own house.

When I think of home, I think of love and family. I think of some place to come at the end of the day and talk around the dining room table. This is something I wanted as a kid. I feel good that I can do this for my kids.”

LASHONDA, HABITAT KANSAS CITY HOMEOWNER



“In Billings, I got to meet and work alongside a lovely mother of three, Cara. This was the first time I had actually met a Habitat homeowner-to-be. The memory isn’t as fresh as it could be, but I do remember a lot of laughing between hammer swings. Cara was gracious enough to share with me some of the more personal details of becoming a homeowner and the commitment she has given to Habitat in exchange for their commitment to her.

“I had no idea that the to-be residents help to build homes – their home and their neighbors’ homes. Frankly, it’s beautiful. That was the moment I remember feeling empowered. I was a lucky man to be working with men and women all committed to a plan greater than themselves, committed to the idea of community.”

DILLON KEEFE, whose 13,000 mile adventure around the continental United States brought him to build sites and Habitat ReStores in Indianapolis, Indiana; San Francisco, California; Portland, Oregon; Billings, Montana; and Collinsville, Illinois

“When I volunteered on Habitat builds, I saw how readily families contributed their own labor. They worked as hard as the volunteers because they were building their own house. At the house dedication, there was no mistaking the joy and pride on their faces.

“I’ve heard how parents build on the stability of a Habitat home to enable their children to achieve greater strength and self-reliance. I know these stories are true as I’ve met some of the families myself.”

JACQUELINE FERNANDEZ, HABITAT INDIA AND CARTER WORK PROJECT VOLUNTEER





“You see so much more confidence out of these folks. I think, in addition to being thrilled about the home, they’re feeling pretty proud with the work that they’ve done.”

TUCSON HABITAT  
FAMILY SELECTION  
COMMITTEE MEMBER  
DAVE HAMRA



“People were just laughing, laughing, laughing. They did not know what plan I had in mind. They could not believe that I could build such a house.

“Habitat really provided much because they give you skills. They also talk of a plan. They give you encouragement. They give you examples. I’m very happy, and I’m very thankful because Habitat has helped me to construct a house which now I live in, and it’s very comfortable for me. They’re good people, and the entire community is very happy. They have seen what we have done.”

JULIUS, WHO BUILT HIS HOUSE  
INCREMENTALLY WITH HELP FROM  
HABITAT KENYA

# community

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# 25



# years

# of facts and finds

**This year, we celebrate  
25 years of Habitat for  
Humanity ReStores.**

That's 25 years of helping more families build decent, affordable homes in your community and around the world. These nonprofit home improvement stores and donation centers – independently owned and operated by local Habitats – sell new and gently used furniture, appliances, home accessories, building materials and more to the public at a fraction of retail price. Proceeds are used to help build strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter in local communities and around the world.

**Celebrate with us by browsing these Habitat  
ReStore facts, finds and stories.**



## Open for business

“The first day we opened, early May 1991, was the biggest sales day we had in the entire three years I was there. It was an exciting way to kick it all off and verified that we were on to something. We always thought it had the potential to really be successful and do a lot of good for Habitat.” — *Rick Penner, the first manager at the first Habitat ReStore, which opened in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. He was there from the beginning, helping to set up the store that would eventually share its name with ReStore locations around the world.*



The next year, **Austin Habitat** opened its ReStore, the first in the U.S. Proceeds have helped build 115 homes, and 19 million pounds of goods have been diverted from landfills.

Austin Habitat recently moved its ReStore into a new building, generating buzz and an increase in donations, says Greg Anderson, Austin Habitat director of operations. They’re also generating something else: power. The store has 1,081 solar panels on top of the building.



# 3

## A place to save money — and do good

Shopper Mia James is renovating in the Gowanus neighborhood of Brooklyn and says that the **Habitat New York City** ReStore is her No. 1 place to find good deals on everything, including the kitchen sink!

“The ReStore is such a blessing because it’s afforded me to have products that I wouldn’t have been able to afford without it,” she says. “The money you’re spending helps someone else — it’s all great karma.”

# 4 & 5

## What else enthusiasts are saying

“You see families going into the ReStore looking for things for their home. It’s a direct impact. It’s going from one home to another. It was really special.” — *Habitat Global Village volunteer trip participant Luca Repola, who worked in at the Asheville Area Habitat ReStore during part of his trip*

“ReStore is making a difference in helping to change people’s lives forever. ReStore helps raise funds for affordable housing and provides employment opportunities for those who are willing to give life a go.” — *John Graham, manager at Australia’s Habitat Victoria Kilsyth ReStore*



# 6

## “A little bit of magic happens here”

Judi Crothers has volunteered with the **Habitat Northern Ireland** ReStore for 18 months. She has more than 30 years of experience in retail and volunteers two mornings a week.

“I’ve never laughed as much as I have in ReStore,” she says. “I suffer from anxiety and depression and first came to Habitat ReStore through Action Mental Health. Everyone in ReStore is very supportive, and they’ve given me the time and space to grow in confidence. That’s something that would be much harder to get in the commercial world.

“I can’t find the words to describe it; a little bit of magic happens here,” she continues. “I want to encourage everyone to get involved. We are all equal, have our own skills and have something to contribute.”

## A few fun facts...

**7** If you took all the doors sold at the **Lexington Habitat ReStore** last year and laid them end to end, they would stretch over seven Kentucky miles. That's as long as 25 Empire State Buildings stacked on top of each other.

**8**

**Habitat Greater Sacramento's** ReStore raised more than \$823,000 in 2015.

**9**

In total, last year, volunteers gave 4.34 million hours of their time to help Habitat ReStores raise money to build homes with families in 2015.



**10**

In that same timeframe, Habitat ReStores diverted more than 124,000 tons of goods from landfills.



**11**

## 'It's a treasure hunt'

"There are so many great things about the ReStore. You're going green, helping Habitat and having fun along the way. It's a treasure hunt, a great place for good stuff, not just for good bargains."

— **Portland/Metro East Habitat ReStore manager Danny Dunn**, who says his entire apartment is furnished with ReStore finds

## Full of fun finds

**12**

"The coolest thing we probably have ever gotten was a full kitchen from the 1960s. It was purchased by a movie studio who wanted to use it in their set. They donated it back, so we got to sell it twice. A customer drove down from Canada and purchased the whole thing. It was sold for more the second time than the first." — **Deborah Maruca Hoak**, ReStore director at **Habitat Metro West/Greater Worcester**



**13**  
&  
**14**

## All from generous donations

Like many Habitat ReStores, Colorado's **Habitat Roaring Fork Valley** receives great items for resale. But one donation was unlike any other: five truckloads of items that had once belonged to a famous film producer.

The donation included a piano; pool table; "eight gorgeous, elaborate chairs made out of antlers"; art pieces; movie posters; and much more. Habitat Roaring Fork Valley president Scott Gilbert says shoppers enjoyed the chance to buy unique items that belonged to a Hollywood producer, but the real star of the donation was the generosity behind the donation.

"The real benefit is we get to build homes," he says. "The ReStore has transformed what our affiliate can do."

Counted all together, Habitat ReStores have 58 cargo vans, 68 flatbeds, 229 pick-up trucks and 887 box trucks, all on standby right now to be filled with your donations!



# 15

## There are lots of learning opportunities

Some Habitat ReStores offer classes on home improvement. Virginia's **Habitat Peninsula and Greater Williamsburg** has hosted multiple classes in partnership with a local technical school.

Reese Heable, manager of the ReStore, says his location has hosted classes on spring maintenance, installing a ceiling fan and replacing shingles.

"Some of our homeowners don't realize that's something they can do themselves," Heable says.



# 16-18

## And creative outlets

"We definitely try to promote reuse for artistic purposes. We have several examples in the store. We have a place to post pictures of things people have made." — *Cory Beynon, Habitat Butte County ReStore director*

An outside wall of the **Cleveland County Habitat ReStore** in Oklahoma features a large mural painted by local artist Skip Hill. "The mural project was a crucial piece of our ReStore grand opening puzzle," says ReStore manager Mike Jenkins. "There was a lot of awareness created as people were able to watch the progress of the mural project during the months leading up to the grand opening. The mural project and Cleveland County Habitat were also featured on the front page of the local paper a couple of times during that summer."

Driving in Alaska, you just might see a rocket ship go by. That would be the Atomic Camper, a fully functional camper that Bill Guernsey built in the shape of a rocket with many parts purchased at the **Habitat Anchorage ReStore**. "The construction took two full years at 6 to 8 hours per day," Bill says. "The ReStore made construction easy because there was a great deal of trial and error."



## And a rhythm to each ReStore

Each ReStore is different, and there can be a rhythm to how they operate.

“On the last Friday of each month, we allow customers to make offers on items they have been eyeing throughout the store,” says Jane Davis of Kansas’ **Manhattan Area Habitat** ReStore. “This is called ‘Dicker with Dale.’ Dale Holeman is one of our long-term volunteers, and he gives great deals to customers on items that they are interested in.”

**Habitat Butte County** in California says their best donation days are Monday and Saturday, while best days to shop at Monday and Tuesday. Up in Montana, the smartest days to drop by the **Habitat Missoula** ReStore are Thursdays because their pickups are mostly performed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.



## 20 & 21

### More fun facts

The **Habitat Metro Denver** ReStores recycle nine tons of metal every week.

**Habitat Philadelphia** opened its South Philadelphia ReStore in June 2015 and – within five months of opening – the ReStore had generated \$100,000 for the affiliate’s work.

## 22 & 23

### You’ll meet Habitat homeowners

At the beginning of this year, Yvette and her two young daughters, Tiara and Trinite, took official ownership of their Habitat home, one of nine homes built in Nova Scotia in 2015.

Yvette, pictured above, spent many of her sweat equity hours helping in the ReStore and enjoyed the interaction with customers and the **Habitat Nova Scotia** team.

“My two daughters love their new house. They have space to run and play in the basement and can play in the backyard by themselves. Where we used to live, I couldn’t let them go outside by themselves. It’s given all of us more freedom,” Yvette says.

“This is the community where I grew up, so being able to come back and have my girls grow up here, surrounded by friends and family, is so important to me.”



Mary built her Missouri home with Habitat and has lived there since December 2012. She worked in the River City Habitat ReStore as part of her required sweat equity and because she knows firsthand the impact sales there can have on the community and beyond, she still volunteers.

“The work that we’re doing here, building houses, it became a mission for me” she says. “This is my calling. This is something that I am able to give back now.”

# 24

## Immediate impact

Joshua Chappell, manager of Tennessee’s **Rutherford County Area Habitat ReStore**, recalls seeing a shopper enter the ReStore, then realizing that she was quietly beginning to cry and pray.



“I approached and asked how she was doing and if there was anything I could help her with,” he says.

The single mom began to tell him about her two little boys at home, her children who had been sleeping for more than two years with an open attic-access hole in their bedroom ceiling because she was unable to afford an attic-ladder to properly fix the hole. “Her neighbor had told her about the Habitat ReStore and that we had an affordably priced attic-ladder on the sales floor, so she came down to see,” he says.

“As she said this, she pointed across the sales floor and said, ‘There it is. I have been waiting two years for this! Thank you for closing the hole in my little boys’ ceiling.’

“One ‘normal’ ReStore transaction immediately became the inspirational reminder of how impactful our work really is.”

# 25

## Find your Habitat ReStore!

Got a shopping list? Ready to donate? There are 860

ReStore locations in the United States, equaling more than 11 million square feet of shopping opportunities. Plus more around the world! A quick search on the [habitat.org](http://habitat.org) homepage can direct you to your closest Habitat ReStore.



# who does it take to build a habitat house?


Just as it takes every nail, every board and every gallon of paint to finish a Habitat for Humanity home, it also takes every hour of hard work by future homeowners and volunteers, every ounce of support from generous donors, and every bit of building expertise to guide the construction process.





# HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

In every Habitat home, you find the work and dedication of so many people, all working with a common goal: helping another family build strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter.



Who does it take to build a Habitat house? It takes everyone, and that starts with...

# YOU!



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**Donate or volunteer today!**



# Leave a legacy

## **Support Habitat with a gift today and beyond your lifetime**

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## Every child: Anthony

For many years, a house of their own always seemed so far out of reach for Anthony's parents.

But now, their bright blue Habitat house in El Salvador means even more to them than simply an affordable escape from a dusty, poorly ventilated rental.

"It's my own home," says his mother, Esmerelda, "and it will be my son's heritage. Here we will stay."

Six of 10 Salvadoran families live in inadequate housing, and many families like Anthony's find themselves unable to access traditional financing to improve their living conditions. Your support helps Habitat work to eliminate exactly those kinds of barriers to better, healthier, more financially stable lives for more little boys.

**Visit [habitat.org](https://www.habitat.org) and give today!**



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