

Passing on Values Through
Volunteering



Bill and Janet Mathis with a flag at one of the entrances to the Hazelwood Subdivision.

The Flag program is one of the best volunteer opportunities with Habitat for Humanity that can be shared with the whole family. Bill and Janet Mathis offer a great example of how this can work.

When one of the patriotic holidays comes along and Habitat volunteers set flags out in their neighborhoods, Bill and Janet frequently get up early and go pick up two of their grandkids. The grandkids help them load the flags into the truck. Bill and Janet drive the kids through the neighborhood while listening to Johnny Cash. The kids jump out of the truck at each stop to put up or take down the flags.

Mr. Bill says he has come to truly enjoy volunteering with the flag program. Through it he has gotten to meet and know many of his neighbors. While Bill and Janet are putting out flags with the kids they sometimes take the opportunity to check on some of the senior neighbors. What a great way to teach Christian values, care for neighbors and model the importance of building relationships to the next generation!

Call 912-489-2076 and volunteer with the Flag Program today!

America's Best ReStore
In America's Best Community



LOL! I'm sure that every Habitat affiliate thinks their ReStore is the best, but only Spike's Habitat ReStore gets to serve America's Best Community, Statesboro, Georgia. Seriously, Spike's Habitat ReStore has long followed an extremely effective business model for raising funds for Habitat's program. Plus, with our move to 201 Johnson Street, Spike's Habitat ReStore is now in a more convenient and visible location for our customers and is helping bring new business to the west end of downtown.

We knew that this would be a great location, but it's proving to be even better than we expected. Even with our reduced summer hours, business and especially donations have picked up considerably. We are not just getting more donated items but better ones as well.

Spike's Habitat ReStore isn't important just for bringing business to West Main. It is also vital to the Blue Mile neighborhood revitalization. 1) Proceeds raised through the ReStore help fund the neighborhood revitalization activities engaged in by Habitat Bulloch staff. 2) The ReStore serves as a hub for interacting with residents of the our focus community. 3) Spike's ReStore provides a resource for obtaining building materials, yard equipment and other home improvement items within the financial means of people living in the focus neighborhood who want to improve their corner of the neighborhood themselves.

Grand Opening Celebration
August 27th, 9:00-11:00 AM.



The Hammer of Hope

The Quarterly Newsletter for
Habitat for Humanity of Bulloch County
Summer 2016 Edition
912-489-2076 HabitatBulloch.org



We Are in the Top 8!!!



Have you heard the buzz about Statesboro's being one of eight finalists in ABC's America's Best Communities competition? It's true! Our community is about to be featured in a nationally televised reality show. The show will focus on our community's efforts to revitalize the business district along South Main between the courthouse and the Georgia Southern University campus.

What you may not know is that Habitat Bulloch's current building projects in a

neighborhood just west of the Blue Mile are one reason why Statesboro made it into the final eight. Arising from this is a push to make neighborhood revitalization a more prominent component of the overall Blue Mile Project.

This is a big deal for Statesboro for several reasons: First of all, neighborhood revitalization when done properly improves the lives of everyone living in a community, not just a select few. Second, it results in more sustainable economic revitalization because it broadens the socioeconomic spectrum of empowered



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and mobilized stakeholders who support the project and seek to make it a success. Third, government agencies, private endowments and corporations currently favor neighborhood revitalization in funding allocation over other types of projects. When it comes to tapping into federal and grant money, neighborhood revitalization may do more to provide resources for economic revitalization of the business district than the other way around. Fourth, and perhaps most importantly, it capitalizes on resources already in a community and is not as dependent on outside resources.



What is Neighborhood Revitalization?

More than anything, neighborhood revitalization is about engaging, empowering, and mobilizing the people already living in a given neighborhood to become agents of positive change. It includes things like building Habitat houses, improving infrastructure such as sidewalks and street lights and bringing in new businesses. But the most important and lasting changes have to do with how people view themselves and each other. If the neighborhood is active in the decision making and contribute time and energy into making improvements all its members are more likely to respect and protect those improvements and make them lasting.

Pushing poor people out of a neighborhood and replacing them with more affluent people is not neighborhood revitalization. That is gentrification. Gentrification does not reduce blight. It moves and concentrates it. Revitalization engages the poor to be part of the change as a resource rather than a blight to be relocated and helps them to more effectively participate in the local economy in a way that benefits them, their neighbors and nearby businesses.

From Our Executive Director

Linda Christy



One of the fun parts about working with Habitat Bulloch is getting to know the people who build and buy their homes through the Habitat program. A study by the Center for Applied Research at the University of Southern Indiana showed that through volunteering with Habitat and participating in our various training programs, these homeowners increased their sense of self-worth. Furthermore, the women especially tend to gain a sense of empowerment and courage through the process. Those women often seek ways to engage their neighborhoods in an effort to make them healthier.

Margaretta Patterson is a wonderful example of this. She is the prospective homebuyer of House 51 on Institute Street which is part of the neighborhood revitalization efforts of the Blue Mile Project. Margaretta has always been active in the communities in which she has lived. Now she is already working to build relationships with her future neighbors and is even seeking to build a positive relationship between her community and the local police department. After the shooting in Dallas Margaretta brought cupcakes to the police station in Statesboro to show her support for local law enforcement.

As with any prospective Habitat homebuyer, she is working hard to help volunteers build House 51. In addition, she is also becoming a leader in Statesboro by joining the Blue Mile Neighborhood Revitalization Committee and lending her voice as an invested stakeholder in Statesboro. Not only that, Margaretta constantly shares her desire to help lead the efforts to start a community garden somewhere near her new home. The very day Margaretta moved to Statesboro she became an asset to our community, but her involvement with Habitat is empowering her to become not just an asset but a new leader.



House 50 Dedication

Scheduled for

Saturday, August 6, 2016



Save the date for 9:00 A.M. Saturday, August 6, 2016 as Habitat Bulloch celebrates an important milestone in our affordable home ownership program. We will be dedicating House 50 and giving the keys to Randy Holman, our home buyer.



The completion and dedication of a Habitat house is always a very big deal in Habitat Land. But Habitat House 50 is an important benchmark for us and our community for several reasons: 1) It's our 50th house. 2) This House is a key part of the Blue Mile project. In fact during the semifinalist presentation for the America's Best Communities competition the photo above of House 50 with the flags provided a visual for Blue Mile neighborhood revitalization and was instrumental in helping Statesboro become one of the 8 finalists in ABC's America's Best Communities competition. The photo later appeared in a Forbes Magazine online article.

3) In addition Habitat House 50 is special because it is a memorial build for Sally and David Thompson. I (Marcus Toole) remember sitting with David's father and Sally's husband, Don Thompson, back when House 50 was just a drawing. Don talked about how David was a prominent personality in the software industry who used his resources and influence to promote and fund neighborhood revitalization projects in Seattle. At that point we had no idea that a photo of House 50 would become an icon for neighborhood revitalization in Statesboro. We believe David would be pleased.

House 51 Dedication Is Also

Coming Up in August!



Margaretta Patterson's future house, House 51, will be dedicated on the second or third Sunday of August. Everyone is invited. House 51 is a United Methodist build, and much of the funding and volunteer work on the house was provided by area Methodist churches. In fact, it's fair to say that the Methodists helped significantly on both houses 50 and 51 which were built side by side.

Other significant contributors to both houses have been various departments at Georgia Southern University, Ogeechee Technical College, Kiwanis Club of Statesboro and various local businesses. Houses 50 and 51 are coming in under budget in part because American Roofing and their supplier, GAF, donated both the materials and the labor to install the roofs on both houses. That's roughly equivalent to a \$10,000 contribution. Habitat for Humanity is extremely grateful to everyone who played a role in helping build Houses 50 and 51.