



buildlouder



Amie Fraley
Executive Director
afraley@sandhillshabitat.org

Dondi Jones
ReStore Director
djones@sandhillshabitat.org

Farrah Newman
Construction Director
fpulliam@sandhillshabitat.org

sandhillshabitat.org

Sandhills Habitat Newsletter

910-295-1934

We're Building Louder in 2022!

One of Habitat for Humanity's goals is to influence adequate, affordable housing solutions by changing systems, policies, and attitudes to achieve decent housing for all. Home is more than just a place where you rest your head. A home provides a sense of stability. A sense of safety. A sense of accomplishment. It's a place where people reconnect with family, friends, and their community. Through advocacy, Habitat volunteers and supporters can amplify our impact and increase access to decent, affordable housing.

On paper, what we do at Habitat is remarkable. After all, we lead groups of volunteers who have sometimes never even swung a hammer. We build high-quality, energy-efficient homes. That would be amazing itself, but then we take it a step further and sell those great homes to individuals in our community who have never been able to secure a traditional mortgage but who are willing to invest their own time and effort for the chance to purchase the home with an affordable mortgage. No one has been able to take a financial risk on these individuals in the past. But at Habitat, we can – and do – and our record has shown that we are pretty good at taking that risk on the right family.

We are building more than affordable housing at Habitat for Humanity. We are building trust, self-reliance and opportunity. We are building future generations who understand the benefits of homeownership and the opportunity it provides to build wealth. We are building relationships among individuals with different economic, social, racial, religious, and yes, even political backgrounds. When we are sharing this space and working on the mission, we are unified and unstoppable. It's a beautiful place to find your purpose. We especially love watching our Habitat homeowners become leaders within our organization and community. Their continued investment in the mission is confirmation that our model and supporters are a kind of "secret sauce" that you don't find everywhere. This year, we want to talk about all of these things that are beyond the walls and windows of our homes. We want to think about what Habitat really means to our community, our homeowners, our volunteers, and our supporters. We want to know what brings nearly 100 individuals to our annual homeowners' application sessions, and how we can serve more of them in the future. We hope you will join us by keeping tabs on our work all year long through our monthly e-newsletter. We look forward to seeing you on the build site, or in the ReStore, or at a committee meeting or fundraising event. In all of these places, you will see us building louder, building our tomorrow...together.

Thank you for building with us!

Amie N. Fraley
Amie N. Fraley, Executive Director
afraley@sandhillshabitat.org



engage Calendar of Events 2022

Empowerment Breakfast

Thursday, Feb. 3rd
Forest Creek CC

Gala and Auction

Saturday, April 23rd
Pinehurst CC

Fashion Show

Thurs, Oct. 20th
CC of North Carolina

Monthly Invitations

Pint Night

Every 2nd Tuesday
of the month.
5 - 7 pm
(Location Varies)

Faith Relations Lunch and Learn

Every 3rd Wednesday of
the month at 12:00 pm
(Location Varies)

Habitat Orientation

Every 3rd Saturday of
the month at 10:00 am
Office and Online

Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities, and hope.

Good Neighbors make Great Communities

"It is a blessing to have a good neighbor, but it is even a greater thing to BE a good neighbor. I grew up in a neighborhood where our neighbors became like family after years. We came together to celebrate holidays and birthdays when I was growing up. When something bad happen we cooked food, gave a little money, and visited to show support. If we went out of town, we watched each other's homes and got the mail. To have this kind of relationship it took being a responsible neighbor to others and including them in your life. This is how you create a community where you live."

Wendy Jones - Habitat Home Owner 2021



Wendy Jones and her sons moved into their Habitat home in September in Midways Gardens. They were met by her new neighbor, Penny McKinnie, who has live in her home since 2014.



Ofelia with her son Jaxson and daughter Luna.

Apostles Build 2021

Ofelia Lopez moved into her forever home on her son's birthday in September. Ofelia partnered with members from several community churches to build her home in Robbins, After contributing over 300 sweat equity hours and homeownership education classes, Ofelia was able to purchase her home with an affordable mortgage and start saving for her children's education.

In the Apostles Build, churches or coalitions of churches assist in Habitat's mission to build decent shelter as a partnership with a local family. Churches work together to share the costs and labor commitment. Together, they form a coalition to sponsor one or more homes.



A world where everyone has a decent place to live.

Featured Homeowners-in-Progress



Sponsored Build Easter Pate

Our annual Business Build kicked off with CEO Day this fall with 25 of our favorite local business leaders to raise the walls of Easter Pate's home. Easter has worked in the house-keeping department of Pinehurst Resort. For over 20 years, now serving as an administrative supervisor. Easter's entire leadership team, including the Director of Housekeeping (Rosemary Aribo), Director of HR (Jo Kenzel), and even Pinehurst Resort CEO, (Tom Pashley), were on hand to raise the first wall of her home. Before the day began, as we joined together for introductions and celebration, Jo had the crowd in tears as she described what Easter means to their team. "Easter is reliable, she's always there when we need her. We recently nominated her for an internal award at Pinehurst which she won! We couldn't be happier for her and are thrilled to be here with her today."



Easter with her two daughters



Tom Pashley
Jo Kenzel
Easter Pate
Rosemary Aribo

Meet Our Platinum Sponsors



Sponsored Build Jessica Anderson

Jessica is a Navy Veteran with two children who are eager to get their own bedrooms!

" This year has been a whirlwind of emotions for many, but it has also been a learning experience for me. I learned to appreciate and count my blessings, my life, my children, my family. I was able to save a small amount of money for the first time in my life. In preparation for entering the Habitat Homeownership Program my family moved in with my parents and I was able to pay off ALL my debt as well as raise my credit score by over 100 points. This is a step I cannot take alone. I enrolled in college for an associates degree in medical office admin, so I can start a career, own a home, and show my children that you can accomplish anything if you set your mind to it and are not afraid to ask for a little help."

- Jessica Anderson



Meet Our Lead Sponsor



Veterans Guardian matched every donation made to this build up to \$35,000.

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A New Director? Yes! New to Habitat? Not by a long shot!



Dondi Jones
Restore Director

When Dondi Jones began his career with Habitat, he didn't think of it as a career. "When I started, it was just a paycheck. I worked hard, but I didn't think about what my work made possible." Now, after 16 years of working with our mission, Dondi has a different take on his days at Habitat. "Now, it's like home— and knowing so many of the people we have built with, this is way more than just a paycheck. I'm looking forward to leading this team that is more like a family than a co-workers." Dondi has that chance to do so, recently named **ReStore Director for Habitat for Humanity of the NC Sandhills**.



Lawrence Murchison
Restore Manager

Since taking the helm this year, Dondi has led the ReStore to the highest sale and net income earning year ever. In fact, the net income of the ReStore for our year ended June 30, 2021, was 30% higher than the next best year on record. This has been incredibly helpful to our construction team who have experienced unusually high material costs in the past year. It's just one more way that our team has grown to appreciate each other and shows that it takes all of us to build and sell our homes affordably. A silver lining of Covid for our team has been the cooperation among departments to creatively solve challenges – including our weekly staff zoom meeting that provides a chance for everyone to celebrate together and also help resolve issues that may arise. Dondi takes this opportunity to share praise for his team, as he knows exactly how much hard work goes into every facet of ReStore.



Krystal Allen
Restore/Volunteer
Assistant Manager

It is only fitting that Dondi had the chance to celebrate all of his hard work as a Habitat leader and father. Last month his ReStore earned the top prize in Best of the Pines as Best Thrift Shop and Best Place to Purchase Used Furniture, as well as his children being named "Pinecrest Prince and Princess" at homecoming. Both Nahjir and Azaria are familiar faces in our ReStore – spending most of their summers with us as well as many weekends and holidays. They are outstanding young people with bright futures ahead, which is no surprise.



Mary Ortiz
Restore Assistant Manager

Dondi, we thank you for your leadership and dedication to the mission! Come check out Dondi's incredible ReStore (price drops hit every 1st and 15th of the month) to snag your next deal and help build homes.



Thank you to Mr. McVay for using his convertible to escort the new prince!



5,000+hours

Habitat would like to recognize the hardcore volunteers that have contributed more than 5,000 hours to build affordable housing. We appreciate your talent and the time you spend giving back to the community. Volunteers are at the heart of mission to bring the people together to support one another, our homeowners and future generations.

**WE NEED
YOU**



Nancy Kees (with ReStore Manager Lawrence Murchinson)
Hardcore ReStore Volunteer



Alan Quirion
Hardcore Construction Volunteer



Mary Cunningham
Hardcore Construction Volunteer



David Page
Hardcore Construction Volunteer

Habitat Repair Program

A lot of people are familiar with our traditional new housing construction, but fewer are aware of the important work at Habitat that is allowing us to serve hundreds of families over the next 2 years. Repair grants make it possible to increase our partnership to elderly and disabled families

Our repair program began modestly several years ago as we saw a great need for elderly and disabled members of the community who own their own home (our repair program is not available for Habitat homeowners. Classes are offered to help prepare them for eventual future repairs as homeowners).

Many need a roof replacement or a wheelchair ramp – something to help them age in place safely and affordably. They are not able to pay the full expense of these repairs (a roof replacement averages \$8,000), but they aren't asking for a handout. Our model allows them to repay a portion of the material cost over time, and their partnership helps make another family's repair possible.



After years of proving our ability to navigate this arena effectively, we have been awarded multiple grants to both offset the material costs of the repairs and to hire a dedicated full-time lead for the program, Jim Parsons, to ensure we continue on this path of success.

We carry out some of these repairs with small volunteer teams – if you would like to become a ramp renegade with our crew and volunteer monthly or quarterly for a morning, please let us know! We look forward to continued work in this area to protect homeowners at risk of losing their homes or paying outrageous electricity costs.



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Legacy Gift from Women Build Construction Volunteer

You never know what part of Habitat will inspire someone – from the home dedications to the camaraderie in the ReStore to swinging a hammer alongside a future homeowner, there are many ways for this mission to touch your heart.

For Alberta Settzo, it was a Women Build project 27 years ago. When Alberta joined us on the build site, she fell in love with the model of Habitat and even more so with the people she was partnering with to build a home. Her work made possible the affordable mortgage for Geraldine Campbell. Geraldine is one of our favorites friends to see when we are driving through Roseland Farm. She is usually out in her yard trimming bushes or tending to her flowers. Geraldine takes great pride in her yard and home, which she now owns mortgage-free after making her last Habitat mortgage payment several years ago. It's no wonder her magnetic personality and true gratitude for her opportunity resonated with Alberta.

Not long after her build days, she decided to make it possible for future families to build by including Habitat for Humanity of the NC Sandhills in her will. Last month, her daughter, Lynn Elmore (now a hardcore construction volunteer with our friends at Cape Fear Habitat in Wilmington) brought us her mother's hammer and Women Build t-shirts along with the news of her mother's wishes. The generous donation means Alberta is now part of our Golden Hammer Society, a group of dedicated supporters who have donated at least \$30,000 toward our local mission over their lifetime. We want to express our thanks to the many individuals like Alberta who are continuing to build homes long after they are able to come swing a hammer, themselves.



We thank you and encourage those of you willing to make a long-lasting gift through legacy giving to visit our website and watch for our monthly e-newsletters which will each include a different way you can include Habitat in your long term giving plans. Thank you for building with us, Alberta Settzo and Lynn Elmore!



Tribute Gifts

IN MEMORY since December 2020

Jeanne Anderson	Elda Marmaduke
Mac Andrews	Betty Martin
The Rev. Carol Burgess	Freida Powers
Ellene Busby	Sundee Williams
Hilton G. "Red" Hancock	Anne Williamson
Les Holden	Charles McCuen
Carlton Long	Skip Ruedeman

In Honor since December 2020

Frances Campbell	Beth Whitman's 80th BD
Becky & Ray Deaton	Kay Beran
Beverly & David Harper	Marion Gaida's Birthday
Wanda & George Little	Harin Law
Cleta & Dale Mitchell	Jim Parson's birthday
Outreach Emmanuel Episcopal	Beth Whitman's 80th Birthday
Mary & Frank Sessions	

An energy efficient home is an energy affordable home.

Our goal at Habitat is to provide a safe and affordable place to call home for all of our families. This extends beyond the mortgage of the home, which is already guaranteed affordable, but also includes the additional costs of housing such as energy.

An energy efficient home is an energy affordable home. Therefore, we build our homes to higher standards than required by local and state building code to provide enhanced levels of energy efficiency. All of our homes meet the green standard of Energy Star and the energy standard of System Vision. This means we take extra steps to add insulation and caulking to keep the drafts out, and even take extra steps with our HVAC installation to keep our homeowners' energy costs at a minimum.

Our general contractor, Farrah Newman, loves to get the HERS rating on each home to see if we can hit a personal best. HERS (Home Energy Rating System) is the industry measurement of energy efficiency. A score of 100% is standard and the lower the score, the better. We are proud to say our average HERS rating is 55% which is 45 points better than area average.



Your support of our mission at Habitat means you are helping make everything about homeownership more affordable for families in our community who are seeking a hand up on their journey to self-reliance.



Homeowner Aurilla Shaw caulking her home in Richmond County

Our Leadership Team

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Lisa Fagan, Chairman
Fallon Brewington, Vice Chair
Karen Reese May, Secretary
Kirk Lynch, Treasurer
Amie Fraley, Executive Director

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Bob McVay
Helen Probst Mills
Mary Rocca
Tracy Thomas

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every
can help build a
better community

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Permit #188

Habitat
for Humanity®
of the NC Sandhills
2268 NC Highway 5
Aberdeen, NC 28315



Every Habitat home is a solid foundation for a family to build strength, stability and self-reliance.

- There are 20 future Habitat homeowners in our program working on sweat equity for the opportunity to purchase a home with an affordable mortgage.
- Sandhills Habitat has dedicated nearly 300 homes in Moore, Hoke, and Richmond County
- It takes approximately about 2,000 volunteer hours to build a Habitat home.

2021/22 Business Build - CEO Day September 23rd

Habitat CEO Day brings all the volunteers on the same playing field. Business owners seeks exemplary employees, but how do we keep our workforce if we don't offer affordable housing? Everyone deserves a home in the same county where they live or work. Let's build for the employees that help to make the Sandhills one of the best places to live in North Carolina!