



The Hubbard Family

“We wanted to give him the opportunity to live an independent life with his disability.”

In 2014, the Hubbards were a young family in a difficult situation. Ryan and Marty were already struggling to make ends meet. Their son, Jamari, was eight years old, and they wanted to give him every opportunity to succeed. But their difficult situation became critical when Jamari was diagnosed with cerebral palsy. He would most likely require the use of a wheelchair for the rest of his life.

They were living in an apartment that they could barely afford. Still, Ryan and Marty knew if Jamari was to have every opportunity to succeed, he would need a house as a home. “That was the main reason we decided to get a home... because we wanted to give him the opportunity to live an independent life with his disability.”

The apartments available to them were not handicapped friendly. They could not install a ramp outside of their unit. They could not alter the interior to add features to help Jamari live independently, like handrails or an accessible bathtub. Jamari needed a house customized for his needs, and Ryan and Marty were determined to get it for him.

They applied for home loans through mortgage companies and banks but were turned down. They simply did not have what was needed to secure a large enough loan. Their faith was tested. They were discouraged. Their hope was fading. But they would not give up on providing their son with the best possible future.

“With the mortgage companies and the banks, we did apply to some of them, and we were turned down. We got frustrated. We got disgusted... We got down on our faith... and something told us to go ahead and apply for Habitat because all they can say is yes or no. We went ahead and listened to God and applied.”

When they got the news they had been selected to build and own a Habitat home, they felt incredible relief. Their faith was restored. They had hope! “Our life changed a lot. It really strengthened our faith! When you have God in your life, you pray about something, and God tells you to step out on faith, you do it. It makes you realize you are not alone,” says Ryan.

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Though the process was not easy, it was all worth it! Ryan said, "There is nothing like working hard for something. You take pride in it. And to not only work on our home but get to help the others work on their homes, it was just such a great experience. It was really inspiring!"

Six years later, the Hubbard family is thriving. Jamari can get around his home with ease. The Hubbards have a one-year-old baby, too!

"Thank you for the time you put in and your dedication. There are not many words I can say of how I am feeling and how I felt at the time. Habitat for Humanity, the all-around program, is just a blessing to people... We still love the home as much as we did as we were building it, as much as we did during the dedication, and when we first moved in. We are just blessed because of volunteers and donors!"



This year we will hear lots of "hindsight is 20/20" messages, particularly related to coronavirus, from governments, businesses, agencies, churches, and service organizations. What if, instead, we look forward and try to get some clarity for the rest of 2020.

With renewed enthusiasm, work is underway to help build futures. We continue to help Habitat families improve their financial management skills and prepare them for homeownership. As always, our construction sites are operating with safety as the first priority. The ReStore team is keeping a vigorous cleaning schedule. Store donations are being handled differently for donor and staff protection. Members of the board of directors are ensuring commitment to our mission with quality programs and sound policy.

Habitat homebuyers are looking forward, and they continue making their investment of sweat equity. They ask questions about their future. "When will my home get started? How long will it take? It's costing you more to build it, so can I still afford it?"

Thanks to you, we have answers to those questions. Thank you for staying connected to us by donating, volunteering, and shopping in support of local families who are working hard to improve their self-reliance and to move forward.

For all of us, 2020 can be the year that we recommit ourselves to the vision of a world where everyone has a decent place to live.

Donna
Donna Vincent
Executive Director

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Current Home Builds

318 McCorkle St.

Florence has lived in Lynchburg for 50 years and has been a caregiver to others for 40 years! She's completed almost all of her sweat equity hours and can't wait to get started on her own house. The foundation is waiting for floor joists. Central Virginia Community College students built the walls for the home.

If you would like more information about how you can help, please call (434) 528-3774. We need volunteers and necessities like snacks, lunches, and bottled water.

Honoring Samuel Keith Ramsey 2417 Mosby Avenue

Schewels Home and John T. Blanks New York Life Insurance are the gold hammer sponsors of a house built in honor of Samuel Keith Ramsey. Sam is known locally as Keith Ramsey. He attended E.C. Glass High

The Eggleston Family

“I just want my kids to live in a safe environment.”



Laquena Eggleston is a mother of four children and she's been working hard to give them every opportunity for success. But as a single mother, it has been nearly impossible to afford a decent home. She has worked for J. Crew for over a decade and has increased her earnings, yet she still feels trapped in low-income housing. Her family has been living in a small three-bedroom apartment, unable to afford a better housing situation.

“Every time I make a little money, they raise the rent. It's kind of like you're just stuck.”

Laquena says, “Something has to change.” She cannot keep her family in that apartment any longer if she wants her kids to have the space and safety they need to be successful.

“There is just not enough space. These are pretty old apartments, and it is not what I want my family to be in... I want my kids to have their own bedroom, their own yard. There are a lot of kids over here who don't have much, so sometimes things go missing. I just want my kids to live in a safe environment,” Laquena said.

She looked into traditional mortgages, but she stressed over the big down payments that banks require. And, she knew she couldn't afford \$1500 mortgage payments. Then, Laquena applied to build and buy a Habitat house. She attended the Homeowner Orientation Class and hoped she would get the opportunity to give her kids a safe and affordable home. When they were selected in May of last year, she exclaimed “I was so happy! I was really happy! I remember calling my mom and my sister, and they were probably happier than I was.”

Since then, the whole family has been working hard to put in their 200 hours of sweat equity into the home. They will be the owners of the Samuel Keith Ramsey House, sponsored by Schewels Home and John T. Blanks New York Life Insurance. It is finishing up fast, and they will be moving in by the end of June. The Eggleston family is so excited! “Sitting on my porch and just watching my kids play. That is the biggest and most important thing I want to do, without having a bunch of chaos outside. I've been dreaming of it.”

Laquena knows Habitat for Humanity would not be able to help her family without volunteers and donors like you. She said, “I brag about the volunteers all the time! And I love them; they are the best people. And for the people who funded it, I think it's amazing that they could be doing anything in the world with their money, but they're helping build people's futures and giving people, like myself, a place to live.”

with John Blanks. He ended up in Asheboro, NC, where he helped start Randolph County Habitat for Humanity. “Sam is a founder. He knows everyone. He's like the mayor. He helps raise a lot of money so we can build houses,” says Wanda Pegg, the executive director. Blanks said he thought it would be really good to honor a Lynchburg native who was making a significant impact with Habitat families elsewhere. Ramsey's friends at Randolph Habitat plan to join him at the dedication ceremony at the end of June.

Wells Fargo gave \$5,000 to help cover additional costs for using contractors instead of our volunteer crew during the COVID-19 health crisis.



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Your Summer Newsletter!

To Our Volunteers

"I brag about the volunteers all the time! And I love them — they are the best people. " - *Laquena Eggleston*

We understand, appreciate, and value all that you do for Greater Lynchburg Habitat for Humanity and the families we serve together. Some of you have been with us for many years and some just a few months, and you ALL make our organization what it is — mission-oriented, family-focused. During the week of April 19-25, we participated in National Volunteer Appreciation Week. We planned to celebrate this with you, but with the COVID-19 pandemic, we had to find ways to thank you from a distance. We hope that you felt appreciated and continue to feel appreciated each time you come out to volunteer.

By the time you read this newsletter we will building homes with you again, we'll be evaluating and preparing goods for the ReStore, and reviewing policy to ensure sound operations and fiscal responsibility. Know that we are abiding by the recommendations of the health authorities. Our goal is to keep you meaningfully engaged as we put your health and safety as our top priority. Please continue to check our social media platforms or our website LynchburgHabitat.org/covid-19-response for updated information. We really missed you during the eight week shutdown. We are so happy to have you back! We truly are a Habitat family that comes together to build homes, communities, and hope.

Thank You for Your Support!

Only through the support of friends like you can we help families in Lynchburg! **Please help local families build and own safe and affordable homes!**

Yes. I would like to help provide safe and affordable housing for families like the Hubbards and Egglestons! Please use my gift of \$_____ to help build homes, communities, and hope!

Thank you for your support! Please make your check payable to Greater Lynchburg Habitat for Humanity and enclose it in the reply envelope. If you prefer to use a credit card, fill out the section below, or go to www.lynchburghabitat.org/donate.

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