

A Look Back on 2020 and A Look Ahead to 2021



The New Habitat Homeowners

Even with a global pandemic, three families were able to build and buy a Habitat home. This was only possible because of the support of our donors and the dedication and flexibility of our volunteers. These homes have brought the families stability, security, safety, healthy living conditions, and hope. Thank you to all who helped this year!



The Egglestons:

Laquena is the mother of four children. She works full time but could only afford a small apartment for herself and family. She just wanted her kids to live in a safe environment - her new Habitat home provides that. Laquena was always enthusiastic about building her own home as part of her sweat equity hours. Thanks to the sponsorship of Schewels Home and John T. Blanks New York Life Insurance and the hard work of our volunteers, we were able to build their home. Now, Laquena can sit on her porch and watch her kids play in their own yard.

The Coles:

Florence has been serving the sick and elderly in Lynchburg for 40 years as a caregiver. It was a dream of hers to own her own home, but never thought it was a possibility with her income. She was only able to rent a multi-story house with a leaky roof and bedrooms on the second floor, then a car accident made it difficult for her to climb stairs. After being selected as the next Habitat homeowner, she never missed an opportunity to work on her home or the homes of others. She was ever thankful to the anonymous donor who sponsored her one-story home and the volunteers who worked alongside her throughout the process.



The Tolers:

Adrienne is a mother of 2 young children, and she was stressed and depressed by their living conditions. They lived in a century-old home with major leaks in the roof and cracks in the foundation that lead to mold, mildew, and other health concerns. She worked full time but had little hope for bettering their situation. All of that changed when she was accepted to be the newest Habitat Homeowner. Thanks to the gifts of local church sponsors, the support of BWX Technologies during United Way of Central Virginia's Week of Caring, and our incredible volunteer crews, we were able to build their family a home that is safe and healthy.

Letter from the Executive Director



Executive Director

The wise Benjamin Franklin said, “*Out of adversity comes opportunity.*” And in 2020, the opportunities were everywhere! It was no surprise that you and other GLHFH friends stepped up in such a big way, volunteers, donors, and subcontractors alike. You were so generous that you enabled Habitat to stick to its building plan once our safety measures were in place.

It didn’t take long before we were able to bring homebuyers and volunteers back to build Habitat houses. Even with a smaller number of volunteers and some key staff transitions, we equipped three homebuyers for the purchase of their homes. The Family Services team coached three more families through their financial literacy classes and sweat equity hours. We readied the ReStore for receiving your donated household items and for re-opening the store using the CDC’s guidelines. Several large cash gifts came in for future houses. More

than a few times we heard the sentiment, “I’ve been blessed and I want to share it with others so that they feel blessed.” *Opportunities are everywhere.*

You’ll read about our construction manager, Chris Irvine, in this newsletter. In December he became ill with COVID. A month later, we experienced the tragic loss of our colleague. Out of this tragedy came opportunities for overwhelming kindness. We saw immense love and sympathy bestowed on his family, much of it from Chris’s Habitat friends. Words cannot express the impact of those gifts.

We paid homage to the memory of crew volunteer, Bob Graham, and for founder/crew leader, Lou Merricks. Both men, for as long as their health allowed, shared their blessings. *Opportunities are out there, all the time.*

Throughout 2020, the Habitat family celebrations, volunteer events, home dedications, and the deep sorrow, time didn’t stop – it marched on, and fast. COVID’s economic adversity wreaks havoc on local families and decent affordable housing remains a primary issue. So, in 2021, we push forward. We are looking at the present and into the future. Five families are excited to have their houses within reach. We have grant funds for the installation of roads and the utility infrastructure required to support eleven houses on land GLHFH owns at the end of Knott Street. Success in that project will transform the livelihood of eleven families. This will require support from donors, volunteers, and ReStore shoppers. On behalf of GLHFH, I thank you for seeing and responding to the opportunities that are all around.

New Major Project—Knott Street Development

We are excited to announce our development of eleven lots in the Fort Hill district at the end of Knott Street. These lots will promote stability and security for eleven families through homeownership. We are offering a hand-up, not a hand-out, to those suffering from stress and hopelessness caused by the lack of affordable housing.

Volunteers and donors will partner with us to rally around these families to help them build and own a home in which they can feel proud and secure. Families will put in hundreds of hours of sweat equity to construct their house from the ground up. Our program will also provide the resources, financial education, and skills they need to be successful homeowners.

We expect to have the roads and lots developed and ready for homebuilding this summer. Follow us on social media or sign up for our emails to stay up-to-date about this exciting new project. If you are interested in sponsoring one or more of these homes and having a lasting impact on a local family, please reach out to Josh Gaston, Resource Development Manager at (434) 528-3774 or jgaston@GLHFH.org.



Thank you to our 2020 Donors!

The good we do at GLHFH is only achieved because of the support of our donors and volunteers. They enable us to partner with local families to help them acquire the access, skills, and financial education needed to be successful homeowners. Every gift of money, time, or resources, no matter how large or small, is an investment in empowering families, transforming neighborhoods, and creating a lasting impact. We are incredibly grateful for all of these special supporters and are committed to the efficient, strategic stewardship of the gifts they have entrusted to us.

Individual Donors

\$50,000 - \$150,000

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Anonymous
Zeb and Janet Gray
Rachel Shenigo
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\$1,000 - \$9,999

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Paul Spinden
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You Impacted the Lives of Local Families!

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Peggy Berger
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Anonymous
Jeffrey and Karen Brown
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Elizabeth Brunson
Parker D. Campanella
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Mac and Sandy Duis
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Claire E. Hoffman
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Richard and Nancy Hundstad
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Anonymous
Joan Lewis-Yoder
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Katharine Maddox
Terry and Janice Martin
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Churches

\$1,000 - \$9,999

Bethany United Methodist Church
Christian Church Foundation
Grace Memorial Episcopal Church
Heritage United Methodist Church
Peakland United Methodist Church
Quaker Memorial Presbyterian Church
St. Thomas More Catholic Church

\$500 - \$999

Peakland Baptist Church
St. Andrew Presbyterian Church
St. John's Episcopal Church

\$50 - \$499

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Centenary United Methodist Church
Chestnut Hill UMC
First Unitarian Church of Lynchburg
Impact Church
Mount Plain Baptist Church
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Unity Christian Fellowship

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\$10,000 - \$24,999

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\$1,000 - \$9,999

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\$10,000 - \$24,999

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\$500 - \$999.99

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Organizations

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Presbytery of the Peaks

\$100- \$249

Forest Hill Ruritan Club

\$25- \$99

Ivy Hills Ladies Association

Tribute Gifts and Thank you to our 2020 Volunteers

Tribute Gifts

In Honor of Mrs. Frank C. Acree From Centenary United Methodist Church	In Honor of Jennifer McFaden From Betty Hileman
In Honor of Adrienne Toler From Impact Church From Julia Irene Newsome	In Honor of John Guenther From John Pruitt
In Honor of All of our Volunteers From Robert Bowden	In Honor of Julie and Peter Doyle From Kathleen Doyle
In Honor of Barbara Murrell From Bruce and Spas Christian	In Memory of Kathleen Mee From Ed and Charlene Shallock
In Honor of Bill Stuart From Constance W. Dahlberg From Fred Gallagher, Jr.	In Memory of Kathryn Lake Dasef From David Dasef
In Memory of Captain J. F. Wilson, Margaret Wilson Carrington From Jack Beggs	In Honor of Kathy and Ed Thomas From Joan Burnham Williams
In Memory of Carrie Ann Nelson From Stewart Husted	In Memory of Mark Domaleski From Arlene Domaleski
In Honor of Catherine P Tejnecky From Catherine Parrish	In Memory of Mary Jane Cameron From Ivy Hills Ladies Association
In Honor of Chuck & Kenna Doremus From Steve and Connie Crank	In Memory of Norman Hopper From Harold Brown From Sandra Tall
In Memory of Daniel J. Anglin From Rosemary Anglin	In Memory of Patsy S. Cundiff From Edgar Culverhouse
In Memory of Deacon Ted Patterson From Mount Plain Baptist Church	In Honor of Philip and Julia Baker From Patri Kegel
In Honor of Donna and staff From Barbara F. Johnson	In Memory of Richard C. Loyd Jr. From William Elmore From Clare Cole From Martha Ewing From Kelvin Fore
In Honor of Dr. and Mrs. Richard Zechini From Terry and Janice Martin	In Honor of Rick Edwards From Robert Seng
In Honor of Ed and Cherie Shallock From Sarah and Matt Shallock From James Shallock	In Memory of Robert "Bob" Skelding From Dr. Michael Okin From Robert and Kay Cole From Mary Adams Maddox
In Honor of Ed and Jane Parrish From Ronald and Sara Reed From Sally Southall	In Memory of Rudolph "Rudy" N. Poe From Judith Poe
In Memory of Eliza Evans From Robert and Katherine Opdycke From Andrew Price	In Honor of Tom Gerdy From William F. Overacre
In Honor of Frances Unruh, O. Murry Unruh From Kathryn and Steven Verber	In Memory of William M. Walthall, Sr. From Ramadhan Haruna Makullah
In Honor of Garry Viar From Eileen Habermas	
In Honor of Gordon Leggett and Madeline Miller From Alex and Carolyn Bell	
In Honor of Habitat and Restore Staff From Deborah Bowman	
In Honor of Irene Newsome From Deborah Bowman	
In Memory of James "Jim" Hileman From Betty Hileman	

Volunteers

Thank you to all of our volunteers! Without your help, none of this is possible. We appreciate everyone who served alongside of us to care for local families in need. Whether at the build sites, the ReStore, or offices; whether it was just for an hour or for hundreds of hours; you made a real difference in the lives of families this year!

Board of Directors

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Jen McFadden
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A Tribute to Our Friend and Colleague

Construction Crew Volunteers

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Tim Coleman
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ReStore Volunteers

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Ron Schwedt
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Other Special Volunteers

Brad Barth
David Embrey
Betty Franklin
Tom Gerdy
Bryant Haskins
Joey Monile
Larry Owen
Alison Pettit
John Vincent

Christopher Scott Irvine, Construction Manager

August 28, 1972—January 10, 2021

Tribute by Brett Witcher, Volunteer Manager



In July 2020, I had the privilege of meeting Chris Irvine. He was the new Construction Manager for Lynchburg Habitat and my new co-worker on the construction site. Little did I realize at the time, we would become good friends. I was able to meet his parents, his wife, and his precious daughter Margaux. In the time that Chris was with Habitat, he made an enormous impact, not only on me, but on the staff, volunteers, and homebuyers.

When he told me on December 12 that he was going on the ventilator, I knew this was going to be a fight for his life. I prayed. We all prayed. On the evening of January 10, I received the devastating news from his wife, Carlyle, that Chris had passed at 5:05 PM. I immediately was heartbroken, as I know you all were too. I knew Chris had finally found the dream job and loved being a father, husband, brother, son, and friend to everyone he encountered. As a believer, my faith in God never waivers; for I know He is making all things new and is in control. However, I questioned, why Chris? We all ask these questions in difficult and trying times.

Even with this question, I know Chris is with God and that his impact on this world is felt by countless people. Chris would want our memories and experiences with him to be carried on through our acts of love, compassion, and service. I've jokingly said that even though heaven is all about being in the presence of God, maybe Jesus would let us build one last home for old time's sake when we meet again. While that is human emotion speaking in jest, I do know that as we continue to build homes with families in need of safe and affordable housing, Chris's impact on all our lives will be carried on into each home.

Chris' last words to me were "I hope I see you again." In Christ, I know I will. This is the hope and peace that we can all have in difficult times. God came to earth to be like us for the salvation and renewal of the world. That is the faith Chris had and the faith we can all cling to. Finally, I leave you with these verses from 1 Corinthians 13:12-13, "For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I will know fully, as I am fully known. Now these three remain: faith, hope, and love—but the greatest of these is love."



Thank you, for helping us serve families in 2020!

Jersey Mike's Day of Giving — March 31st!



Jersey Mike's is building subs to build homes!

The Lynchburg Jersey Mike's locations have named Greater Lynchburg Habitat for Humanity as the recipient of their Month of Giving. Throughout March, they will be accepting donations at the counters of their Lynchburg locations on Wards Road and Old Forest Road. Then on **March 31, the Jersey Mike's Day of Giving, 100% of sales will be donated to GLHFH!** How awesome is that!

To top it off Jersey Mike's wants to show our supporters appreciation for the impact they are having in our community, so they will be giving out exclusive coupons and deals for us to distribute through social media and email during the Month of Giving. Follow us on social media or sign up for our email updates through our website, LynchburgHabitat.org, to get access to these promotions.

Thank you, Jersey Mike's—You are making a difference in our community and are a sub above!