



Habitat Families

Courtney and Quashon

Courtney and Quashon have four children, a 13-year-old son, a 12-year-old son, and twin daughters who are 6 years old. This family is working toward a better life. When Courtney and Quashon first married, they lived in government-assisted housing. But because that rent is based on income, as they bettered their lives and their income rose, so did their rent. It rose to \$800 for a small apartment with no washer and dryer. They moved to a new apartment complex, but after a year, rent jumped to over \$1000 per month, and the cycle of finding an affordable place to live started all over again.

Now they live in a cramped 3-bedroom apartment, with an air conditioning system that constantly needs repair because that is all they can afford. Quashon said, "The kids never get to play in the apartment because we have to be considerate of upstairs and downstairs neighbors. We always make them sit down and do quiet things." Courtney added, "It's actually in our lease that you can't play instruments, even though our sons are in orchestra and band."

They looked throughout Lynchburg for cheaper rent. They felt stuck because they couldn't afford a larger apartment or buy a home of their own, and do not qualify for government assistance.

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An Invitation to Volunteer

"If you know you're going home, the journey is never too hard" - Angela Wood

Home is a place that gives you unconditional love, comfort, and security; a place where you can face your sorrows, store your belongings, or welcome your friends. I am excited to be part of an organization where the goal is to bring people home. At Habitat, we partner with local families to build homes with them. We help them to secure a better future with a safe and healthy place to call home.

We need willing hearts and hands to build these homes. If you haven't yet volunteered with Habitat, we invite you to come be part of something truly special. It's a time when we come together with others to work toward a common goal, building a brighter future for our neighbors. You can know that you are tangibly changing the life of the individuals that will call that house a home.

We have many volunteer opportunities available. There is truly something for everyone. Don't let the idea of a construction site turn you away. We need gardeners, painters, organizers, meal providers, cleanup crew members and so much more.

Take a look at some of our current volunteer opportunities:

- Furniture workshops - We host furniture build days and build farm tables and entry tables to be sold at the habitat ReStore. The cool thing about this is all the material used to build the furniture is leftover from the home builds and the proceeds from the sales support the Homeownership program.
- Hospitality - We need folks with the gift of hospitality to provide lunches to the volunteers on building days.
- Construction – Volunteers serve on the construction site 8 am-3 pm every Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday.

Over the next year, we hope to build four more houses on Hillview Street, right across the street from the one we just completed. What an opportunity to impact our city in a powerful and caring way. Coming together to work on a Habitat house has a lasting impact. A way of putting things back into perspective. A way to share a true sense of camaraderie with others. I believe if we can rally the hearts and hands of the local community here in Lynchburg the community will in turn be richly blessed by this experience. What are you doing next Saturday? Give me a call and let's get you, your family, or your group scheduled.

I am looking forward to serving with you!



Serrine Sorrell, Volunteer Coordinator

Thinking about a group outing?

We have volunteer opportunities for all sorts of groups, like these:

- Work Groups - Employees, Managers, and even the Board
- Family Service Groups - even the kids can help our cause!
- Senior Groups - most of our regular volunteers are over 70
- Women's Groups - get the ladies together for a purpose
- Men's Group - put down the football and fishing rods and pick up a hammer for a Habitat family
- Veterans - serve the community
- Young Adults Group - partnering with a local family is fun!



Donate - Shop - Volunteer

Did you know that every purchase made at the ReStore of quality home furnishings and construction supplies goes directly toward supporting our homeownership program?

You can help local families by donating your new and gently used furniture, appliances, home accessories, or building materials.

You can donate at our store's donation center, or give us a call today to schedule a pick-up for extra-large items.

www.lynchburghabitat.org (434) 528-5155
360 Alleghany Avenue, Lynchburg, VA 24501



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Courtney and Quashon, like thousands of families in the Lynchburg area, were suffering from the stress, frustration, and hopelessness caused by their housing instability. Increasing housing costs, frequent moves, and the threat of eviction or foreclosure constantly disrupt and burden families who live at the higher end of the low-income limits set by the federal government. They are making too much money to qualify for government assistance but do not make enough to afford decent housing. Courtney said, "It's like we get forgotten, except for Habitat. That's probably the only program around that helps families like us."

Once Courtney and Quashon were accepted into Greater Lynchburg Habitat for Humanity's Homeownership Program the stress and worry were immediately relieved. "It changes everything knowing that we're done having to move apartments to find cheaper rent because our mortgage will stay the same!" Courtney said. "We're looking forward to peace, space, and letting our kids enjoy being kids," Quashon added with a smile.



Beatrice

You may remember Beatrice's story from the Fall Newsletter last year. She partnered with Habitat, not just because she has a need for safe and affordable housing, but because her aging mother does as well. Beatrice is 61 and her mother is 80. The walls are ready and their home will be the next one completed on Hillview Street. If you would like to read her full story, go to www.lynchburghabitat.org/newsletter

Thank you!

Giving to help fill the Gap

Another organization has stepped up to help fill the funding gap caused by the global pandemic. Our organization's building costs have increased by nearly 25%! Thanks to the [Easley Foundation](#) for helping address the increased building costs!

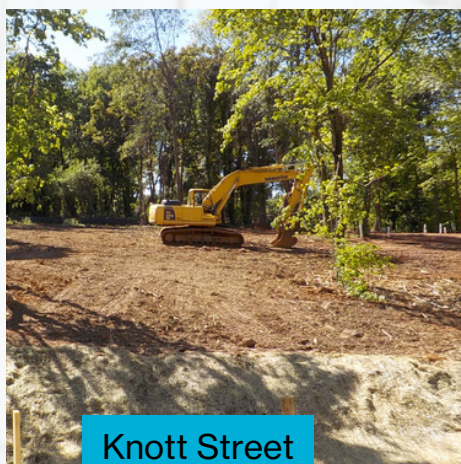
Helping the Ukrainian Refugees

We have all seen the terrible humanitarian crisis developing as a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Habitat for Humanity affiliates in the neighboring countries of Hungary, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia are supporting families who are on the move. They are providing refugees with emergency supplies such as food, water, and diapers while finding ways to provide shelter.

They have reached out to the U.S. Habitat affiliates and asked us for support. We passed along their appeal to our supporters. They responded in a big way! We are excited to report that [\\$20,000 was given to the Habitat Affiliates in Eastern Europe who are directly helping those displaced by the Russian invasion.](#)

Thank you!

Hillview St. and Knott St. Update



Knott Street



Knott Street



Hillview Street

The Knott Street Development is underway and the street will be complete this fall. Ten lots will be prepared for families to build their Habitat homes on them. It is very exciting to see the progress! We have cleared five more lots on Hillview Street as we prepare to build homes with families across the street from Renita's house.