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Habitat
for Humanity®
of Cherokee County

Home for the Holidays



Home for the holidays. For many, this phrase conjures up memories – sights, sounds, scents, and flavors. What are your favorite Christmas images? The scent of pine in the air, the flavor of Grandma's cooking, the sound of holiday tunes playing in the background or the laughter of family and friends? Could it be the thought of children's delightful faces as they see what Santa brought?

Or perhaps it's thinking of the true meaning of Christmas, Jesus' birth, and thanking God for all the blessings He's bestowed upon us all year long? No matter what, home is certainly something to be thankful for.

Home is more than a house or a place to stay. As the old saying goes, home is where the heart is.

Habitat for Humanity of Cherokee County strives to make this vision of owning a home a reality for all those in need, particularly, around the holidays.

Habitat homeowners become less stressed about finances, as their cost for housing drops from around 40% to 30%. They have renewed hope and see a brighter future.

They are better able to provide for their families, knowing that their new home is more than just a place of residence. It is a safe haven in which they can

dream and build memories they will treasure for a lifetime.

The smiles we see on Habitat homeowners' faces represent what is in their hearts, the comfort and joy of having not only shelter, but also sanctuary.

Thank you for supporting Habitat for Humanity of Cherokee County, so that we may continue to make the vision of owning a home a reality, at the holidays, and every day.

- Jonna Turner
President,
Habitat for
Humanity of
Cherokee
County



Rechelle and Patricia Davis and family pose before their new home in Hope Acres with Habitat staff and volunteers.

My Habitat— A Homeowner's Story

Our story started approximately 14 years ago. We lived in a local Apartment complex, where it was a struggle just to survive. We experienced all types of trials and tribulations to include drugs, fights, and death. We knew this was not the life we wanted for ourselves or our daughter.

We made the decision to move away from all the violence, which led us to a trailer park. The situation there wasn't much better – no violence, but the living conditions were extremely challenging.

(Story continued on pages 2-3)

**Fight Poverty
with PASSION**

*We make a
living by
what we get,
we make a
life by what
we give.*

*Sir Winston
Churchill*

AmeriCorps*VISTA



Habitat Cherokee Has a VISTA!

Short for Volunteers In Service To America, VISTAs serve non-profits that fight poverty throughout the nation by building capacity through fundraisers, technological innovations, grant writing, and many other activities.

This year, Habitat Cherokee has a VISTA serving right here in Cherokee County! Amy Garvey, a Spartanburg resident is thrilled to work with Habitat. "As a first-time homeowner since July of this year, I particularly appreciate the plight of those seeking safe and affordable housing," says Amy. "This is my second term as a VISTA, and I'm delighted to serve in an area with so much opportunity for growth and impact," she continues.

As reasonable housing is one of the greatest crises facing many Americans today, Habitat's mission to help overcome this systemic cause of poverty is not only heartwarming, it is necessary.

Here in Cherokee County, Habitat for Humanity has built nine homes in the past two years alone! Christa Smith, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of Cherokee County says, "Following the past two years of constant construction, now is the perfect time for a VISTA to come into our organization."

AmeriCorps*VISTA members perform their duties while making a poverty level wage so that they can experience the same barriers that affect the poor on a daily basis.

VISTA is a federally-funded program, and the return on investment is huge! Last year, AmeriCorps*VISTA members reaped nearly \$1 million in benefit for nonprofits in our community.

Spearheading the AmeriCorps*VISTA program in the Upstate of South Carolina is the United Way of the Piedmont, which serves Spartanburg, Cherokee, and Union counties. "AmeriCorps*VISTA is an amazing program," said President and CEO of United Way of the Piedmont, Chris Steed, "and the men and women who choose to give a year of their professional life to serve are amazing individuals."

VISTA member, Amy Garvey and Habitat Executive Director, Christa Smith pose outside the Habitat office



My Habitat Continued...

The trailer we moved into was extremely old and worn down. We had to put plastic bags up on the door, and aluminum foil up on the windows to keep the elements out. We never lost our faith in God, nor did we lose our faith in each other. Through the power of prayer, we knew God had a plan for us.

One evening while watching TV, we saw a commercial about Habitat for Humanity and the many blessings they were they were giving to thousands of families. We prayed and prayed, asking God for our blessing, but little did we know our blessing was right in front of us. We made the decision to apply for a Habitat for Humanity home while thanking God. We were in a situation that wasn't healthy and we needed a miracle.

World Habitat Day 2011



October 3, 2011 marked a very special occasion for Habitat for Humanity of Cherokee County - for the first time in our history, we held an event for World Habitat Day!

Thanks to generous donations by Fox Hollow Farms and Greer Nursery, volunteers from Limestone College's Wrestling Team were able to plant crepe myrtle trees in the yards of our Hope Acres homeowners.

Each homeowner received a crepe myrtle tree, which promises to provide beautification in their yard for many years to come. Thanks to all who donated and volunteered - this event was a tremendous success thanks to your efforts!

The United Nations has designated the first Monday of October every year as World Habitat Day.

The idea is to reflect on the state of our towns and cities and the basic right of all, to adequate shelter. It is also intended to remind the world of its collective responsibility for the future of the human habitat.



Limestone College Wrestlers Plant Trees in Hope Acres In Honor of World Habitat Day

My Habitat—Conclusion

We applied for the home and left the decision in God's hands, whether we were approved or not, we knew God had a blessing for us. Through the application process we met a lot of people who were an absolute blessing. With their hard work, dedication, and knowledge, we were able to get through the application process hassle free. Approximately 6 months later, we received the phone call we always prayed for.

Our prayers were finally answered; we called the family together and we all rejoiced and praised God. At our lowest moment, when we felt we were at the bottom, God came through with this miracle. "He may not come when you want Him, but He will be there right on time."

Our faith in GOD remains the same, but our living conditions have dramatically changed. We no longer have to worry about fighting out the cold or heat. Now we can spend more of our time focusing on things that are really important, such as each other and our love for God. This process has taught us a lot. There are people out there who really care, such as the Habitat for Humanity staff and their supporters.

- Rechelle and Patricia Davis





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Yes, I want to help a low income family
have a home for the holidays!

Enclosed is my gift of:

—\$25 —\$50 —\$100 other \$_____

With the holiday season in full swing, now is the perfect time to finalize your Christmas shopping. **For the person who has everything, consider making a donation to Habitat for Humanity of Cherokee County in their honor.** What better way to spread the blessings of Christmas to a loved one than with a tribute that will last a lifetime?

This year, we've made it easier than ever to donate!

Visit our new website at: www.habitatcherokee.org to make your donation right on line. No checks to write, no envelopes to mail. Fast, easy, and secure, our new donations portal provides you with an effortless opportunity to provide for a family in need.

Let's help a low income family have their very own "Home for the Holidays". May God bless you and your family this holiday season, and throughout the year!

Donations may also be made by check payable to
Habitat for Humanity of Cherokee County and mailed to:

Habitat for Humanity of Cherokee County
PO Box 51
Gaffney, SC 29342

Thank you for your support!!!

