



Holiday Greetings from Holston Habitat

Thirteen local Habitat families will celebrate this Christmas in safe, decent, affordable homes made possible by your faithful support of the Holston Habitat for Humanity ministry. Thank you for the many hours of volunteer labor you contributed on our worksites, in the office and Resale Store and as affiliate committee members. Thank you for your generous financial contributions and Gift-In-Kind donations. Since 1985 you have helped provide shelter for 222 Habitat families in our region and another 220 families overseas who live in Habitat homes financed by our tithe of your contributions. With sincere gratitude for all you do to support our work, the Board of Directors, staff and partner families of Holston Habitat for Humanity wish you and yours a joyous holiday season and a blessed new year.

Heartfelt thanks to the covenant/community partners which supported our 2011 projects with labor and funds:

Blackburn, Childers & Steagall, PPC; Citi of Gray; Central Presbyterian Church; State Street United Methodist Church; Bristol TN School System; Bristol VA School System; United Company; Alpha Foundation; Eastman Chemical Company; Colonial Heights Presbyterian Church; ETSU; Bob and Barbara Payne; Habitat Resale Store; Kingsport Regulars; Kingsport Community Build Volunteers; Bristol Community Build Volunteers; Jonesborough Community Build Volunteers; Johnson City B Team

For a complete list of Gift-In-Kind donors, please visit our website at www.holstonhabitat.org.

Meet Our New Homeowners



The Nganga Family - Isaac and Ann Nganga came from a very poor area in Kenya where there is a lack of clean drinking water. Their small apartment had dirt floors, no electricity or running water. When they won the opportunity to immigrate to the U.S. through a national

lottery, they were in search of the *American Dream*.

In 2009 Isaac and Ann moved to an apartment in Kingsport that had broken windows, insufficient heat and plumbing problems. When they discovered that they were expecting a baby boy, Isaac and Ann realized that the apartment was not suitable for raising a child.

Isaac learned about Holston Habitat when he volunteered on a Habitat worksite with a local church group. Isaac and Ann later applied for a home of their own.

The family was approved for partnership just days after their son Lewis was born. Their recycled home at 430 Wilma Street in Kingsport (originally built in 2005) was dedicated on August 28 and the family moved in just in time for Lewis' first birthday. The Nganga family has enjoyed every minute of life in their home and are extremely grateful to the Kingsport Regulars and volunteers who helped make their *American Dream* a reality. "Everyone has been so generous with their time and willing to lend a hand," says Isaac.

The Otey Family - Charles and Elizabeth Otey decided that public housing was not for them, so they applied to Holston Habitat for Humanity. However, the Otey family had no idea just how much hard work they would have to invest in the process. 500 sweat equity

hours is a lot and according to Elizabeth, "You work your butts off, but every day is worth it, especially when they hand you that set of keys for the first time." The family's house was built as part of a two-house, two-state project sponsored by Central Presbyterian Church, the Bristol TN school system and other community partners. Their home was dedicated on October 23.

"You are given a key with the freedom to do whatever you choose," says Elizabeth. The Otey family has been busy painting and turning their new house (located at 1217 Florida Avenue, Bristol, TN) into a home since moving in. However, the most exciting part of homeownership for Elizabeth is finally being able to unpack her boxes of Thanksgiving and Christmas decorations, which she never had space for in their former apartment.

The Otey family is thankful for the Habitat experience and feel it is a wonderful opportunity for families who aren't afraid of a little hard work.



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The Woodlief Family - When Rosemary Woodlief realized that divorce from her husband was inevitable she knew that her dream of owning a home was also in danger. She was living in a dysfunctional environment and on the verge of being homeless.

Rosemary spent many nights praying and asking God to guide her. And he did!

Rosemary was accepted into the Holston Habitat program in March 2010. After more than a year of hard work Rosemary was matched for a house build at 415 W. Mary Street in Bristol, VA. Her home was dedicated on October 23 as part of a two-house, two-state project sponsored by Central Presbyterian Church, the Bristol VA school system and other community partners.

Rosemary recently moved into her new home with her two children and looking back as a single working mother says, "It was hard work but it was all worth it."

The Woodlief family is eagerly awaiting their first holiday season in their new home and would like to thank the volunteers who helped provide an answer to their prayers.

The Gilliam Family - Leon and Janice Gilliam suddenly found themselves living in an overcrowded apartment when they were left to care for their three grandchildren after their daughter passed away. Leon describes the family's life as being full of both happy and sad moments. They worried about how they would care for their grandchildren, especially the youngest who was born with less than 75% brain function and almost no chance of survival.



Life has changed quite a bit for the Gilliam family since they were approved for the Holston Habitat program and Eastman Chemical Company and Colonial Heights Presbyterian Church partnered to sponsor their house at 1642 Spruce Street in Kingsport. The family has a new outlook on life and believes that their home was a gift and blessing provided by their daughter. "God works in mysterious ways," says Leon. The family's home was dedicated on November 6 and they have since moved in and celebrated their first Thanksgiving as homeowners. This year they certainly had a lot to be thankful for!



The Perez Family - Sonia Perez was in the midst of a housing dilemma and knew about numerous housing programs offered in the area. However, she wanted something different and that is when a friend told her about Holston Habitat for

Humanity. The idea of owning a home was a new one for Sonia since she grew up poor and had only lived in apartments.

When Sonia was told she would have the opportunity to

partner with Habitat she felt a mixture of joy and disbelief, asking "I can actually be a homeowner?" Sonia is certain this is the best thing to ever happen to her family and believes God sent her this home.

Since beginning her partnership with Habitat Sonia feels inspired, saying "Even though I'm 45 and my life is half way over, I feel like it is just beginning." Sonia enjoyed the community building experience and is grateful for the opportunity to work with the Kingsport Regulars to help build her house with her own two hands.

Sonia's home at 1648 G Street in Kingsport was dedicated on November 12. During the ceremony, surrounded by family and friends, she expressed her appreciation for the volunteers and the pride that they put into building her home.

The Hall Family - Timmy and Sandy Hall were living in a 1920's house with electrical, heating and other problems when they heard about Holston Habitat for Humanity. After they were approved, the Halls participated in the program for over two years



before being matched with the Jonesborough Community Build group to build their new home. When construction on their house at 115 Ridge Court in Jonesborough began this fall the family was thrilled.

Timmy had experience working with troubled youth as a site supervisor in a similar building program in the past. He was later disabled and the Habitat program allowed him the opportunity to interact with builders and volunteers on a worksite again. Timmy has enjoyed working on his house so much that he plans to continue volunteering on Habitat worksites in the future.

Since the beginning of their partnership with Habitat, life for the Hall family has been great. Their home was dedicated on December 3 and the family was very excited to finally have a home of their own. The children are eagerly counting down to their first Christmas in their new home.

Sandy and Timmy would like to thank the volunteers, builders, and Habitat staff who have made ownership of their first home possible.



The Presnell Family - Selienna Presnell was looking to change her life and had no idea that a newspaper ad for Holston Habitat for Humanity would be the answer. She had tried purchasing a home in the past, but had lost it as the result of a

divorce. Selienna found herself living in a trailer with a landlord who was very slow to make any repairs to the property. She wanted more for herself and for her two grandchildren.

Selienna believes that when she was given the opportunity to partner with Habitat, her life changed. She feels that life is now more fulfilling and says, "The experience has renewed my faith in people." For Selienna, the partnership with Habitat has

been more than just building a house. It has opened up avenues to work within the community and to interact with other homeowners and volunteers.

Selienna is looking forward to more stability, fewer worries, and the independence that owning a home will offer her family. Her grandchildren are looking forward to having a Christmas tree and celebrating the holidays in their new home. The dedication of the Presnell family's home is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. on December 14 at 1403 E. Holston Avenue in Johnson City.

The Presnell family appreciates the hard work that the Johnson City B Team and ETSU volunteers put into their house project, but for Seilenna, "Thank you is just not enough."

Fall Yard Award Winner

Congratulations to the Birchfield family - 144 Jack Bradley Rd., Elizabethton - for the hard work they have put into making their yard stand out in their community. As winners, the family received a \$25 Lowe's gift certificate.



If you would like to nominate a house for the Winter Yard Award, please contact the Habitat office at 423-239-7689.

HHfH Acquires Property for ReStore/Warehouse Operation



After more than a year of searching, Holston Habitat has purchased a property in downtown Kingsport which will become the new home for our Habitat Resale Store and storage warehouse. One building on the property is being renovated by Habitat volunteers to house our Resale Store operation. The new store at 750 E. Main Street will be nearly three times as large as our current facility and will be known as the Habitat for Humanity ReStore, joining over 750 Habitat ReStores across the country. Our current Habitat Resale Store will remain open at 301 E. Sullivan Street until the ReStore opens next spring.

A second building on the property will become our materials warehouse. This generous space at 113 Unicoi Street will allow us to buy building materials in bulk and manage inventory more effectively. Three smaller buildings on the property will house affiliate trailers and equipment. "This property is an important investment in the future of our affiliate," said Laura Swanson, Executive Director. "Greater sales revenue from the larger store and cost savings from bulk purchases of building materials will enable us to serve more families in need of simple, decent, affordable housing."

Look for our ReStore Grand Opening announcement this spring and start cleaning out your attics and closets. We need your donations of household items and building materials to fill the new store with merchandise.

In the month of October, Habitat for Humanity built its 500,000th house.



2012 Affiliate Goals: With your prayers and support, Holston Habitat for Humanity will pursue the following goals in the coming year:

1. Provide housing for 10 families
2. Acquire building lots in Elizabethton, Jonesborough, Johnson City and Bristol, VA.
3. Formalize a long term, five-year strategic business plan for the affiliate.
4. Renovate new ReStore facility and transition current Resale Store to the Restore model. Increase ReStore proceeds by 25%.
5. Develop 3 new covenant/community partnerships to fund Habitat homes.
6. Increase public awareness of the Holston Habitat ministry.

Holiday Wish List

Box Truck with lift

2 Fire-Proof File Cabinets with locks

Forklift

Paper Folder capable of folding 11x17 paper

Laptop computer

New Network Server

Give a Family a Home for Christmas

Your gifts to Holston Habitat in honor of family and friends can help provide a Habitat house for a local family. Gifts in any amount are welcome. Christmas cards will be sent to inform recipients of your gifts.

\$5 will buy a piece of siding

\$10 will buy a hammer

\$20 will buy a 50-lb. box of nails

\$50 will buy a kitchen faucet

\$100 will buy a commode

\$250 will buy a window

\$500 will buy a room of flooring

\$1,000 will buy shingles for a roof

2011 Staff & Board of Directors

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Laura Swanson.....Executive Director
Tommy Phillips.....Construction
Alanna Leonberg.....Family Services
Terry Davy.....Accounts
Mandy Hood.....Office

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Bill Lamie.....Director
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SAVE A TREE!! Please join us in our efforts to reduce costs and paper use by receiving an electronic version of the Holston Habitat newsletter. Send a note to Mandy Hood at info@holstonhabitat.org or call the office at (423) 239-7689 to sign up!



**The Habitat office will be closed
Monday, December 26
through Friday, December 30.**

**The Habitat ReStore will be closed
Saturday, December 24 through
Monday, January 2.**



Money Smart Workshop Series

Holston Habitat for Humanity is partnering with Bank of America to offer **FREE** financial literacy workshops throughout the coming year! FDIC's Money Smart Curriculum is designed to help families build financial knowledge, security, and confidence!

Join us for *Bank On It—An Introduction To Banking Services*

- Date - Saturday, January 14th, 2012
- Time - 2:00 pm
- Location - Habitat for Humanity Office

Families interested in attending **MUST PRE-REGISTER** by calling the Habitat Office at (423) 239-7689. The deadline for pre-registration is Friday, January 6th. Sweat equity will be offered to families in attendance!



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Kingsport, TN
Permit No. 97

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