

HABITAT HAPPENINGS



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The advantages of being a Habitat volunteer

Thanks to your support, thousands of families are spending fall, and soon winter, in a Habitat for Humanity home for the first time. Like you, they will spend cozy evenings in secure, decent housing with their loved ones.

With busy lives at home, work and church, it can be difficult to find time enough to go around; especially for volunteering. That said, ask any Habitat volunteer about the *benefits* of serving and they'll tell you there are enormous gifts for you, your family, and your community. Reaching out to our community has allowed our Habitat family of volunteers to share desperately needed skills with those in need, learn new skills and make privileged friendships with the families we serve and our fellow volunteers. Volunteering is a privilege which enhances and protects mental and physical health. So invite your neighbors and friends to volunteer!



Third time's a charm!

After applying three times, Brandi Shelton and her five children are thrilled to be chosen for house #15. Located on the Southeast corner of Bell Avenue and Elizabeth Street in Jasper, the Shelton family can hardly contain their excitement about moving in. Mom Brandi is proudest that her home was designed and built for her family's specific needs and feels very blessed that she and her children will have the room they will need.

Message from the President

Wow, what an exciting time to be a Pickens County "Habitater!" The Shelton's new home (#15) is finished, Darryl Evans and his two small children have been selected as our 16th Partner Family, AND, the BIG NEWS: we now own the land for our first Habitat NEIGHBORHOOD!

For over 11 years, we have built houses "one-by-one." Earlier this year, the Board approved the purchase of an 8-acre tract of land that will be our first Habitat neighborhood! We're now working aggressively to plan the roads and other infrastructure to comply with all county requirements.

Early in 2014, we'll break ground on the first of seven new homes on this tract off Lance Road. YOU, our loyal volunteers and supporters have made this all possible. YOU are Habitat for Humanity – Pickens County. YOU are working to eliminate poverty housing!

On a personal note, it's with mixed emotions that I'll be "retiring" as HFH-PC President at the end of 2013. It's been a great ride ... on the "shoulders of giants" that preceded me ... but your new President and Board who will be installed in January are poised to accomplish even bigger and better things in the coming years. So, stay tuned. Keep up your commitment to providing simple, descent, affordable housing to everyone in Pickens County. And let's see how many lives we can change! Sound exciting? It does to me. I look forward to seeing you at a volunteer workday very soon!

Keith Scott, President, HFH-PC



Brandi Shelton and family's New Home - #15

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Holding the check for \$10,000 are (L-R): Amicalola EMC CEO Charles Gibson, AEMC Board member James Bryan, Habitat home recipient Darryl Evans, Habitat Board President Keith Scott and Vice President Steve Greenwell.

Amicalola EMC donates \$10,000

The Amicalola Electric Membership Corporation (AEMC) of Jasper donated \$10,000 to Habitat for Humanity-Pickens County in a brief ceremony September 17 at the AEMC offices in Jasper.

Habitat Board President Keith Scott accepted the check from AEMC board member James Bryan and thanked the AEMC for its donation. *"I have never lived in an area where so many people are so willing to help others,"* Scott said.

AEMC CEO Charles Gibson explained that because of a change in Georgia's unclaimed property laws three years ago, AEMC is now allowed to distribute unclaimed funds in communities served by the cooperative for education, economic development, and certain 501(c) 3 charities. In 2013, just over \$270,000 is being distributed under this program.

Darryl Evans, the next recipient of a Habitat house was on hand for the check presentation. He shared that he and his kids live in the same house where Evans grew up sleeping on the couch because there were not enough bedrooms. He said his son now sleeps on the couch.

"As a family who will benefit from your help, words cannot explain how much this means for our family and for my kids," Evans said.

Habitat for Humanity-Pickens County is part of a global, nonprofit housing organization operated on Christian principles that seeks to put God's love into action by building homes, communities and hope.

Lance Road Property Re-zoning Approved for 2014 Build

Habitat's newest and most exciting venture, has been the purchase of eight acres on Lance Road ... this done with money donated by loyal supporters—just another Godsend for Habitat Pickens County.

The Lance Road land has already been re-zoned and will provide seven (7) new home sites for future Habitat Partner families.

The first of the seven (7) homes, #16, will be the home of Darryl Evans and his two daughters. It is slated to be ready for construction in the Spring of 2014.

According to Habitat Board Vice President Steve Greenwell, a surveyor has been hired and soil testing is underway. Preliminary driveway and property lines as well as county set backs are needed to establish a street.

Featured volunteer for this issue is GARY HOGELIN ...



...for his tireless construction work on our habitat homes. Gary, thanks for your dedication and superb work ethic—a great example for all our volunteers. You've worked tirelessly, rain or shine, so that

others may have what most of us take for granted: a safe and comfortable home. God Bless You! We couldn't do it without you!

In addition, new homeowners receive training to help them prepare for home ownership.

Habitat for Humanity has been part of Pickens County for 11 years. More information about Habitat, its ministry, volunteer opportunities or how to make a donation can be found at www.pickenshfh.org or 706-253-2393.