



**Amie Fraley**  
Executive Director

## Message From the Director

**Thank You**  
**to the more than 70 guests**  
**who joined us for the**  
**2017 Habitat Business Build Breakfast**  
**held at CCNC last week!**

A stirring speech from Pat Corso about the economic development impact of Habitat reminded us of the great work Habitat has accomplished. Caroline Hendricks, Vice President of Home and Community Based Services at St. Joseph of the Pines, added to Pat's words with her experience in sponsoring an entire build with Habitat this year. We wrapped up the morning with a personal testimony from Rusty and Kathy Disney, long time homeowners and volunteers with Habitat.

**Did you know that over the past 5 years, Habitat has built 44 homes for a total direct investment in housing of over \$3.2 million?** In today's dollars, this means our total impact since beginning in 1988 is over \$18 million in local home construction. In those same 5 years, community volunteers have contributed nearly 114,000 hours toward Habitat's mission. They enabled Habitat to save over \$680,000 in labor costs last year, alone.

Habitat homeowners, themselves, invest in our local economy. Last year, our homeowners paid over \$140,000 in property taxes, and it's estimated that new homeowners have spent over \$113,000 in move-in spending to outfit their Habitat homes over the past 5 years.

These are impressive numbers, and evidence that a partnership with Habitat for Humanity does great things for our local economy in addition to our local families. We can do more, but we need your support – our goal is to raise \$70,000 to purchase the materials for the Business Build. We have collected \$10,000 so far, which is a great start to the fall. We are asking each business to partner with us throughout the fall and winter with a fundraising event to financially support the build. In March, we will gather up the funds to begin building our new home in West Southern Pines.

If you know a local employer who would like to join us on this build, please ask them to contact us.

Sponsorships begin at \$100, and unique benefits await businesses at each funding level. We look

forward to a build schedule that includes special theme build days including a CEO Build Day, HR Build Day, and Women Build Days.

Please Contact Amie Fraley at  
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for more information

## Grandinetti

### Recognized as September Volunteer of the Month



ReStore volunteer **Fran Grandinetti**, right, reacts with surprise and pleasure after being named Habitat's **September Volunteer of the Month**. At left, Moore County ReStore manager Dondi Jones share a laugh with Grandinetti.

A former public school administrator and university professor has been named Habitat's Volunteer of the Month for September.

Fran Grandinetti of Aberdeen, formerly of Pennsylvania, spent 35 years as an educator both as a public school superintendent and on the faculty of Gannon University in Erie, Pa. That background, he said, helped influence his decision to become a Habitat volunteer, where he works in the Moore County ReStore.

"I come from a long family tradition of service," he said. "It is very important, both in my family and that of my wife, Carolyn, to give back."

Grandinetti said that being recognized as volunteer of the month was "an undeserved honor."

"There are so many people here doing great things," he said. "The people who work here, volunteers and staff, are so nice to be with."

"It is a real treat as a cashier to be able to meet people, and my partner at the cash register, Alona Sloan, always makes my day. She trained

me, and to tell the truth, she's still training me. It's all a lot of fun.”

In addition to manning the cash register, Grandinetti prices items for sale, handles all things floral, and more.

“I do whatever is put before me,” he said.

Grandinetti and his wife have lived in Moore County for four years. He began his work at Habitat in 2015.

## **Business Build Kickoff Breakfast Brings Capacity Crowd**



An event designed to launch a new Habitat initiative was met with “great success” when area business leaders met over breakfast to discuss ways that they could take part.

More than 70 business owners and others attended Habitat’s Business Build Kickoff Breakfast, held Sept. 22 at the Country Club of North Carolina.

Those in attendance heard speakers Pat Corso of Moore County Partners in Progress, Caroline Hendricks of St. Joseph of the Pines, and Habitat homeowners Kathy and Rusty Disney.

Corso said the event showed the generosity of Moore County residents. “With 600 nonprofits in the county, and all vying for dollars, some like Habitat stand out as particularly beneficial for Moore County residents,” Corso said.

**“When I think of Habitat handing over the keys to a new home, I am reminded of George Bailey, the character played by James Stewart from the movie, ‘It’s a Wonderful Life.’**

**“Were it not for Habitat, there would be no one to help in that way. This is especially true these days, with all the disparity in the world.”**

Corso said that for a business, to engage with Habitat creates an “emotional ownership” that goes beyond the physical.

“If a business can touch families and children by helping others through Habitat, then you have created a heartfelt bond that goes beyond what that business offers,” he said. “The terrific concept of the Business Build is a great way to make this a success.”

**Habitat for Humanity of the NC Sandhills also extends a special thank you to the CCNC staff for making the event “even more” special.**



## Homeowner Highlight: Shelia Williams



**Williams, left, will share her new Habitat home with her 16-year old granddaughter, Kaisa.**

Habitat Homeowner-In-Progress Shelia Williams recently expressed her gratitude to have been given the opportunity to own her own home after qualifying through the nonprofit agency.

“It is love that does this,” Williams said to describe the Habitat mission. “I am so thankful to Habitat for helping me to get where I am today, and I am honored to be a part of the Habitat family.

“I am here to tell everyone that God is sweeter today than the day before. I am a living witness that God will give it back.”

Williams, who attends Long Leaf AME Zion Church in Robbins and is in her second year of study to become a minister, said Habitat personnel “did everything they said they would do.”

“I’m a grandmother, and I never thought I would have the opportunity to become a homeowner again at this age,” she said.

**Williams said the Habitat experience has changed her outlook on life.**

“I don’t smile too much but I am now getting to where I do,” she said. “At Habitat, I see people coming together and doing what they say they will do. This has proven to me that people really do have a heart.”



The Habitat experience, Williams said, is something she would readily recommend to others.

“Habitat teaches you that preparation and planning are everything,” she said. “Getting prepared financially, taking classes, it’s a process that involves getting educated. The Bible says you will perish without knowledge, and Habitat helps you to get the knowledge that you can prepare in every area of life.”

Williams said she looked forward to becoming a Habitat ambassador.

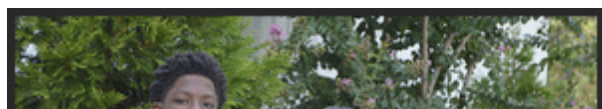
“I am going to tell everyone about what Habitat can do,” she said. “You guys make things happen, and I won’t let you down.”

## United Way Day of Caring Brings Volunteer Boost to Habitat



Some of the 150 volunteers who gave of their time and talents across Richmond County on September 15th. They chose Habitat as their location to give, either in our Rockingham ReStore or on our construction site in Hamlet. The event brought 25 volunteers to work at the ReStore, with 23 volunteering at the house on Oakland Avenue.

**The annual event celebrated United Way’s 50<sup>th</sup> year of giving service to the county. Habitat thanks the United Way and these volunteers for their contributions!!**



# Homeowner Highlight: Nujanya Hill

**Nujanya Hill, right, will share her home with (L-R) son Niquwan Hill, 14, Nicholas Brown, and their daughter Nikhaiya Brown, 11 months.**



A recent Habitat Homeowner-In-Progress has found “pride and security” in her new home to be.

“I’m just waiting to get started on our new house,” said Moore County native Nujanya Hill, whose home will be financed next year by the Business Build.

“I’ve been taking classes on finances, home maintenance and other subjects, and it’s all been a good experience. Getting approved and learning what I need to know to qualify as a homeowner has been well worth the wait.”

Hill applied with Habitat in March 2014, and was approved three months later. She learned about Habitat through her work at First Health, where she serves as a cafeteria cashier and in preparation. She said she works with several colleagues who are in the process of getting Habitat homes.

“I’ve been in my apartment for 11 years now, and I have seen it become more and more busy with increasing traffic, lots of people moving in, loud music and more,” she said. ‘I wanted something better for my children, so I turned to Habitat.”

Hill said the experience has been “extremely positive.”

I’m learning a lot, and it’s been a great opportunity for me to be able to do this,” she said. “Habitat has helped me get my credit fixed, and I’ve learned a lot about finances and home maintenance through their classes.

Nujanya plans to attend a groundbreaking ceremony for her new home on March 23rd.

“I plan to be there, because I want to make sure they don’t take out too many of the trees on the property,” she said. “I have a lot of pride in this home.”

Hill said her pride extends to telling “lots of people” about her positive Habitat experience.

"I talk to people all the time, and I've told my family members about Habitat as well," she said. "It's been a great opportunity."

Located on South Hardin Street in Southern Pines, Hill's home will be a two-story, three bedroom structure.

"I am the first person to become a homeowner in my family, ever," she said. "I can't tell you how much that means to me to have a place, my place, that I can call home.

"And when I die, I can pass this home on to my children. All of this means more than I can say."

Nujanya and her significant other, Nicholas Brown of First Health, will share their home with their daughter Nikhaiya Brown, 11 months, and Nujanya's son Niquwan Hill, 14.



## Habitat Draws Helpers in Drove in Hamlet

Melonie McLaurin  
Richmond County Daily Journal

Volunteer Joshua Sullivan mans the saw on "walls up" day at the latest Habitat for Humanity build site near Mary Love Cemetery in Hamlet on Saturday.

The new Habitat for Humanity of the N.C. Sandhills build surpassed expectations in the number of volunteers who came out on "walls up" day, according to volunteer coordinator Rosemary Weber.

"We ended up with a lot of people today" Weber said Saturday. "We had the Hamlet Fire Department here earlier and First Presbyterian of Hamlet came out, a lot of independents, like the Sullivans. They called and said they just wanted to come out, and it's a good group."

"I looked up their information online and I contacted the office," said Joshua Sullivan. "I was looking for volunteer hours. I have a background in construction — for my bachelors degree I got construction management and I'm in the (U.S.) Army, not really using my degree, but I still like to do things with my hands."

Construction Manager Thom Mann said that by Friday, there were only three volunteers signed up to work at the site.

"We had 24 out here at one time this morning" he said. "We thought yesterday that we might get a

“We had 24 out here at one time this morning,” he said. “We thought yesterday that we might get a wall up today, but now expect to have all the exterior walls in.”

“And we’re looking to recruit some groups to come out,” Weber added. “Police departments, fire departments, local businesses. That’s what really helps us get the job done, having groups like that.”

Mann said that after the exterior walls go up, the interior walls will be the next step in the building process.

“After all the walls are up, then we’ll start putting sheathing around the house and then we’ll call for a crane and we’ll set the trusses,” he said. “After all that’s done, we’ll get a roof put on, we’ll get the windows and doors in, and then the house will be what’s called ‘dried-in.’ Ideally we’d like to have that done five or six weeks from now.”

James White, who will be the owner of the new home, worked alongside the volunteers to help build a better future for himself, his grandson, Jasiah Smith and brother, Mike.

“It’s just amazing, it really is, to see all these volunteers come out here — kind of brought tears to my eyes this morning,” White said. “I pray that they keep coming out, because like I say, we weren’t really looking for that many people, but then we had I think 25 at one time. Evidently there’s a lot of people that know me and they want to help, and I really appreciate their help.”

He said Hamlet Fire Chief Calvin White — his cousin — had come out with other members of Hamlet Fire and Rescue earlier in the day.

“And they worked,” he said. “They didn’t come over here and play. They worked. And as long as we keep getting stuff like that, it won’t take long before this place comes to fruition. There wasn’t any of this stuff here this morning. Nothing but the concrete.”

By early afternoon, the volunteers had raised walls on two and a half sides of the house and some of the interior walls were being framed in.

“If we keep going like this, it won’t take long,” Mann said. “But we can’t do it without the volunteers and we are still looking for people who want to get involved.”



## Habitat Needs Volunteers

**Habitat for Humanity of the NC Sandhills**

**is currently seeking volunteers in the following areas:**





- **Repairs:**

Not only does Habitat build homes and need volunteers on the job site, but we also do repairs for qualified homeowners – Repairs are needed because of the age of the home, element damage or needs of a handicapped homeowner such as a ramp, etc. possibly.

- **On Site Construction Crews:**

We work Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. – snacks and lunch are provided

- **Group Builds:**

If you know of an organization that would like to come out as a team for the day and do a group build event, please let us know. These group builds are a lot of fun and when you leave the site you have a tremendous feeling of accomplishment for giving to a deserving family.

- **Restore:**

We can always use help in the Restore, at the register, in the warehouse, pricing and getting items ready to go on the floor. Restore shift hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 1 until 5 p.m.

- **Receptionist:**

We can always use subs to cover for our volunteer receptionist, answering the phone, greeting guests, making copies, and folding brochures.

- **Sparkle Crew:**

Prior to homes being dedicated we need a group of volunteers along with the homeowner, to help make the house sparkling clean. After the construction is done, there is always stickers on the windows and bath tubs, saw dust in the cabinets, etc. all of which needs to be cleaned before the home dedication.

- **Landscape Team:**

Volunteers needed to plant shrubs, flowers at the new home sites prior to dedication day. Plants, shrubs, mulch, etc. will all be delivered on site and ready for planting, but we need all those volunteers with “Green Thumbs” to help us beautify the property. Habitat for Humanity builds innovative and affordable homes for hardworking families in the Sandhills.

- **Homeownership:**

Our homeowners have household incomes between 30%-60% of the county’s median income (eg. \$19,200-\$38,400 for a family of 4). Our goal is to provide a “hand up, not a handout.” We are proud to have partnered with over 30 FirstHealth employees in our 27 years of service to the community. To learn more about homeownership opportunities with Habitat, visit [sandhillshabitat.org](http://sandhillshabitat.org) or contact us at 910-295-1934.

**Please keep these volunteer needs in mind when you are at your next meeting, at church or at a social gathering. If there are any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Only through the efforts and support of our volunteers are we able to accomplish our mission for deserving families and the community.**

**Thank you ,  
Rosemary Weber  
Habitat for Humanity of the Sandhills  
Volunteer Coordinator  
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<http://www.sandhillshabitat.org>

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