



NEWSLINK

We build affordable homes on the foundation of Christian love, where families are provided a secure environment and together a community is established.

We have a new family coming to Tryon!



Do you remember the burnt out property that Habitat bought? The site clean-up was recently completed and a new home is being built for the Nesbitt Family. The Nesbitt family of three, are the prospective homeowners for this Habitat Home. Vanessa is a single grandmother to her two grandsons, Dallas & Kohen. They are currently living in a home that needs several repairs. The home has a substantial amount of water damage throughout the house, lights are hanging from the ceiling by wire, and parts of the roof are covered with tarp.

Vanessa has known about Habitat since it started and has been in Polk county for sixty-two years. Her grandsons keep her on her toes. She has done everything in her power to make sure they are happy, loved, warm, comfortable, and safe.

Once she completes the Habitat program and purchases this home, Vanessa will have no more worrying about whether it is warm, comfortable, or unsafe for her grandsons.



Make sure you take the time to meet Doug Bailey, our Site Supervisor for the Thermal Belt area since 2017. He originally joined Habitat for Humanity in 2010 and has worked on many of the large projects in Henderson County and the Thermal Belt area. Doug has a long history of working in construction, starting at the age of 15, and we are blessed to have his talent and knowledge here at Habitat. In his spare time, he enjoys motorcycle riding and tinkering with sports cars. Doug is always ready with a story and a smile.



Tatemaie

Ron Laughter
President & CEO

“Exceptional fighting was shown by all forces and all ships participating in this operation,” states the dry prose of a Japanese after-action combat report. This report was captured in Tokyo in 1945 and translated by the U.S. Strategic Bombing Survey. “Because of it,” the Japanese report continued, “severe damages were inflicted on the enemy.”

This is how Japanese commanders described the Battle of Midway, fought at sea northwest of Hawaii, June 4-7, 1942. On the third day of that battle, the U.S. Navy sank four aircraft carriers of the Imperial Japanese Navy in one afternoon. In addition to the large ships, Japan lost hundreds of aircraft and thousands of sailors. It was an epic defeat by which American combat power broke the back of Japanese naval power in the Pacific.

However, after the battle, Japanese leaders denied the reality of their predicament, and conducted a thorough effort to mask the scope of the defeat. Official Japanese deception involved the civilian population, as well as Japanese authorities. For example, commanders isolated many Midway survivors for several months, and then reassigned these personnel to distant posts around the fleet and across the South Pacific. Japan kept one of its sunken aircraft carriers, Akagi, on its naval registry for well over a year, despite the fact that the ship was lying on the seafloor. Japanese admirals didn’t even inform the Emperor of the losses.

In summarizing the losses at Midway in their after-action report, Japanese commanders engaged in a near-ritualistic aspect of their culture, using the concepts of *honne* and *tatemaie*. These two Japanese words describe the contrast between a person’s true sentiments and understanding (*hon’ne*, “true sound”) and the behavior and opinions one displays in public (*tatemaie*, “built in front” or “façade”).

Many of our homeowner applicants suffer from the same kind of denial when it comes to their personal finances. They know they are wasting money they cannot really afford to waste, but cannot bring themselves to admit it, to the public and even to themselves. Let me give you an example.

All applicants must complete a family monthly budget as a part of the application process. In the past, you might have seen on one of these budgets an entry like this one – Cigarettes: \$20. When you asked them about their cigarette habit you found out that they smoked a pack a day, as did their spouse. Well the typical pack of cigarettes these days costs in the neighborhood of \$5 per pack. So, a pack a day over the period of 30 days for two people costs around \$300 – not \$20 as reported. Now they *know* this, but they can’t bring themselves to acknowledge that they are wasting money in this manner. This is their version of *tatemaie*.

Recognizing this personality trait, we no longer ask our applicants to provide us with their monthly budget. Instead, we have them track their spending for at least 30 days, keep a log of every penny they spend, no matter how seemingly insignificant, and then use that information to develop a realistic chart of their spending patterns. What a revelation this is for many of them!

This exercise, which we recommend they continue as a part of their ongoing financial management, begins their transition to becoming a successful homeowner. Knowing what you spend and how to manage that component of one’s life is critical to being able to support both homeownership and the family. This is only one aspect of the education every Habitat family must undergo. Education is one of the most important, and, perhaps, under-appreciated elements of the Habitat program. More on that aspect of our program in a later edition.



CHANGES AT THE RESTORE



Starting April 1st, the ReStore will be looking for volunteers to help out. We have a new manager, Scott Wesinger, who was promoted to ReStore manager from within the Affiliate. Scott was born and raised in the Landrum area and joined the Habitat family in 2015.

- ReStore staff is from all over the USA and most have relocated to the area because of its charm and cost of living
- Habitat offers free pickups in the Thermal Belt area, and starting in mid-March will offer online scheduling of your pickups, plus tracking of the truck right to your door.
- In the months to come, the ReStore will be expanding their building materials selection, following a large donation
- Come be the first to check out the new goods as they constantly arrive and sign-up to be a volunteer!

Lynn Turner joined Habitat in October 2020 as Operations Administrator for our Thermal Belt area. A native of Cincinnati, Ohio, Lynn has a lifetime of experience in broadcasting – both commercial radio as well as video and audio production. She also has extensive experience in customer service and sales. Lynn has lived in North Carolina since 2006 and enjoys the outdoors as well as cooking and music. She is a hopeless lover of all types of animals, and is “Mom” to 2 Siamese cats.





PO Box 247
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Meet the New Development Team

Director of Development



The Habitat Team is pleased to announce that Donna Wilkinson accepted the position of Director of Development and joined our team in August, 2020. She comes to us with a long and successful history of working with not

-for-profits, primarily in the areas of development, philanthropy, fundraising, leadership and working with volunteers.

"I am so excited and proud to work for this wonderful charity, one that gives hope to so many, and which daily puts their mission into action."

Development Specialist

The Habitat Team is pleased to announce that Toni Thayer has accepted the position of Development Specialist, starting in January, 2021.



She previously served as our Administrative Support person and we're excited that Toni's creativity and enthusiasm are a perfect match for her new role.

"The mission of this organization is so compelling. The staff and volunteers, in particular, are truly giving people and families a chance for a better life."



**Thermal Belt Habitat for Humanity, 40 E. Mills Street, (P.O. Box 247),
Columbus, NC 28722-0247, 828.393.6494, www.thermalbelthabitat-hvl.org.
Call 864.457.2666 to schedule donation pick-ups
or visit our ReStore Tues—Sat, 10-4 at 132 N. Trade Ave., Landrum, SC.**

