

July, 2017

The Good News

Aiken County Habitat for Humanity

A Fond Farewell

A large crowd came out to wish Richard Church a happy retirement and to thank him for his 19 year journey as Executive Director of Aiken County Habitat for Humanity. ReStore volunteers, construction volunteers, staff, Board members and committee members were all there to launch Richard on the next chapter of his life.



The Habitat Volunteer Relations Committee provided some delightful sweet treats, refreshments and colorful decorations for all the guests. Ridgecrest Coffee Bar donated dozens of

blueberry muffins in Richard's honor; Richard has been a long time regular at Ridgecrest. Special thanks to Habitat Operations Director Arie Murphy for coordinating much of the event.

Richard was presented with several mementos to celebrate his many years with Habitat. All guests signed the mat of a large framed photo of Richard. He received a wood grain Rolodex (Richard was well known for his use of a Rolodex) and the guests got to fill out Rolodex cards with "bucket list" suggestions for Richard. The Habitat staff gave Richard an inscribed decorative desk clock that matched the Rolodex and also a coffee mug. The Habitat Board gifted Richard and his wife Helen with a membership and gift certificate to the Aiken Center for the Arts. The Carolina Pine Quilters Guild gave a beautiful quilt wall hanging, and the Aiken Stitchin' Belles presented Richard with a cross stitch which was framed by Connie's Framing.



Richard remarked that Habitat is a calling not just for him but for everyone associated with Habitat. "And we didn't disappoint", he said. "We've built 105 houses for 105 families." Richard also talked about the many committed men and women that he has had the privilege to

work with over the years. "Volunteers are so important to us - every hour they give and everything they do."

Richard had an obvious passion for Habitat and it came through in so many things that he did and comments that he made. "If you don't have passion in this kind of job, then it's not your kind of job."



Richard gave a special thank you to his wife Helen. "She was there for me all the way," he said. He stressed one last point. "What we



Richard and Helen with volunteer Mary Yarborough

need to make sure of is that we always have unity in Habitat among volunteers, Board, and staff. There's nothing in this community that we can't do if we really want to do it."



Board Chair Jim Barry with Richard

Building Homes and Changing Lives In Christ

Publix Helps Build House #105

Publix Super Markets Charities announced last December it would donate \$5.5 million to Habitat for Humanity affiliates across the Southeast to fund the construction of more than 60 new houses in 2017. Publix has partnered with Aiken County Habitat for Humanity to build house #105 in Jackson.



L-R: Bill Dennis, Habitat Operations Director Arie Murphy, new Habitat Executive Director Yolanda Archuletta, Habitat Shepherd Carlene Clark, Aiken Publix Store Mgr. Randy Blankenship, Castealia Cook and her son Jakobe, Publix District Mgr. Joey Riddle, Levette Williamson, retiring Habitat Executive Director Richard Church

Joey Riddle, a district manager for Publix, and Randy Blankenship, manager of the Publix store in the Eastgate Shopping Center in Aiken, attended the groundbreaking on April 13. "Our associates believe in giving back to communities, and we know Habitat's mission is to support communities and place people in homes," Riddle said.

Castealia Cook, who works at UPS Customs Brokerage and BI-LO, will be the owner of the three-bedroom residence. Castealia and her 8-year-old son, Jakobe, have been sharing a home near New Ellenton with her brother and his family.

"It's my mom's house; she passed away two years ago," Castealia said. "I would rather have something of my own. The neighborhood isn't the same as it used to be, and I

want to raise my son in a different environment. He'll have a better place to play here. He'll also have his own room."

Castealia has been assisting with construction of her house and she also has been helping out at the ReStore to fulfill her sweat equity requirement. The Habitat Friday Crew has been leading the construction activities.



House #105, June 30

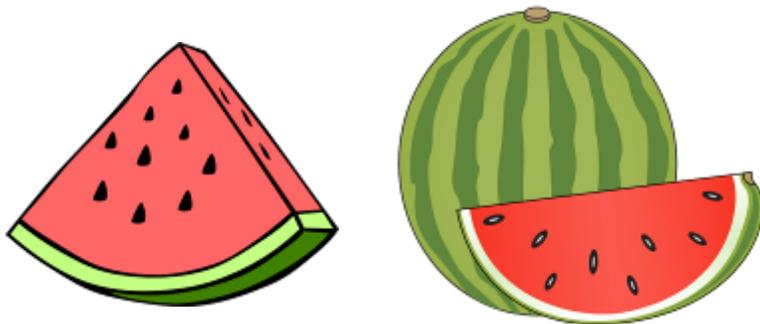
Change Has Come to Your Habitat



With the change of season, we embark on a new era for Aiken Habitat. Our former leader Richard Church has retired and I have taken the helm. We have a new finance director, LaDonna Hall (right). She started in June and has already graced us with her wit and wisdom. If you are in the ReStore, pop into our office and say "Hello!" We are honored to have her with us.

This summer, we will be asking you to help us plan the future of our Habitat. A survey will go out to our volunteers and donors. We hope you will take the time to complete it and give us ideas and thoughts on how we grow, how we fulfill our mission, and how we communicate with you. Without you, we would not exist. Therefore, we need to hear from you.

Have a safe and blessed summer!
Yolanda



Upcoming Homes

Executive Director Yolanda Archuletta got out her crystal ball and provided a rundown of upcoming Habitat houses. House #106 should start late summer or early fall with a group of local sponsors that is currently being finalized. Then the Women Build program will build house #107 starting around February of 2018. House #107 will get started a few months after the Women Build.

After a short lull in qualified homeowners being approved, there is a good group of potential homeowners ready to go.

DON'T FORGET.....

The Habitat Women Build Committee will once again offer their fall Women Build Kitchen Tour on Sunday, October 15, from 12:00 noon to 4:30.

Advance tickets will be \$25 and will be available online or at several local businesses as the date approaches. Please come out for an enjoyable afternoon and support our Women Build team!



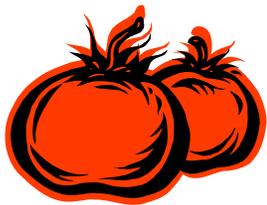
Habitat ReStore News

ReStore Assistant Manager Cindy Nichols reports that donations have been steady and sales are good. Items are priced to move and the sales floor changes daily.



The ReStore is close to expanding their retail floor space. The construction storage area in the back corner of the building will soon complete a relocation to their new building on Vaulcuse Avenue. Some remodeling will be needed and then more retail space will be available to display ReStore merchandise. The ReStore staff is working out the most effective way to use the new space.

Pickup Coordinator Reggie Gambrell has been celebrating recently. He and his wife Beverly celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary on the same day that their son Brandon got married!



Volunteers Always Needed

There is a need for volunteers to work in the ReStore. Specifically, we are looking for pick-up drivers/helpers. Our drivers/helpers need to be able to lift 50 pounds and drivers MUST have good driving records. Pickups run Wednesday through Friday mornings.

Also, cashiers and sales floor help is needed in the ReStore. Volunteers are asked to work a single shift from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM or 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM on Tuesday through Friday or from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Saturdays.

There are also volunteer opportunities on the Family Support, Site Selection, and ReStore committees.

New volunteers for the “Friday Crew” are always welcome. The Friday Crew helps build houses on Friday mornings and sometimes on Saturday mornings.

If you need more information, go to www.habitataiken.org, or email Arie at arie_murphy@habitataiken.org, or call (803)642-9295, ext. 301. For the ReStore, call (803)642-0530.

How Does That Work?

Habitat is always looking for qualified families to become homeowners. The Family Selection Committee looks at three selection criteria: need, ability to pay, and willingness to partner with Habitat.

The Family Selection Committee will evaluate the adequacy of a candidate’s current living condition including the number of family members compared to the number of bedrooms in the home. The candidate must have lived in Aiken County for at least one year. The Committee will verify that total annual income is not less than 30% and not over 60% of the Aiken County Median Family Income. These income guidelines vary by the size of the family.

Since Habitat homeowners actually buy their home, they must have adequate income to pay the monthly mortgage. This interest free payment will include not only the mortgage payment, but the payment for property taxes, homeowner’s insurance, and yearly termite inspection.

Potential homeowners must participate in financial counseling provided at no charge by Security Federal. Each adult in the family must complete 200 hours of “sweat equity” working on their home, other Habitat homes, or in the ReStore.

For more information or to apply, call Arie Murphy at (803)642-9295, extension 301.



Friday Crew Volunteers



Board Members



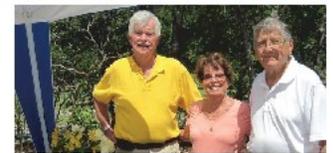
In a typical year, more than 300 individuals volunteer over 13,000 hours to accomplish the Habitat Mission. **THANK YOU AIKEN COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS** for making it happen year after year!



ReStore Volunteers



Construction Volunteers



For information on volunteering, please visit www.habitataiken.org or call Arie Murphy, Operations Director at 803-642-9295 ext. 301.

Aiken County Habitat for Humanity

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P. O. Box 3323
Aiken, SC 29802

Address label here