

OCTOBER, 2017

The Good News

AIKEN COUNTY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Building Homes and Changing Lives In Christ

There's No Place Like Home



Castealia Cook and son Jakobe cut the ribbon to their new home with Shepherd Carlene Clark, her pastor, and representatives from Publix Super Markets looking on

Castealia Cook and her son Jakobe are moving into their new Habitat home after the home Dedication September 24th. "I'm ecstatic, and my son, he's ecstatic. He finally has his own room and can have his friends come over and stay over," said Castealia.

Asked what she remembers most about helping to build her house, Castealia said "hammering nails in the hot sun; my arm is still sore."

Castealia's son Jakobe busied himself looking through an assortment of donated books. When asked if he had picked out his room, Jakobe proudly marched down the hallway

and pointed out his new room.

During the Dedication, Castealia was presented with a Bible from her Shepherd, Carlene Clark. "As you've seen the foundation of your house built, this is the foundation, as we know, for our lives," Carlene said about the Bible.

Publix Super Markets Charities provided the funding for the house and some volunteer labor. They also provided a supply of groceries as well as the refreshments for the Dedication. Publix has donated \$5.5 million to Habitat for Humanity affiliates across the southeast to fund the construction of more than 60

new houses in 2017.

Also presented to Castealia were a fire extinguisher from Mead Hall Episcopal Day School 4K, a bookshelf and books from the Sand River Woman's Club, a birdhouse from the St. John's United Methodist Church Vacation Bible School, and a housewarming gift from Security Federal Bank.



At the conclusion of the Dedication Castealia thanked Habitat, the Friday Crew, and all the sponsors. "God has really blessed me with this home, and he has blessed me with my new job at UPS," said Castealia. "So keep us in your prayers and keep faith in us."



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From the Executive Director

"Faith can move mountains." (Matthew 17:20) Faith can also make mountains surmountable.

Each house is a labor of love and the home that faith built. That journey of faith begins when a person courageously walks into our office to get an application and returns it completed. They endure the trail ahead, surmounting each steep step, jumping over every creek and trying desperately to stay on course and get up this mountain to home ownership.

To many becoming a homeowner is a simple path...stressful, yes, but not a trial of faith. For our applicants, owning a home is a dream...sitting atop a

mountain far off in the distance. With each sweat equity hour and every financial session, they face challenges and even life itself is challenging. However, their faith kept them going as does the encouragement of their earthly shepherds and their heavenly Shepherd Jesus.

In September, we witnessed Castealia Cook achieve the summit of homeownership. We watched as she cut the ribbon and accepted her keys. We also laid the foundation for Shondra Cook's home as we symbolically broke ground with her. We celebrate their courage and faith. We hope you do too.



Yolanda Archuletta

Construction Storage Building

Last November, members of the Habitat "Friday Crew" started to repair and renovate a donated 2,000 square foot building located on Vaucluse Avenue. Construction materials and tools have been moved from the ReStore building resulting in a significant increase in ReStore sales space.

After a new roof was donated by H.G. Reynolds Construction Co., the Friday Crew got to work. Mike Farmer headed up a dedicated crew joined by Mark Cedarleaf, Frank Heckendorn, John Ormer-

od, Jim Skinner, and Roger Ward. Mike estimates that this group worked about 500 hours over about 30 workdays from last November to this past July.

Along the way, the crew made some friends at the New Life Ministries of Aiken which is right next door. The pastor brought breakfast on several occasions.

In addition to freeing up ReStore space, the new storage building allows adequate space to properly organize and store ma-



Roger Ward with new metal bending table. The base of the table is a workbench used by his father, now deceased.



180 degree panorama of rear half of new construction storage building

terials. "We ended up giving numerous circular saws, toolboxes, and extension cords to the ReStore for sale," Mike said. "With the old cramped storage space, we didn't realize how many items had been donated."

Just a little work remains to finish the building.

Habitat ReStore News

Sales continue strong at the ReStore. This past quarter saw the sale of another car and a boat, a 24 foot cabin cruiser. ReStore Manager Henry Krippner says he has another boat for sale, a 1964 17 foot fiberglass Mobjack with two sets of sails. Sutton Marine (two doors down from the ReStore) is assisting with the boat sales.

The ReStore staff is busy planning some renovations for the newly ac-



ReStore Manager Henry Krippner stands in the new section of the ReStore which is already filling up with furniture

quired 1,300 square feet of space vacated by construction storage. They hope to open the area for sales in about 6 months.

Special recognition is due for a couple ReStore volunteers who have recently returned from volunteer work with hurricane relief: Judy Parkinson with Samaritan's Purse in Houston and Kathy Modesitt with the Red Cross in Florida.

Off & Running On House #106



L-R: Habitat Executive Director Yolanda Archuletta, Tim Steeper of First Baptist Church, Shepherd Kathy Ormerod, homeowner Shondra Cook, Dick Frushour of St. Mary Help of Christians Church, and Christine Lewis of Security Federal Bank

Shondra Cook and her son Davian Dean will be moving into their new Habitat home early next year. Construction has already started and the ceremonial groundbreaking was held September 26th. Shondra said she is looking forward to owning her own home and enjoying the neighborhood.

Sponsors for house #106 are the Rotary Club, First Baptist Church of Aiken, St. Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, Bank of America Foundation, St. John's United Methodist Church, and the Habitat ReStore.

Shondra works at Tri Development Center. She has been completing her sweat equity hours at the ReStore and is now working on her house.

Shondra said that she heard about Habitat from a friend who is a Habitat homeowner. She got an application but then held her application for about a year. "I hesitated. I was kinda nervous about picking up roots. And my son was just graduating from high school," she said. Once she submitted her application, the process went pretty quickly. "I was worried about my credit," Shondra recalled. "But it turned out to be better than I expected. I'm glad I got the process going."

Asked what advice she would give to people considering applying for a Habitat home, Shondra said "Just go ahead and try it, even if you're worried about credit or whatever. It's a good program."

Women Build Kitchen Tour

If you don't already have your tickets for the Fifth Annual Women Build Kitchen Tour fundraiser on Sunday, October 15th from 12:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., don't wait any longer! Often sold out by event day, this year's tour will feature 7 unique homes in historic Aiken. Ticketholders will experience the design and décor of a variety of kitchens and dining areas, seeing beautiful floor plans and appliances, excellent cabinet craftsmanship, and other renovation expertise. In each home, local caterers or restaurant chefs will offer delectable samples of favorite dishes, and the tour will also showcase the work of Aiken County florists and tabletop decorators.

Advance tickets are \$25 and are available online at www.aikenkitchentour.com or at Plum Pudding, Herbal Solutions, Aiken Office Supply, or Unique Expressions until they sell out. All proceeds will be used toward materials for the 11th (yes, ELEVENTH) Women Build house in Aiken County, which is scheduled to begin in March 2018. Please come out for an enjoyable afternoon or consider making a donation to support our Women Build team. Donations can be made online here: <http://www.habitataiken.org/donations.cfm> For more information, call 644-8814.



Thanks To The Aiken Home Show



Aiken County Habitat for Humanity was thrilled to participate in the fall Aiken Home & Garden Show which was held on September 22nd & 23rd at the H. Odell Weeks Activity Center. Presented by the Aiken Standard, the Home & Garden Show included vendors for home building, remodeling, landscaping, and decorating.

Thanks to Habitat Operations Director Arie Murphy for setting up an informative display. And thanks to all the volunteers who represented Habitat at the display. It was another chance to spread the Habitat word. Numerous home decorating items from the Habitat ReStore were displayed for sale, which raised a total of \$676. A special thank you to the Aiken Standard who donated proceeds from admission to Habitat amounting to an additional several hundred dollars.

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 needed. 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.



2016-17 Annual Campaign Sponsors

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