

Dear friends of Knoxville Habitat:

My first experience with Knoxville Habitat for Humanity was on a cold, wet day while painting the interior of a Habitat home. Portable heaters were set up to warm the inside of the home, making it comfortable for the volunteers to do their work. I was touched by the comradery of the volunteers as they worked together with love and enthusiasm ... they knew they were painting a home that was going to give a hardworking family a new start on life.

My next opportunity at a Habitat house was with a group of high school students coming together in the service of building with a family. They laughed and worked together, willingly giving their time on a precious Saturday morning. They did it because they earned service hours but, as they worked alongside the family, their enthusiasm grew as they came to understand they weren't just building a house ... they were building a *home* with a deserving family.

With both of these builds, and as always once a house is completed, the home is dedicated. The family (and soon-to-be homeowners), Covenant Partners, volunteers and Knoxville Habitat staff join together to bless the home all has worked on. I listened to the prayers and the loving words and witnessed the smiles and tears of joy as the new homeowners were handed the keys and the mortgage book. It was a commitment now ... both of these families now had a home to call their own! At that point, I "got it" ... as did everyone at the dedication.

Knoxville Habitat is all about providing a hand up, not a hand out, to deserving families. With the solid foundation of a home, families now have a sense of dignity and pride. Their health, physical safety and security improve. Education and job prospects are likely to increase, and family relations and interactions are strengthened.

My experience as a volunteer for Knoxville Habitat has been so rewarding, and I came to understand that I, along with so many others, are helping Knoxville Habitat fulfill its mission: *Seeking to put God's love into action, Knoxville Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.*

There are so many ways YOU can help support this mission, and all are vital to its success:

- **Covenant Partnerships** are the backbone for funding Knoxville Habitat homes. We partner with businesses, churches, schools and other organizations or individuals who are willing to partner on a home build, providing both monetary and volunteer support.
- **Financial gifts** are extremely essential as well.
- **Remember** Knoxville Habitat in **your will** or other planned giving.
- **Volunteer** on a home build, in the classroom, at our ReStore or help us at one of our fundraising events like the Sporting Clay Tournament or Women Build.
- Check out our **ReStore at 1511 Downtown West Boulevard**. Donate goods or go shop at this special store that helps support our mission.
- Follow us and share us on **social media**. You'll find us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and even LinkedIn. You'll also see the good work in action by doing so!

I encourage you to get involved in Knoxville Habitat, and I promise you will find (as I did) a rewarding experience and a sense of purpose in knowing you are helping provide decent and affordable housing to hardworking families willing to partner with us!

Sincerely,

Sharon A. Bosse, Chairman
Knoxville Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors