

Habitat Celebrating 25 years in the Wabash Valley

# Habitat on the Home Front

Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity Volunteer & Sponsor Newsletter Volume 28 \* Issue 1 \* Spring 2014

## *An unsung hero—Gloria Jackson*

In an office on the first floor of the Sycamore building in Sunset Harbor suite, sits Gloria Jackson behind her desk among papers and files she is working on. Gloria Jackson is one of many behind the scenes volunteers at Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity. As April is volunteer month, we wanted to highlight one of the longest standing volunteers our organization has had over the past 25 years.

Gloria grew up in Fort Wayne, Indiana. She worked at Purdue University in Lafayette, Indiana for 5 years and in the early 60's, she moved to Terre Haute. In December, 1964 Gloria worked for a local attorney in the Sycamore building on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor, then after several years the 12<sup>th</sup> floor. After taking a year off, Richard Francis, the President and founder of Sunset Harbor, asked her to come and work for him in the Sycamore Building. Sunset Harbor developed Fort Harrison Villa, along with Lwb Laundry and Meadows Home Health Care in Terre Haute. She has been with Sunset Harbor since 1980 and is now Vice President and Treasurer for the company. In 1984, Gloria received her Real Estate license and was a Realtor for many years.

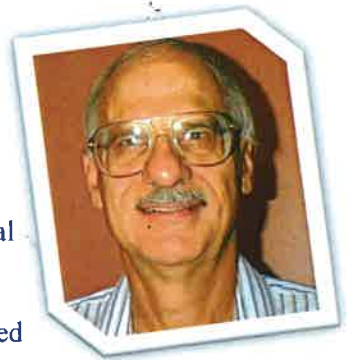


Gloria's dedication to Habitat started early on when a member from NAWIC (National Women in Construction) invited her to attend a meeting with a local group who wanted to build houses in Terre Haute for low-income families. Gloria was one of the first members to join the Habitat board of directors in 1988. She prepared the by-laws and assisted with other legal documents needed to start a non-profit charity. Today, Gloria works closely with the affiliate and the Terre Haute Department of Redevelopment on transferring the homes to the partner families and has closed escrow on 56 of the 59 homes Habitat has built in the Wabash Valley. *"We should all give back, and this is how I can contribute"* is what drives her philanthropic spirit. She enjoys meeting the families and is still in contact with some of the early partner families. Over the years, Gloria has made new friendships with people affiliated with Habitat and remains in touch with some of the early board members such as Char Minnette, Sister Ann Casper and Alan Harder, who was the first Board President for the organization. Habitat's success and growth in the community is what keeps Gloria dedicated to the program and its mission. She plans to stay involved with the affiliate even after she retires from Sunset Harbor someday.

Besides her volunteer work with Habitat, Gloria is a member of NAWIC, Chapter DR PEO (Philanthropic Educational Organization), supports the symphony and has been on the Terre Haute Board of Realtors. In her spare time, Gloria is a basketball fan, attends ISU games and follows the IU team.

Gloria's 25 years of service and dedication to Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity is greatly appreciated. Without the behind the scene volunteers, Habitat would not be able to help so many families get a "hand up not a hand out." We thank Gloria and all of our volunteers over the past 25 years!

## *From the Board President*



### **Staff:**

Annette Houchin  
*Executive Director*

Pat Brown  
*Construction/  
ReStore Manager*

Dee Reel  
*Business Manager*

Pearleen Stewart  
*Admin. Assistant  
Volunteer Coordinator*

Steve Storie  
*ReStore Driver*

Christa Caton  
*ReStore Cashier*

### **Executive Board Members:**

Chuck Federle  
*President*

Shelley Kuykendall  
*Vice-president*

Jerry Hochstetler  
*Treasurer*

Ian Titus  
*Secretary*

### **Members at Large:**

Jackie Bogle  
Tom Jones  
Thomas Kirchner  
Tammy Lowe  
Paul Mason  
Todd Thorlton  
Bill Warden  
Nathan Wheeler

The BOD lays the groundwork to increase our building program in future years. Board Development is an ongoing challenge and we have openings for members who are low-income or who reside in a low-income neighborhood.

Exercise, fun, and a feeling of accomplishment are some of the activities that you will encounter when you are a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity. If you don't have the time or physical ability to help with the house construction there is always a need for financial assistance to help defray the costs of construction.

As we approach the end of my first year as President of the Board of Directors I want to reflect on some of what has been achieved and to consider what also there is to accomplish.

We presently have a core group of employees who are focused on moving forward with the objective of increasing the number of homes built per year for our Partner families. This requires that the financial needs, family selection criteria, and volunteer labor requirements be met.

We are embarking on our initial Veterans Build project. The partner family selection is now in process and it is anticipated that the house will be completed this fall. We look forward to working with the local Veteran's organizations to make this a huge and hopefully on-going success.

Changes to the makeup of the Board of Directors have been positive with new members bringing much experience and expertise to the group. We have a good blend of young individuals from ISU, Rose Hulman and members that bring experience from other not for profit organizations.

A much needed financial audit was conducted as the last audit was performed [10] years ago. No major issues were found but some additional controls were put into place as per the audit recommendations.

We have some exciting plans for the local chapter to accomplish. It would be appreciated if you could assist in accomplishing these goals. By assisting you will help a partner family become a home owner in our community.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chuck Federle".

**Chuck Federle, Executive Board President**

## *Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity is Accepting Applications for Future Habitat Homeowners*

“A hand up not a hand out” is the motto for Habitat International. A partner family who receives a home from Habitat for Humanity is responsible for a mortgage and proper maintenance of the home. Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity volunteers give families a leg up and families carry on the mission by making the house a home.

The WVHfH Family Selection Committee begins the process of selecting families to partner with by reviewing pre-applications and full applications. Three categories outlined by Habitat for Humanity International guide the committee in determining a family's selection: need, ability to pay and willingness to partner with WVHfH. Habitat for Humanity does not discriminate in the selection of families on the basis of race, creed, gender, disability, ethnic background, or any other characteristic protected by law. The family selection committee works carefully to make the best selections based on the preceding criterion.

A family's willingness to partner encompasses more than simply a cooperative attitude. The organization relies on a collection of financial resources stemming from local contributions, grants and mortgage payments called “Fund for Humanity.” Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity is currently looking for families. If you or if you know of someone who might be interested in learning more about how to become a Habitat homeowner, please contact our office at (812) 235-5914 or download a pre-application from our website at [www.wvh4h.org](http://www.wvh4h.org).

## Wabash Valley Habitat Welcomes New Leadership to the Board



### Lucas Company LLC

are partnering with WV Habitat in spreading the word about our upcoming Veterans Build. WV Habitat will be building its first house for a veteran family who are in need of affordable housing and homeownership. The Veterans Build will not only strengthen the affiliate in volunteer military engagement, but Habitat benefits from the leadership skills and work ethics of Veterans, their commitment to civic participation and their strong desire to serve.

### Family Partners Needed

Wabash Valley Habitat is seeking Family Partner Volunteers to provide nurturing support to the new partner family before, during and after construction of their home. When a family is selected into the Habitat program the partner family is assigned a family partner volunteer. Their main goal is to act as advocates for the family and help prepare them for all aspects of homeownership. The family partner volunteer provides the communications bridge between Habitat and the partner family.

Family Selection is in the process of selecting 2 families, (one a veteran family) for this year and 2 families for 2015 building efforts. If you are interested in becoming a family partner advocate for one of these families or would like to learn more about our family services program please contact Annette at 812-235-5914.



**Jerry Hochstetler,**  
Retired



**Tom Jones,**  
Senior Sales Representative  
Indiana Business Equipment



**Thomas Kirchner,**  
Associate Vice President  
Wells Fargo Advisors



**Tammy Lowe,**  
Senior Financial Analyst,  
White Construction, Inc.



**Paul Mason,**  
Vigo County  
Building Commissioner



**Todd Thorlton,**  
Outside Sales, ProBuild



**Bill Warden,**  
Owner,  
Quality Landscaping

## WV Habitat for Humanity and AmazonSmile A new way to shop and donate

Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity now has a new way for you to donate! *AmazonSmile* is a simple and automatic way for you to support Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity every time you shop, at **no cost to you**. *The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases.*

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages.

To get started donating with AmazonSmile, on your first visit to AmazonSmile *please select Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity as your charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases* before you begin shopping.

AmazonSmile will remember your selection and then every eligible purchase you make on AmazonSmile will result in a donation to Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity.



# ReStore

Located at 1831 Wabash Ave.  
Corner of 19<sup>th</sup> and Wabash  
(812) 232-9200

Hours: Wed., Thurs. & Sat. 9:00am ~ 2:00pm;  
Friday 9:00am ~ 6:00pm  
Pickups: Wednesdays and Fridays



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### Donate to WIN – WIN– WIN!

YOU WIN – rid your home of the excess, reduce your costs for hauling or disposing of the items, and maybe get a tax break!

WE WIN – revenue earned from your generosity goes to directly support further building efforts.

ENVIRONMENT WINS - keeps useful materials out of the landfill!

### Save your aluminum cans!

The ReStore always accepts aluminum cans!! Drop off cans at our ReStore on the corner of 19<sup>th</sup> & Wabash. Donating your aluminum cans to the ReStore keeps them out of the landfill helping the environment and the ReStore!

**We are now on FACEBOOK!** Please visit our page and “LIKE” us! Just type in “**WVHReStore**” to find us!

Visit the store to obtain your [Frequent Shopper's Card](#). You save \$10 on a future purchase at the Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity ReStore.

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## Spring Cleaning

Spring is upon us and what better way to bring in the season than to clean out your home, garage, and storage sheds. The ReStore needs your donations. We accept items including furniture, appliances, home décor, lighting, building materials, and more. We'll even come and pick up your new and gently-used items. Call us at 812 -232-9200 to schedule a pickup. Not sure if it's something the ReStore will accept? Call us and we will be happy to answer all your questions.

We greatly appreciate all the donations we receive. The ReStore not only benefits the community, it allows Habitat to continue its building efforts here locally in Terre Haute.

We encourage businesses to donate to the ReStore and would like to give a special thank you to Lowe's, Newman Company, Paitson Brothers Heating and Air Conditioning, Red Lobster, and Direct TV.

We would also like to thank CertainTeed for the large donation of 55 gallon drums of 25 year PPG exterior paint and paint agitator. The paint is now available in 5 gallon buckets in several colors including iron gray, butter, marigold, desert gold, heritage clay, tan, silver, and autumn red. Come in today and check it out!

*Christa Caton, ReStore Staff*

### ReStore Goals –

- Inform the general public about the ReStore and its mission.
- Keep the store inventory fresh and priced competitively.
- Find volunteers for the ReStore to improve the quality of customer service.
- Produce an email newsletter for our customers and donors.

Contact us to be added to the email list!

### ReStore Wish List—

- In-kind advertising donation.
- Box Truck with a lift gate.
- Bobcat fork attachment
- 5 volunteers to work one shift a week either at the store or on the donation truck.

### Habitat Wish List—

- Use of a Crane for a few hours
- Volunteer to update website and/or a Software engineer
- Box Truck w/Lift Gate
- 10 ft. Metal Brake
- Television 32” or Larger Please (for training purposes)
- DVD Player (training purposes)

*All donations are tax-deductible!*

## *Habitat Honors Two Special Volunteers*

On March 15, 2014, Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity held a recognition dinner honoring Dick Becker and Gloria Jackson for each of their 25 years of service and dedication to the organization. The dinner was held at Bethany United Church of Christ in West Terre Haute. Members of the church provided a home-cooked buffet style meal while Nathan Simpson played soft piano music during the dinner hour. Special guest speakers for the evening included Tom and Bonnie Born, the affiliate's first partner family; Char Minnette and Sister Ann Casper, past board members; Dean Branson from Terre Haute Department of Redevelopment; and Pat Brown, construction and ReStore manager.



The evening brought us laughter and memories. We were reminded of how Habitat has greatly benefited from their 25 years of service. Since Dick's retirement in 1988, he has volunteered hundreds of hours on nearly 59 homes and has been responsible for building and/or supervising the partner family sheds the affiliate provides with the house. Although Gloria is still employed at Sunset Harbor, she has provided her professional time and service preparing and reviewing closing documents for the sale of our Habitat houses. She has also been a wonderful mentor to our partner families who may have questions or concerns regarding their mortgage.



## *April is National Volunteer Month.*

Thank you to the hundreds of people who advance our mission by volunteering their time. One very special group is our Family Selection Committee. Dale Johnson, Robin Myers & Beth Thompson have extended their volunteer time to help the affiliate select more families into the program for a Habitat house. **Hats off to all of you!!!**

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### **WV Habitat for Humanity is in need of Volunteers interested in the following areas:**

#### ***Fundraising/Special Events Team –***

The Fundraising Team raises funds and awareness in the community. The team is currently planning exciting events for Summer and early Fall 2014. Fundraising & special events are fun and exciting, and we could use your help. Please contact Annette at the Habitat office 812-235-5914 for more information.

#### ***Construction Team –***

Pat Brown – Construction Manager is looking for dedicated volunteers to join his core group, “the Grumpies” They work on different projects throughout the year, every Tuesday and Thursday. No skills are necessary but are helpful! If you want to invest in your community, perhaps learn some construction skills or have extra time to help us give “a hand up, not a handout” call Pearleen at the Habitat office at 812-235-5914, to learn more.

*Cover Story – Gloria Jackson*

*Page 2 – Board President’s Message, WV Habitat Accepting Applications*

*Page 3 – Meet the New Board Members, AmazonSmile—Shop and Donate*

*Page 4 – Donation Opportunities*



**Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity, Inc.**  
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Email: [habitat@wvh4h.org](mailto:habitat@wvh4h.org)  
Website: [www.wvh4h.org](http://www.wvh4h.org)

NON-PROFIT  
ORG.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Terre Haute, IN  
Permit 161

## Own Real Estate and are thinking of donating?

In 2013 Wabash Valley Habitat sold 3 houses that were donated to the organization. Few repairs were given and the house sales generated just over \$38K in net profit, which is 65% of our construction costs for building a Habitat house. Habitat can usually prepare the deed and close on the property for minimal cost. The donor receives a charitable contribution receipt for their taxes. Contact Annette at the Habitat office 812-235-5914 for more information. **Habitat cannot accept condemned property and must have clear title, free from liens on the property.**

See page 3 for more information on how you can **shop and donate** with the Amazon Smile donation program!



**New Amazon Program Enables Shoppers to Easily Donate to Their Favorite Nonprofits**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



At Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity, a large portion of our funding comes from individual donations. Here are some of the ways you can make a difference.

### CARPENTER’S CLUB

Becoming a member of the Carpenter’s Club is an ongoing way to support Habitat construction projects. Members pledge a gift for every new home that Habitat builds – typically one or two houses a year. Each time a home is completed, members are asked to fulfill their pledges. For more information about the Carpenter’s Club, please contact us at (812) 235-5914.

### MATCHING GIFTS

Did you know that a matching gift could double or triple your donation? Many corporations will match employee or retiree gifts. Obtain a Matching Gift Form from your human resources office and include it with your donation. Be sure to fill out and sign the donor section before sending in the form. Some companies have an on-line matching gift procedure.

### CELEBRATION GIFTS

As you plan gifts for family and friends this year, consider a gift that keeps on giving long after the wedding, anniversary, birthday, graduation, holiday or other special event or memorial. Upon receipt of your contribution, we will send an acknowledgment card indicating that you have made a gift to Wabash Valley Habitat for Humanity in honor of, or in memory of, the person you are celebrating. Be sure to include the name and address of the person who will receive the card.

### PLANNED GIVING

You can help address housing needs in Vigo County now and in the future by remembering us in your will or making another type of planned gift. For more information on your estate planning, please contact us at (812) 235-5914.