

WE MAKE A

LIVING BY

WHAT WE GET

 BUT WE MAKE A

LIFE BY

WHAT WE GIVE

WINSTON CHURCHILL

Marcia Kowalski Wins Statewide Volunteer Award



At the annual Tennessee Habitat for Humanity State Conference, our own Marcia Kowalski was recognized as the Outstanding ReStore Volunteer of the Year.

Many of you recognize Marcia as the smiling face at the Home Store checkout, but that's just one piece of Marcia's volunteer service. While she spends the first half of every Thursday at the cash register, she spends the second half cleaning the store from top to bottom.

Bringing her own cleaning supplies, she moves from shelf to shelf making our store a nicer place to shop.

"Habitat is truly blessed to be a recipient of Marcia's strong volunteer spirit," said Sandi Bright-Greene, Home Store manager. Next time you are in the Home Store, look for Marcia and congratulate her. The Home Store would not exist without the hard work of Marcia and all the other volunteers who are seen throughout the store.

If you have a few hours and would like to work alongside Marcia, call (865) 458-0704.

Annual Concord UMC Golf Tournament

On a cloudy Monday in mid August with rain expected, 67 golfers turned out at Willow Creek Golf Course for Concord United Methodist Church's annual golf tournament. The 17 teams started at 8:30 am and finished around 1:00 pm. First and second place team members were awarded gift certificates and a box of golf balls. The team with the highest score got a one-month membership at Fairways and Greens Golf Center to sharpen their game.



Tom Walters, Bill Oden, Louie Finley and John Clinard made up the team for Loudon County Habitat for Humanity. They came in fourth - Habitat's best effort to date! And, amazingly enough, the rain held off until the tournament ended.

Concord United Methodist Church uses money raised from this event to help sponsor a Habitat house. They have sponsored 13 Habitat houses in Loudon County and will soon be sponsoring their next one in the newest and last phase of the Hope Haven neighborhood.



Habitat Heartbeat

Fall/Winter 2014



Ed Lindler The Ultimate Volunteer



If you could paint a picture of the ultimate volunteer, the canvas would reflect the face of Ed Lindler. Ed is an unassuming, low-key kind of guy who is equally loved and respected by all who come in contact with him.

Recently Ed shared the story of how he got involved with Habitat at our Houses and Hope Breakfast. Here are excerpts from those remarks:

"I was never one to think much about retirement while I was working. It was not until my last day at work...that I began to think about how I was going to spend all those hours that had been occupied with work for the past 40-plus years. Well, God was just about to begin unveiling part of His plan for the next chapter in my life.

"I received a call from an old friend who had retired a couple of years earlier. He asked whether I might be interested in providing Mobile Meals with him. I agreed.

"One day while delivering meals, my friend received a call from the Volunteer Coordinator at Habitat. He mentioned that he was with a friend who might be interested in volunteering, and he passed me the phone.

"I talked with her and explained that I had never done any sort of construction work, that I had no skills in this area, and, consequently, that I just did not believe this sort of thing would be a good fit for me.

"Undaunted, she indicated that the affiliate gets folks with my (lack of) qualifications and apprehensions every day. She followed up in a couple of days, and I reluctantly

agreed to volunteer, with the understanding that if I did not like the work, that would be the end of my Habitat experience.

"I approached my first day with a really poor attitude. Despite my antics, I found the other volunteers and staff to be pretty nice folks, extremely patient, and very good teachers. When the day was over, I heard myself telling the Construction Director that I would be back the following day.

"The next day I worked with a Hispanic couple slated to become Habitat homeowners.

"They had lived in this country for a number of years and had become US citizens after arriving from a small, absolutely poverty-stricken town several hours from Mexico City. They both had found employment and were living in a dilapidated mobile home with their



Ed's favorite hat.





Loudon County
Habitat for Humanity[®]
 308 Mialaquo Place
 Loudon, TN 37774
 (865) 458-0704
 www.loudoncountyhabitat.org

- Shauna Oden**
Executive Director
- Chris Callahan**
Family Services Director
- Sammie Shanks**
Volunteer Coordinator
- Todd Helton**
Construction Director
- Mike Phillips**
Construction Assistant
- Jarred Rice**
Construction Assistant - Repair
- Sandi Bright-Greene**
Home Store Manager
- Lauren Ballatin**
Database Manager
- Sandi Byrd**
Resource Development Director
- Cindy Giljames**
Communications Coordinator
- Ron Zenner**
Accountant

Home Store:
 303 Simpson Road E.
 Lenoir City, TN 37772
 (865) 988-7427
Hours:
 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Tue.- Fri.
 8:00 am - 1:00 pm Sat.
 Closed Sun. and Mon.



For large donation pick-ups
 call (865) 988-7427 opt 1.

- Board of Directors**
- Sheila Borders - President
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"I cannot think of a day that I have volunteered where I did not feel like I received far more than I was able to give."



Ed is not only a construction volunteer for Habitat, but also serves on the Board of Directors. He is a member of Concord United Methodist Church, which has sponsored 13 houses and is scheduled to break ground on another house soon.

small children. By our standards their living conditions would be considered deplorable.

"They talked about what getting into the Habitat program meant to them. They described it as being able to live the American dream, providing a safer and better life for their children, and providing them a chance to give back to the country that had been so good to them.

"Mere words seem insufficient to describe how I felt at the end of my second day. I realized that there is much more to Habitat than just a house. In reality, the house is just the beginning. I have come to think of the Habitat experience as being born

again here on earth for the families that move into these houses.

"Working with Habitat has been one of the most positive influences in my life. A person is fortunate to have a part in positively influencing someone's life once in a lifetime. At Habitat I have this experience over and over again.

"I know that God could get this work done any way that He wishes. I am so grateful

that He has chosen me to be part of it. "

Now you see why Ed's picture could easily be posted right next to any definition of the ideal volunteer. Not only has he gained many new skills at Habitat, but he has become a mentor and friend to countless partner families and volunteers.



Donations for Women Build can be sent to:
 Loudon County Habitat for Humanity
 Women Build
 308 Mialaquo Place,
 Loudon, TN 37774



Calling all Women!

For the past few months, a group of local women has been planning Loudon County Habitat's 9th Women Build. This will be the 39th Habitat house in the Hope Haven neighborhood off Hwy 72 and construction will begin soon.

If you've ever wondered what it would be like to build a house, this is your opportunity to be part of this exciting program. Women from all walks of life will be on the construction site during the next few months doing everything from raising walls to installing windows.

"No previous construction experience is necessary—we learn on the job," said Elizabeth Weikert, co-chair of this year's Women Build. "Habitat staff provide excellent training. There is nothing on the work site that we can't prepare women to do," she continued.

"I've worked on a number of Women Build houses in Loudon County," said Sandy Hanes, co-chair with Weikert. "When you work alongside other women, you are energized and know that women can do anything they set their minds to."

If you would like to be part of the 2014-2015 Women Build—on the construction site, helping to serve meals, or a variety of other non-construction tasks—contact Sammie Shanks, volunteer coordinator at 865-640-5578.



Annual Community Garage Sale a Success

Whether you cleared a bunch of space in your garage or picked up a big pile of bargains, you were part of another successful Community Church Crafters and Habitat for Humanity Garage Sale and Boutique. The long lines in the picture above attest to the crowds that formed before the sale opened and stayed fairly constant until it closed.

Our thanks to the army of volunteers who were there to greet our customers, and move, tote, and sell the myriad of items the community had generously donated for our sale. Church members,

church crafters, Habitat staff, volunteers and partner families all joined together to make the sale another for the record books.

Volunteers worked Friday to receive donations, pick up large items and price merchandise, and Saturday during the sale and afterward for cleanup. Proceeds from the sale benefitted Loudon County Habitat and other local charities.

"We have partnered with the Tellico Village Community Church Crafters for 9 years," said Shauna Oden, "and this was our best garage sale ever."

On Tuesday, September 23, close to 175 people gathered at the new Pavilion at Central United Methodist Church for Habitat's first ever Houses and Hope Breakfast.

"We hosted this event to increase awareness of our mission and to share our plans for the future," said Shauna Oden. "If people really understand our program, they are more likely to support us and want to participate."

The program opened with a video welcome from Hope Haven children who sang "Glory Hallelujah" and thanked everyone for coming. Senior Pastor of CUMC, Micah Nicolaus



followed with his own welcome and the invocation.

Bo Carey served as master of ceremonies. Volunteer Ed Lindler and Homeowner Bernadette Wilson gave moving testimonials, and Shauna Oden talked about the history of the program and shared her vision for Loudon County Habitat's future.

At the end of the program those present were asked to consider making a gift to support Habitat's future. To date, more than \$26,000 in gifts and



pledges have been received from this event.

"We are excited about the awareness

and support that resulted from this event and look forward to repeating it on an annual basis," said Sandi Byrd, Habitat resource development director.

The program also featured a video that helped attendees understand the impact of the Habitat program on the lives of both the homeowners and the volunteers. You can view this video on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0v--s7OpqVE>

Habitat homeowners and partner families worked along with staff to prepare for, serve and clean up after the event. For the partner families, it was not only a way to help, but allowed them to earn some of the "sweat equity" hours required to purchase their Habitat house.