

*“Habitat is the only non-profit we know of where we can observe and participate in the transformation of our contribution into a tangible asset, a new home. That home will benefit a family and pay rewards to our Loudon County community for many years to come.”*

- Lucy and Bill Motts  
 (longtime volunteers and supporters)

### Ribfest 4 Homes

On Saturday, August 16 from 1 til 5 PM, competitive teams will be ‘smokin’ their best and serving up ribs to the public on the grounds of The Episcopal Church of the Resurrection.



Only 400 Rib Platter Tickets are available—this ticket entitles the holder to sample a rib from twelve of the teams (12 ribs equals a full rack),

two sides, bread, and a drink. Other sides will be sold as well as desserts. The rib platter ticket is \$25 in advance (\$30 at the gate). Purchase on-line at Ribfest4Homes.com under Tickets and Purchases. General admission and parking are free. Hotdogs, hamburgers, and other treats may be purchased at the concessions tent and the Arts & Crafts area.

This is a great event for the whole family featuring food, music, crafts and a playground for the kids. For more information contact Cal Van Koughnett at (865) 458-6000.

### A Tribute to Special People in Your Life

It’s a major understatement to say that mothers and fathers play a significant role in our development into the individuals that we become.

Honoring your parents and the impact they have made on you either individually or as a couple is an important, but simple thing that can be touching and meaningful to you and your entire family.

We invite you to celebrate your mother, father, grandparent or any other loved one at any time during the year with a donation that will help another family who is working to own a home of their own.

When you make a gift this way, we will send a notification to the honoree of your gift or to the family of the one you want to remember. The amount of the gift always remains confidential.



Your tax-deductible gift can be made by cash, check, credit card or by phone. For more information, call (865) 458-0704.



# Habitat Heartbeat

Summer 2014



## Susie Goff, Hope Haven’s Resident Grandmother From Bible Study to Piano Lessons - She is Helping to Build A Neighborhood

“I go where God leads me because God had plans for me from day one.”

This exemplifies what Susie Goff, new homeowner since October 2013, feels is her life’s plan.

Recently I was sitting at Susie’s kitchen table, surrounded by projects in process, warm, homey decorations, the laughter of kids in the next room, and a woman that clearly feels she is on a mission from God.

One of the first things she did was share with me a newsletter from Mideast Community Action Agency’s Headstart Program where she has a full-time job. There was a prominent article about Susie.

“I got to share about God and about Habitat and this (newsletter) went all over,” she said. She pointed to the picture of her in the wheat field across from her new home site. “They got me dancing in the wheat field,” she said with a big smile.

But behind this big, inviting smile, there is also some sadness in her past that keeps her motivated to help others. She had a difficult early childhood. She spent a lot of time with her father’s mother. Unfortunately, this grandmother was abusive, both mentally and physically to Susie and her younger brother.

Continued inside







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303 Simpson Road E.  
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(865) 988-7427  
**Hours:**  
9:00 am - 5:00 pm Tue. - Fri.  
8:00 am - 1:00 pm Sat.  
Closed Sun. and Mon.



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

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Eventually Susie's mother went to court and got custody of Susie and her baby brother. He went to live with her mother and Susie went to live with her mother's parents.

Susie says this was a true blessing because that's where she came to know Jesus. "My grandfather was a rock," Susie said. "His Bible was worn with use and he showed me the love of Jesus."

"I started singing at a little country church in eastern Kentucky when I was 4 years old. I was short and tiny, but I loved to sing and I wanted to tell people about Jesus. The minister would put me on two milk crates stacked up behind the pulpit. I would hang on to the pulpit for dear life and sing Jesus Loves Me."

When I said, "I hope you won't be offended if I say that you seem to be the grandmother of the neighborhood," she just smiled again.

"I am," she said. "They call me Granny. The children here know that they can come to me with anything," she continued. Smiling another big broad smile, she said with joy, "They know they are safe with Miss Susie."

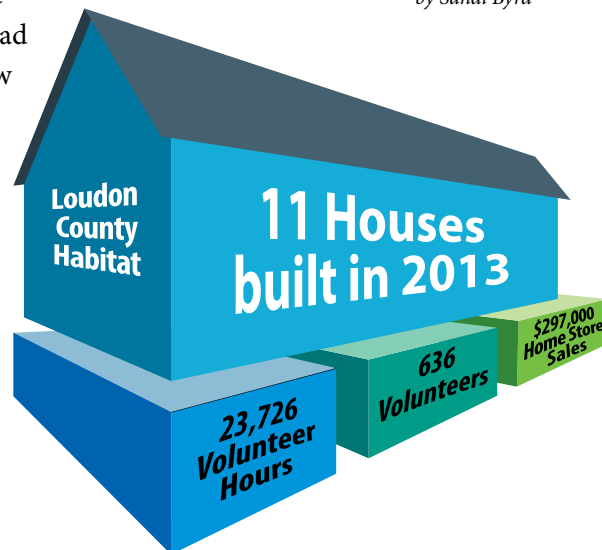
She told me that all the families in the neighborhood are wonderful and that she teaches or has taught most of the sixteen kids on her block. She said that she learned about Habitat from one of these families.

Susie stays busy all the time. She started having Bible study at her home in January. Anyone is welcome and there is usually a crowd. She also has puppets and marionettes that she uses to help teach the lessons of love she holds so dear.

On a particularly sunny day in early April, Susie decided she wanted a popsicle. Before she knew it there were at least 10 kids in her yard having one too. This is the Susie that everyone in Hope Haven knows and loves.

As Susie puts it so well, "The only two things that matter in life are love and being there for each other."

by Sandi Byrd



# Habitat Families Come in all Shapes and Sizes

## Willie Burris

"Habitat for Humanity is a great way for people to help their community, their fellow man, and themselves. By helping each other, we are building not only a home, but lasting friendships and a strong community."

Willie is a single father with two daughters, Kailee, a freshman at East Tennessee State University and Jessica, a junior at Loudon High School.

Willie has lived in Loudon County for 30 years, and for the last 24 has served in the National Guard. His tours of duty have taken him all over the United States and to twelve other countries, including



two tours in Iraq. Although Willie is partially disabled, he continues to work and serve his country.

During his spare time, Willie works on his beautifully landscaped yard and his garden.

## Vicente Garcia

"Just as Jesus calmed the waters during the storm, this (dedication) day he has brought peace and joy to me and my family. I know that it is God who is working through this Habitat for Humanity project."

Vicente and his wife Perla have four children, Angel, Alex, and twin girls, Yoseline and Maria. Vicente puts God first in his life and is fully devoted to his family. He has an infectious personality and his smile will brighten anyone's day.



## Ronnie and Carolyn Willis

"We could not have done all this if it were not for the crew at Habitat for Humanity and the support of our family. We are so grateful for everything and everyone who made it possible for us to spend (last) Christmas in our new home."

Ronnie and Carolyn are raising their three grandchildren, Dominic, Geneva, and Arianna. Carolyn has her hands full taking care of them and is the consummate stay-at-home mom.

The Willises went well over the required 500 hours of sweat equity, completing 620 hours (and they continue to volunteer today). Ronnie was known as one of the hardest working individuals on the work site and was never heard to complain.

Summer  
*Wish*  
LIST

1. Trash Cans for Construction Sites
2. Picnic Table(s)
3. Lunch for a Construction Crew
4. Individually Wrapped Snacks for Volunteers
5. Bottled Water
6. Gift Cards - Food City, Walmart, Food Lion, Home Depot, etc.

If you prefer to receive an email version of this newsletter, you can email [cindy@loudoncountyhabitat.org](mailto:cindy@loudoncountyhabitat.org)