

The Home Store  
 invites you to:  
**Shop**  
**Volunteer**  
**Donate**

**ATTENTION CRAFTERS AND DIY-ERS**

**What are you making  
 for the Holidays?**



Send us a picture of what you have made as a decoration or a gift using something from the Home Store and get 10% off your next Home Store purchase.

**Here's how:**

Email a photo of what you made to [cindy@loudoncountyhabitat.org](mailto:cindy@loudoncountyhabitat.org). We will post it on the Home Store's Facebook page and at the store, then email you a 10% off coupon for use at the Home Store in Lenoir City.

*The coupon must be used in one visit and is good on purchases up to \$100.*

**CELEBRATING 20 YEARS**  
**20% OFF**  
**Habitat Home Store**  
**COUPON**

*Good through 12/22/15*

Coupon good for one visit on purchases up to \$100.

May only be used at the Home Store  
 303 Simpson Rd. E., Lenoir City, TN 37772

Hours: Tues. - Fri. 9-5, Sat. 8-1. Closed Sun. and Mon.

**865-988-7427 (option 1)**

*Cut out and bring to the Home Store for discount.*



[www.loudoncountyhabitat.org](http://www.loudoncountyhabitat.org)  
 (865) 458-0704



**Habitat  
 Heartbeat**

2015 Volume 3



**Habitat Home Store  
 Celebrates 20 Years of  
 Service to The Community**

Starting in a storefront in downtown Lenoir City, the Loudon County Habitat Home Store has literally grown up over the past 20 years. The small group of dedicated volunteers who started our affiliate was looking for ways to raise more money to build more houses. They knew that many other affiliates around the country were doing just that with a Home Store or Restore, where gently used clothing, household goods and/or surplus construction materials could be sold to the general public.

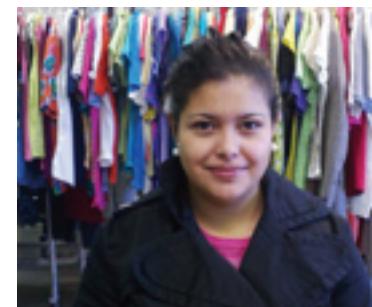
They did their research, saw what other affiliates were doing, and developed their own plan. On Saturday, December 9, 1995 that plan became a reality when they opened the doors for the Grand Opening of our first Home Store. Things went very well until March of 1999 when a whole city block, including our Home Store, burned to the ground. Everything was lost. But thanks to the generosity of the community, the Home Store was able to re-open within a few days at a temporary location in the former First Baptist Church building.

Not to be discouraged by the fire, those same volunteers regrouped, looked at what was available in the community



**20 YEARS**  
**HOME STORE**  
**AND GROWING**

for another store, and in August 1999, just 5 months from the date of the fire, the Home Store was reborn at 303 Simpson Rd E, just off Hwy 321. Although this location seemed to be far from downtown, it was a developing center of commerce with shopping, restaurants and motels. God put the store in the right place.



Since then, some 16 years later, literally thousands of individuals have donated goods to the store, have volunteered their time to work at the store, or have purchased merchandise from the store. Currently, store sales provide nearly enough funding to build 2 houses per year for low-income families in our community.

Today, the Home Store continues to flourish, providing gently used clothing, furniture, housewares, appliances, linens, books and much more. Shoppers range from families who really can't afford to shop elsewhere, to bargain hunters, to do-it-yourself crafters who repurpose the treasures they find into decorative household items and gifts.

Over the years hundreds of individuals from the community have spent their volunteer hours at the store running the register, bagging purchases, sorting through donations and "working the floor" at the Home Store.

While the store is run primarily by volunteers, with a few paid staff, it also participates in a job training





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

**Mike Phillips**  
Construction Assistant

**Jarred Rice**  
Construction Assistant - Repair

**Sandi Bright-Greene**  
Home Store 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

**Home Store Hours:**  
9:00 am - 5:00 pm Tue.- Fri.  
8:00 am - 1:00 pm Sat.  
Closed Sun. and Mon.



**Board of Directors**

Sheila Borders - President  
Tim Meadows - Vice Pres.  
Todd Bolinger - Treasurer  
Jeanne Darnell - Secretary  
Joe Ford  
Randy Heiden  
Micah Nicolaus  
Len Phillips  
Angela Selvage  
Dave Sponsel  
Marla Tedesco  
Tom Walters  
Bart Watson



program providing employment for seniors who want to learn new skills leading to a more permanent job (see story below).

Habitat Partner families are required to work up to 500 sweat equity hours before purchasing their house. They spend many of these hours on the construction site building their house or other Habitat houses, but they also work a minimum of 20% of their sweat-equity hours in the Home Store.

“Everything we do here at the Home Store goes back to the Habitat mission—to build simple, decent, affordable houses and end sub-standard housing here in Loudon County,” said Sandi Bright-Greene, store manager.

You can drop off donations during business hours: Tuesday-Friday 9-5 and Saturday 8-1. The Home Store is closed Sunday and Monday.

*Pick-ups are available for large items such as furniture by calling the store at 865-988-7427 (option 1) to schedule.*

## Seniors Improve Job Skills At The Home Store

Most days, working alongside volunteers at the Home Store, you will find men and women that are enrolled in a senior skills training program administered by the East Tennessee Human Resources Agency (ETHRA). This program assists persons 55 and older with upgrading their job skills. Enrollees are placed in nonprofit host agencies where they are paid to work approximately 20 hours a week.

Faye really enjoys working at the Home Store. “I wish I could be here longer,” she said, indicating that her 4-year placement would end next June.

“We get to meet and work with the families that will be buying houses,” says Pat. “We make friends with them, and enjoy seeing them out in the community.”

“The best part,” says Wilbert, “is knowing that you are helping these families. It gives you a good feeling inside.”

“The ETHRA training program is a true blessing and a tremendous benefit to the Habitat Home Store,” said Sandi Bright-Greene, store manager.

“These ladies and gentlemen really do love working here. They want to stay extra hours. I have to MAKE them go home! I truly appreciate each and every one of them!”

*Pictured above L-R, Wilbert, Roger, Faye, Pat, Elizabeth and Jon.*

## Home Store Timeline

### 1995

Home Store Grand Opening Sat. Dec. 9 at 114 East Broadway in Lenoir City. Purpose: to take donated goods and sell them for reasonable prices to raise funds for construction of homes. Gross sales \$5000.

### 1996

- WalMart donated cash register (up to this point all receipts were filled out by hand).
- \$1000 grant from Scripps-Howard received and used to purchase racks for clothing.

### 1999

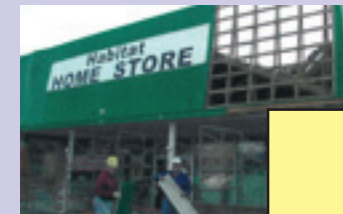
• March 6 - fire destroyed Home Store and 8 other businesses, store lost all merchandise as well as equipment and building supplies, all this after just completing \$15,000 in renovations.

- New location at 303 Simpson Rd.



### 2002

Home Store raised enough money to fund 2 houses.



### 2004

Grand Re-Opening after store remodel - new front, enlarged sales floor, upgraded dressing room, heat and air conditioning added in receiving and sorting areas, new rest room, 17 parking spaces added.

### 2005

Home Store celebrated 10 years.

### 2006

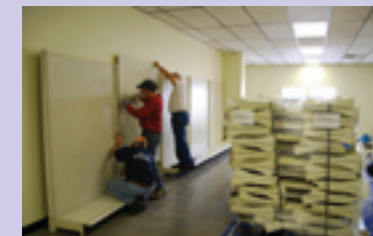
Gross sales \$275,000.

### 2007

Home Store began accepting credit cards.

### 2010

Store remodeled again in December, re-opening in January with refurbished flooring, new shelving and more floor space for merchandise.



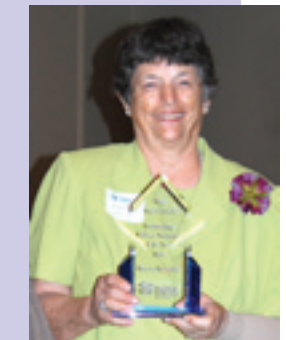
### 2012

Sandi Bright-Greene became new Home Store manager.



### 2013

- Store won state award for Most Efficient ReStore.
- Bill Mallett won state award for ReStore Volunteer of the Year.



### 2014

Marsha Kowalski won state award for ReStore Volunteer of the Year.

## \*\*\*Coming Soon\*\*\* More Parking At The Home Store!

Loudon County Habitat recently purchased additional land adjacent to the Home Store which will be used to increase much needed parking.



“We’ve worked in partnership with our neighbor, Reed Wheelock, and the City to address concerns and be good neighbors,” said Shauna Oden, executive director.

“Parking is at a premium here most days,” explained to Sandi Bright-Greene, store manager. “Having more spaces will certainly relieve some of the congestion and make getting in and out of the store much easier.”