But, what makes an individual choose to support Habitat financially? Why are our supporters so loyal and so giving? What motivates them to contribute?

We recently asked some of our loyal supporters why they support Habitat. You’ll see their answers throughout this article.

People give to Loudon County Habitat in many different ways. Sometimes, it’s sending a check in the envelope from this newsletter you are reading. Sometimes, it’s in response to a letter you’ve received telling the story of one of our new homeowners and how they have—with your help—moved from a place of despair to a place of hope and joy.

If you say “Habitat for Humanity” to a new acquaintance, you will probably get a positive response.

Although the person may not know all there is to know about Habitat, they will usually have a positive perception and see Habitat as a good organization with good programs.

Loudon County Habitat for Humanity is fortunate to have many supporters who give of their time and their financial resources to help families in this area attain homeownership.

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In August, Pastor Charlie Barnard and wife Teresa will be embarking on a 6500 mile motorcycle ride to Nova Scotia (and back) to raise additional funds for the build.

People giving to people

“Habitat does so much good. It supports and helps people. There are not a lot of other organizations I can name in our community that help so much. You can see what Habitat does firsthand by just driving down the street.” Caroll Byrd

“When we started volunteering here in Loudon County, we saw what a good job Habitat was doing regarding placing the families into homes, and we enjoyed working with the staff and the other volunteers. We saw how emotional the dedications are and how the whole community revolves around these very special events.” Mark Kester

Both Becky and Mark started out as volunteers with Loudon County Habitat. Before Mark’s retirement and the move he and Becky made to Loudon County, Mark actually worked on two houses in New Jersey. The Stryker Corporation that Mark worked for gave their workers time off to work on these homes. Stryker is a Fortune 500 medical technology corporation and encouraged workers to participate in the builds. Mark had a really good experience.
“Habitat is a great organization. It gives people the chance to own their own home and live in a good community.” Betty Hamm

Betty and her husband Frank moved into their new Habitat house in December of 2005. Frank passed away in 2012, but Betty continues to live in the house with her daughter, Debbie. Betty contributes regularly to Loudon County Habitat for Humanity.

Sometimes it’s your monthly gift through the Groundbreakers Club. But, whatever way you give, we are grateful for your support and thank you for being a part of this important mission.

At Habitat for Humanity, we build. But, more than building houses, with your help, we build communities, we build hope and we build the opportunity for families to help themselves.

“Habitat houses are affordable. It makes me feel good to do something. I can’t give a lot, but I know that the little bit that I have to give does a lot of good in the community. As long as I live, I will give to Habitat.” Betty Hamm

Critical Repair Program

Did you know that Habitat has a Critical Repair Program that addresses repairs for low to moderate income homeowners that are elderly and/or disabled? There are many homeowners in Loudon County that cannot afford to have repairs made to their homes. Some of the problems these homeowners face include leaky roofs, heat and air that no longer work, old drafty windows, electrical and plumbing problems and rotten floors, just to name a few.

Applications are taken and families must qualify for the funding. When grant funding becomes available, families are scheduled for repairs. In the last 5 years, 20 families have benefited from this program.

“For many years, I would hope and pray that there would be a way to get my house repaired. My house was in bad shape. It was costing too much to heat. Habitat completely remodeled the back of my house. It is definitely a dream come true.” Tennie Mae Green, Critical Repair homeowner

Our Habitat families are extremely grateful for your help. Working together, we do make a difference. Thank you for being part of Habitat’s work and for supporting it with your contributions.

“Habitat is a community banker his entire career. Jim believed in the Habitat mission: a hand up, not a hand out. He felt strongly that the emphasis on education and participation in the actual building of a home were essential to providing people with the skills needed to become more active and productive citizens of their community.” Jennie Bogan

Before his death in 2012, Jennie’s husband, Jim, was a Lourdon County Habitat volunteer for more than 10 years beginning in 2002. He served on the Board of Directors and held the position of Chief Financial Officer for most of that time. Jim worked tirelessly on many committees including Finance, Nominating, Fundraising, and the Golf Tournament. He founded our monthly giving club, The Groundbreakers’ Club, which is now providing a continuous source of funds allowing for better planning and execution of our building program.

“Sometimes people in need feel that all hope is lost, but Habitat helps them. I admire Habitat and will continue to support Habitat as much as I can.”

Caroll Byrd, Habitat donor, Home Store volunteer and Critical Repair homeowner

Home Store Donation Pick-Ups

You may have seen the Home Store truck driving around your neighborhood. Tuesday through Friday the truck goes all over Louden County picking up donations of furniture, appliances and other goods that are too big, heavy or bulky for people to bring to the store themselves.

On rainy days, for safety and to keep the stuff you donate dry, rescheduling of pick-ups sometimes has to be done. Otherwise, morning and afternoon pick-ups are available. All you need to do is call the Home Store at 865-988-7427 and select option 1 from the prompts. If they are busy with other customers, please leave a message and someone will call you back.

The gentlemen that make the pick-ups, right now that’s Randy and Roger, are kind and courteous. Susan, a recent donation pick-up customer, had this to say about her experience with Habitat...

“I had a pick-up today [and] I just wanted to give some kudos... Those gentlemen came in and were as kind as can be. They wiped their feet... and were just so courteous and considerate of the walls and things of that nature. I just wanted to say that’s top notch right there!"

“And, I wanted to give them a little bit of credit and wanted you to know... Maybe they can get a little pat on the back today and an ‘attaboy’ and a ‘good job.’

“Thank you very much. I really, really appreciate it. I’ll definitely do all our donating in the future with you guys. They did a really good job. Again, I just wanted to thank you guys and tell you that it’s a great organization you have there.”

We, at Habitat appreciate our pick-up team and all the hard work they do! And they appreciate the kudos!
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Earth Day is Friday, April 22. This year’s theme is “trees for the earth.” Look for special discounts at the Home Store all week long.

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People Giving to People

“I used to send money all over the place. I got to thinking why not settle on one that really works with people in my own community.”

Caroll Byrd - Caroll has been a volunteer Home Store cashier for several years and a donor since 2014. In 2013, Habitat volunteers did repairs on her home in Lenoir City.

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