Shauna’s Story... It all started when...

Shauna and Bill decided in 1987 to move to the new Tellico Village community so they could play golf and enjoy the lake. There were big ideas of what the Village would look like, but not much else. Shauna and Bill were “Pioneers” (one of the 50 families that moved there the first year). They moved in on a gravel road and only got power to their home a week before they moved in. Bill continued to work for TVA before retiring in 2003 at age 50. Shauna left TVA in 1988 and then worked...
Shauna has left a legacy that will continue to benefit Loudon County and all who live here for many years to come. Her vision and tenacity have built two neighborhoods, a number of infill houses, as well as repairs and renovations on more than 35 homes for elderly or disabled homeowners in our community.

As she has said more than once recently, now she will be able to be on the construction site, hammering, painting or mentoring our families, without her cell phone constantly ringing with another issue she has to deal with back at the office.

Shauna, we wish you all the best in your new position ever since, bringing the affiliate through many trials and tribulations and many more happy times, but always moving forward.

**Excerpt from Celebrations, a guide provided by Habitat International for various Habitat services.**

3rd Annual Houses & Hope Breakfast
Another Success Thanks to You!

It was a beautiful day that started like a reunion as everyone gathered at Central United Methodist Church for fellowship and Starbucks’s coffee! Bo Carey, our Master of Ceremonies ran the program with grace and good humor and our guest speakers helped us convey our message of houses and hope. There were many guests who were hearing our story for the first time and many old friends who came to show their support and hear more about our plans for the future.

Bo asked our guests to consider making a gift and just under $70,000 in gifts and pledges was raised during this year’s event. If you were unable to join us, there are links to the two videos that were shown during the breakfast. Even if you were there, you might want to see them again or share with someone else. They can be found on YouTube at https://youtu.be/nOofZPxrF54 for Alicia Ledesma’s inspiring video about growing up in a Habitat house. The video of Mikey Paul and Sarah tearing down a wall in the house just rehabbed for them can be found at https://youtu.be/wznBJVcu8Pw.

Join us next year in late September for our 4th annual breakfast. You won’t want to miss it.
Our New Executive Director

It’s hard to imagine finding someone good to fill the shoes of Shauna Oden, our Executive Director of 15 years. But we did. Tony Gibbons comes to us with 20 years of nonprofit management and leadership experience.

His career has focused on helping rural communities with programs that empowered and stabilized impoverished families. He spent 10 years in North Carolina administering court based nonprofits with alternative sentencing and conflict resolution services.

He is no stranger to our mission. In 2007 he was hired as the executive director of the Blount County Habitat for Humanity, where he increased opportunities for home ownership, stable housing, and workforce development. After 8 years there he served as a consultant before joining the Habitat team here in Loudon.

Tony grew up in Atlanta, GA, attended Emory University for his undergraduate degree, then earned his graduate degree from UNC Greensboro. He and his family live in West Knoxville. Tony’s wife Melinda is an associate professor of counselor education at the University of Tennessee. Their two sons, Ben and Ryan, attend Bearden Middle School and West High School.

Tony is a life-long Rotarian and volunteers with his sons’ Science Olympiad teams. He enjoys spending time with his family and two dogs (Suki & Ginger), watching movies, fine dining, racquetball and a little golfing every now and then.

The next time you are near the office, stop in and meet Tony, if you have not already.

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