Mark Your Calendars

For These Upcoming Events:

Women’s Build...................Begins Wednesday, Aug 9
Garage Sale............................Saturday, Sept 16
Houses & Hope Breakfast...............Tuesday, Oct 24

Oh What A Night

To most Loudon County residents, Shauna Oden and Loudon County Habitat are almost synonymous. For many years, she has nurtured the families and their children almost as if there were her own, always going that extra mile to lend a helping hand or provide words of encouragement.

Starting as a volunteer while she was still employed, she used her energy and zeal to help build some of the very first Habitat houses in Loudon County. Then when the volunteer leaders of the rapidly-growing affiliate needed someone who could keep the accounting records, Shauna stepped up and soon after became the very first full-time executive director for Loudon County Habitat.

Earlier this year, she resumed her volunteer status and stepped away from the day to day management of our affiliate, leaving that role in the capable hands of Tony Gibbons, our new executive director.

But Shauna was gracious and humble as always when it was her turn to speak. “I’ve loved being involved with Habitat, and it’s really because of all of you and the families that I did it for so long,” she admits. “I want to thank my husband, Bill, for all he’s done to allow me the opportunity to do this. I couldn’t have done it without his support.”

“Building more than 115 houses with low-income families in Loudon County will certainly be a big part of Shauna’s legacy,” said Executive Director Tony Gibbons. “But, even more than that, she has helped shape the lives of the families served by Habitat, and in turn, has helped shape the community we live in.”

This June we had home dedications for two wonderful and hardworking families. A very special thanks to Altar’D State for donating their time and resources toward the house built with the Frutos Family. Also, we thank The Episcopal Church of the Resurrection in equal measure for their sponsorship of the Hubbuch home, their 4th Habitat house.

We are grateful to the VFW-1st Lt. Alexander Bonnyman Jr., Post-Tellico Village, for the presentation of the colors, Loudon County Mayor, Hon. Buddy Bradshaw who led the pledge of allegiance, Father Ken Brown of the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection for blessing both homes, and Angela Selvage for presenting our new homeowners with their keys.

Recently Hugh and Jody Brashear were recognized by Boys and Girls Club during their Leadership Hall of Fame ceremony with a Lifetime Achievement Award. Since their arrival in Loudon County, they have employed their faith and talents in our community. Their involvement with Loudon County Habitat has been tremendous. Both Hugh and Jody were instrumental in the affiliate’s creation and its impact on families in Loudon County. Thank you Hugh and Jody for all you do for Habitat and for our whole community!
Oh What a Night  Cont'd from Page 1
In addition to Representative Matlock, other officials attending included Lieutenant Governor Randy McNally and Loudon County Mayor Buddy Bradshaw, both long-time supporters of our house building ministry.

Shauna’s family and friends, including a number of nearby Habitat executives were also there to toast Shauna and show their support.

During her almost 25 years with the affiliate, Shauna oversaw the development of both Harmony Heights and Hope Haven, two Habitat neighborhoods, one in Lenoir City and the other in Loudon, together containing more than 100 Habitat homes.

In addition, more than 35 repair projects for disabled or elderly homeowners were completed under her watch.

We Are Central Spruce Up!
Despite the brisk spring temperatures, a crowd of more than 60 volunteers joined Habitat board members and staff this past May, to serve their community through the We Are Central Spring Spruce Up!
Families from six Habitat homes in the Hope Haven neighborhood participated in the beautification project. While some got help with landscaping and yard clean up, most of them had their vinyl siding and driveways pressure washed. A few even had window screens repaired.

Chair ed this year by CUMC member, Shannon Forrester, We Are Central is an outreach program of Central United Methodist Church in Lenoir City. Each year they choose projects that allow their members to help others in our community and this marks the second year they have partnered with Loudon County Habitat for Humanity. The help was appreciated especially by those who without assistance could not manage these tasks alone.

Busy Fall Ahead
This will be a busy construction season for Loudon County Habitat. Three new houses are already underway and six repair projects are scheduled to be completed before year’s end. First up is our 10th Women Build House. This year’s Women Build program actually started back in May with our Women in Leadership lunch. The event commemorated National Women Build Week by recognizing area women in leadership roles and providing a training workshop that was led by Lowe’s management from their Alcoa store.

Lowe’s is a national sponsor of the Women Build Program and we appreciate Store Manager Patrick McConnell and two of his leadership team, Rebecca Johnson and Deborah Bowers, taking part in our event. As they have with past Women Builds, Lowe’s employees will also be among many volunteers who will help build this house.

For this build, we will be partnering once again with the George R. Johnson Foundation for their fifth Habitat house, the last three being Women Build houses. The Community Church of Tellico Village and Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church will team up in September to start another house in Hope Haven, and then in October Concord United Methodist Church will get started on their 17th house, this one to be built in Lenoir City.

We hope to complete the repair projects before winter thanks to the Carol M. Peterson Housing Fund and the Affordable Housing Program, both grants awarded through the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati, partnering with our local SouthEast Bank.

Volunteers are needed with all three builds, as well as the repair projects. So whether you are experienced in construction or just learning how to hold a hammer, we can use you! We also need volunteers at the Home Store to help with sorting donations. Contact Sammie Shanks, volunteer coordinator at 865-640-3578 to get involved.

Making an Impact
For every home we build, we tithe toward a house built outside the United States. Habitat for Humanity International recently recognized Loudon County Habitat for tithe contributions exceeding other Tennessee affiliates of our size. The tithe is a significant element of our mission that allows us to participate in affordable housing overseas.

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Ron Zener – Flag Half-mast
With sad hearts we say goodbye to our dear friend and colleague Ron Zener who passed last month. Thanks to his wife Carol, Ron joined the affiliate as our accountant more than ten years ago bringing with him a warm heart, inviting smile, and a lifetime of CFO experience. He will truly be missed.

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

Wheelchair Ramp
For those who need a little help to get around, we can build a wheelchair ramp. Call 865-988-7427 opt 1 or visit our Home Store.

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