Another Loan Bites the Dust!

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When she first saw the footprint of her Habitat home, she wasn't sure it would be big enough, according to then Construction Supervisor Jody Brashear. What she didn't realize was that it was going to be a two story house and it was going to be plenty big for her family, who had just lost their home to the 1993 tornado in Lenoir City.

That was twenty five years ago, and just last month Mary Jo did what she has always done. She paid her mortgage payment. But it wasn't just any mortgage payment. It was her last mortgage payment.

Mary Jo is just one of a number of Habitat families who have paid off their loans and now own their homes free and clear. Little did they realize when they signed the papers that this day would actually come. They were so caught up in the fact that they were actually buying a house—something they thought would never happen for them.

Congratulations, Mary Jo and all the other Habitat homeowners who are getting close to paying off their mortgages!!

Construction Update

Two new houses are currently under construction in Lenoir City. The first located at W. 2nd Avenue and sponsored by Concord United Methodist Church is well underway and expected to be completed in late May. The second sponsored by First Baptist Church of Tellico Village is located at Ellis Road and is in the pre-build stage. Two additional houses are planned for this fall.

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Construction Office

Next time you drive through Hope Haven, chances are you won't see the familiar construction trailer that has been there since the neighborhood began in 2008.

The construction office has moved across the street to 102 Grace Lane, formerly owned by the Thompsons who have moved out of the area. Thanks to Steve West and several other volunteers, the move went smoothly, and staff were up and running quickly.

The site where the trailer was located will ultimately be common area for the neighborhood once Hope Haven is built out.

New Habitat Houses From the Homeowners’ Prospective

"I was working in a manufacturing plant as an hourly laborer, but we were barely making it. I knew there was no opportunity for advancement at the plant. We were accepted into the Habitat program, worked our sweat equity hours and moved into our new house. We soon realized that we could afford for me to take a job at the Lenoir City Police Department, making less than my factory job, but with much more opportunity for advanced training and promotions.

Now I’m a professional law enforcement officer. Thanks to Habitat, we have a decent home."

John, 1999 Habitat homeowner

"I feel so much safer here. My kids have somewhere to play and other kids to play with."

Kristin, 2014 Habitat homeowner

"I was living in an old mobile home that was so shaky I was afraid it would blow down in a strong wind. Whenever one of those summer thunderstorms came through, I’d go spend the night at Walmart because I knew I’d be safe there. Now I sleep well at night because I know my house is strong and comfortable in all kinds of weather. My Habitat home sits on a strong foundation and I am no longer afraid.”

Darlene, 2004 Habitat homeowner

"Before we moved into our Habitat home, my husband and I rented a farmhouse that didn’t have a water heater. We boiled water on the stove and bathed in a tin washtub on the back porch. The tin washtub is now an outdoor flower planter and serves as a reminder of how much life has changed."

Jaime, 2001 Habitat homeowner
Hugh & Jody Brashear—A Very Special Couple!

Very little has happened in Loudon County Habitat’s 25 year history where Hugh and Jody Brashear weren’t involved.

They were part of the small group who made the decision to form a Habitat for Loudon County. They were instrumental in the building of four new Habitat houses in the first two years, with three to follow in the third year—all in response to the devastating tornado that came through Lenoir City in the Spring of 1993. And they have provided guidance, counsel and lots of physical labor ever since.

The Brashears have been recognized many times over the years for their contributions to our community. This past October at our annual Houses & Hope Breakfast, they were recognized again.

County Mayor and Habitat Board Member, Buddy Bradshaw, presented Hugh and Jody with a proclamation designating April 2, 2018, as Hugh and Jody Brashear Day in Loudon County.

A special lunch was held recently to help celebrate Hugh and Jody Brashear Day with close friends, Jim and Jean Lockwood, Shauna Odem, former executive director, Tony Gibbons, current executive director, and Mayor Buddy Bradshaw.

We can never say thank you enough to these two who have done so much for our affiliate and for our community.

A Look Back to 1993


On Sunday, February 21, 1993, after a heavy snow, a devastating tornado hit Lenoir City. The headlines of the News-Herald read, “Killer Tornado Ravages Lenoir City – One Dead, 18 Injured, and 20 Plus Buildings Hit.” By Tuesday it was reported that 18 businesses and 164 residents had been damaged or destroyed. Estimated damage was $2 million with 40% not covered by insurance. More than 30 families were displaced by the storm.

On March 23, a special called meeting was held at the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection to meet Sara Coppler, the new Regional Director for Habitat International, who recommended Loudon County Habitat for Humanity become an affiliate on April 1, 1993. In response to a proposal by Hugh Brashear, a one-time grant of $35,000 was given by Habitat for Humanity International.

A temporary office was set up at the City Hall to receive the families desiring a home. Mary Jo Smallen was the first approved partner family. In the letter of approval, a clause of “sweat equity” required her to help build homes for Habitat.

On June 12, 1993 Karol Massengill and her three children received the keys to their new home at the dedication of the first house built by Loudon County Habitat for Humanity. The three-bedroom dwelling was built on the site where the Massengill family lived before their home was destroyed by the tornado.

On October 17, 1993, the two residences built on Kingston Street by the Loudon County Habitat for Humanity were dedicated. The public was invited to view the houses. With sprinkles of rain falling, Debra Ruth Spires and Mary Jo Smallen were presented with keys for the two residences constructed by Habitat for Humanity on adjacent sites in Lenoir City at 906 and 908 Kingston Street.

Four months after the first keys for a Habitat house were presented two blocks away, the second and third keys were presented to the new owners by Bonnie Howard and Hugh Brashear. Each family was presented a Bible and a dogwood tree was planted between both driveways. More than 150 people had been involved in the building of these two houses.

*If you would like to read the entire history as written by Rev Phifer, email Sandi Byrd at Sandra@loudoncountyhabitat.org.

Calling All Women—Let’s Build!

Loudon County Habitat will build it’s 11th Women Build house this fall. Don’t miss out on this great opportunity. Not only will you learn a lot, but you’ll have fun doing it!

Sign up now to be part of this build.

Email Sammie@loudoncountyhabitat.org to get your name on the list.

Home Store Highlights—Louie’s the Man

“Louie, Louie, he’s our man. If he can’t do it, nobody can!”

Walking through the Home Store, you just might hear this chant. Why? Because Louie Finley has stepped up using his well-honed repair skills and has become our all-purpose “Mr. Fix-it” at the Home Store.

He’s been a Habitat volunteer for many years, but when approached about being the designated repair guy at the Home Store, he accepted the role with his usual “can do” attitude.

Just about any day, Louie can be seen up a ladder or peering into the electrical box pondering what to do next. So don’t be surprised if you do hear this chant. Because where there’s an issue, Louie is on the job and has a solution. Thank you, Louie, for all your hard work and your positive attitude. We simply couldn’t do without you!

We’ll Take It!
The Home Store accepts clothing, furniture, working appliances, books, household items, crafts, toy tools, hobby items, and more.... if in doubt, just ask!

DONATE • SHOP • DONATE • SHOP • DONATE

Do We Have Your Email Address?
Email is one of the quickest and most inexpensive ways for us to communicate with you. If you haven’t already shared, please let us know your email address so we can keep you updated on all the exciting happenings at Loudon County Habitat! Just email Sandra@loudoncountyhabitat.org and we’ll add your email address to your record.
Hugh & Jody Brashear—A Very Special Couple!

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Hugh and Jody Brashears have been recognized many times over the years for their contributions to our community. This past October at our annual Houses & Breakfast event, where we recognized two blocks away, the first and third keys were presented to the Brashears.

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The construction office has moved to a new location in Lenoir City. Our office is now located at 202 Grace Lane, across from the Habitat office. The construction office has moved from its previous location at 120 Grace Lane. The new office is much larger and better equipped to handle the increased demand for our services.

Construction Office

Next time you drive through Hope Haven, chances are you won’t see the familiar construction trailer that has been there since the neighborhood began in 2008.

The construction office has moved across the street to 102 Grace Lane, formerly owned by the Thompsons. The trailer that was once there is now used for storage. The construction office is now located across the street.

The site where the trailer was located will ultimately be common area for the neighborhood once Hope Haven is built out.

Mark Your Calendars

For These Upcoming Events:

- National Women Build Week .................. May 5-13
- 5th Annual Houses & Hope Breakfast ................ Tuesday, September 25
- Community Church Crafters Garage Sale ................ Saturday, October 6

Non-Profits

- Loudon Community Federal Credit Union
- First Baptist Church of Tellico Village
- Concord United Methodist Church

Loudon County Habitat for Humanity

- 238 Hwy 70 W
- Lenoir City, TN 37771

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This past February, more than 250 gathered for this year’s Volunteer Appreciation Lunch to recognize all the wonderful individuals who make our mission possible. There were lots of laughs, lots of emotion and lots of kudos—all well-deserved and humbly accepted. We can never say thank you enough. Our volunteers are the best volunteers ever!!

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“I was living in an old mobile home that was so shaky I was afraid it would blow down in a strong wind. Whenever one of those summer thunderstorms came through, I’d go spend the night at Walmart because I knew I’d be safe there. Now I sleep well at night because I know my house is strong and comfortable in all kinds of weather. My Habitat home sits on a strong foundation and I am no longer afraid.”

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