



Homefront

25 anniversary

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Mission Statement:

Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.

When Millard Fuller founded Habitat for Humanity in Americus, Georgia in 1976 he only prayed it would be as big of a success as it is today. Ten years later, the Valdosta Habitat for Humanity Task Force came together and received approval on their application to become an Affiliation of Habitat for Humanity International. In 1987 the Valdosta-Lowndes County Habitat for Humanity Affiliation was successfully incorporated and a year later the groundbreaking for the first house was made. Since then VLCHFH has grown and this year will mark the 25th year as well as the building of the 200th house.

The past 25 years have been successful in so many ways. In 2003 we were lucky enough to host the Jimmy Carter Work Project where we built 27 houses in one week with more than 1000 volunteers. That same year we built our first handicap accessible home and now all of our homes are handicap visitable. Since then, we have opened the ReStore where anyone can come find treasures from furniture to appliances to home furnishings. In 2008 we became the first builder in Lowndes County to build Energy Star Certified homes. This not only means lower power bills for our homeowners, it is also better for the environment.

We have also been able to help out in other communities other than our own. When the tragedy of Katrina hit the gulf coast the Valdosta-Lowndes County Habitat for Humanity rose to the occasion to lend a helping hand. One of our long time employees, Warren Scoby, took relief supplies to Alabama and Mississippi after Katrina hit twice a month for almost two years. We have also developed a relationship with our sister Affiliate in New Zealand. In 2009 the Valdosta Global Village Team went to New Zealand to learn about another culture and work with the Tauranga Affiliate of Habitat for Humanity.

One of the reasons we have been so successful the past 25 years is because of our wonderful donors, volunteers, Board of Directors, and staff. If it wasn't for the donations we receive to go to the ReStore, the jobsite, or to fund different houses and projects, and the volunteers, some who come every Saturday and some who come once a year, we would not be where we are today. The past and current Board of Directors have been an invaluable asset to the work that we do. Without their help and the hard work of all the employees who have walked through these doors VLCHFH would not have been able to help as many families over the years. Thank you all for your help over the past 25 years!

Habitat Staff

Kevin Brown
 Terry Cumbus
 Mike Eddington
 Larry Henderson
 Patti Henderson
 Stuart Mullis
 Ben Odell
 Bill Ray
 Molly Roan
 Megan Saffell
 Carolyn Selby
 Margie Vollenweider

Do it Yourself!

Spring is upon us, and there are a lot of things we need to do to shake off the winter's dinginess before the summer gets too hot. The following tips don't take much money, and mostly don't take a lot of work!

Clean your siding. Dirt builds up, and mildew forms on top. Simply make a solution of about a cup of bleach mixed into two gallons of water, and apply to the siding, under the soffits, and fascias. The mildew will disappear, and then spray off with a water hose. You don't need a pressure washer, in fact you shouldn't use more than a hose and nozzle on vinyl siding. You can scrub with the same brush you wash your car with, for stubborn spots.

Spruce up the yard. Rake up leaves and pine straw. You can use this as mulch, or the city will pick up at the curb. Trim bushes, a good rule is cut back more than you think it needs, and it will grow back thicker than before. Apply a light coat of fertilizer with a spreader for more even coverage. Weed and Feed for southern lawns works well, or one with high nitrogen content will green up the lawn quickly. Just follow the instructions about how much and when.

Clean the driveway. Now is when the pressure washer comes in handy. Apply a degreaser such as Simple Green to oily spots, let it sit a while, and then spray it off. An inexpensive electric pressure washer will work fine, or several neighbors could rent a gas-powered model for a day.

Touch up or repaint porch posts and railings. This puts a final touch on your outside look and gives you a home you'll be proud to come home to all summer.

Don't forget your Habitat ReStore is open Thursday through Saturday, 9am to 5pm for fertilizer, cleaners, and paint at great prices!

Habitat for Humanity ReStore
Valdosta-Lowndes County

Donate your new and gently-used building materials, tools, and appliance for a greener alternative to landfills. All proceeds benefit decent, affordable homeownership.

Currently Seeking new and gently-used:
Appliances, Furniture, Cabinetry, Windows, Doors, Sinks, Tubs, Toilets, and other Miscellaneous building materials.
PICK-UP SERVICE IS AVAILABLE, AND ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE!
Pick-up service is available. All donations are tax-deductible.

Valdosta - Lowndes Habitat for Humanity
2010 E. Cypress Street, Valdosta, GA 31601
Thursday - Saturday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Phone: 229-247-8513 Fax: 229-245-1339
www.valdostahabitat.org

Building on Faith



Every year the Valdosta Lowndes County Habitat for Humanity hosts the Building on Faith event with the Church Relations Committee and of course our numerous volunteers, churches, and crew leaders from our community. The Seventh Annual Building on Faith event was a huge success this year with two houses being built. This year, the Building on Faith event was held at 410 and 412 Troup Street and we had over 250 volunteers who donated almost 1000 hours of work to complete this build.



Everyone who came out had a great time. We started each morning with a devotional and a prayer by a volunteer from one of our participating churches. Before the hard work began, our construction crew was sure to prepare everyone with a safety briefing and instructional piece. Each day, lunch was brought by one of the church sponsors. At the end of the week the two houses that were built were dedicated to Britney Reynolds and Shirley Morrison at the Annual Thanksgiving Service which was held at First Berean Baptist Church.

Welcome Home

We are excited to announce that Ava Matthews has just moved into her new home. Ava recently finished her “sweat equity hours” and was able to move into her new home. Ava has made many sacrifices for home ownership but never to the expense of her family. Ava has four children, nine grandchildren, and even one great grandchild. We have seen her work hard for herself and her family and are excited that she is now able to move into her own home. Congratulations Ava! We wish you the best!!!



Habitat Happenings

- On February 10th, we celebrated our Birdhouse Auction. It was such a success and we want to thank everyone who was involved!
- We would like to announce our FIRST EVER Valdosta-Lowndes County HFH **5K RUN!** We are so excited and look forward to a lot of participation. The 5k Run will be held in the FALL of 2012. So please keep an eye out for more information! It should be a lot of fun!

Letter from the Executive Director

The Valdosta-Lowndes Co. Habitat for Humanity certainly set many new horizons and changed the lives of the most families in its history. 2011 saw the construction/rehabilitation of over 10 homes, serving over 35 people. Through our Home Buyer Education Program, we educated over 500 people.

Our precious volunteers came out in record numbers, and to say that we could not have made it without them, would be the understatement of the year. Our Re-Store, where we sell new and used building materials, furniture, appliance and general treasures saw more customers than ever, and allowed us to build at a greater pace than before. We have been fortunate to have the greatest support of donors and suppliers in our store.

When a year comes together like this, it truly is a year of dedication. Our Staff works each day under the direction of our Board of Directors to make the far away dream of home ownership come true for so many. The Board and the Staff of Valdosta Lowndes Co. Habitat for Humanity have pledged to eliminate **all** sub-standard housing in Valdosta, a daunting task but a goal that is worthwhile and obtainable.

Everyone that has a Habitat home has paid for their home Full Price. No one is ever given a home. We partner with the homeowners, they work “sweat equity” hours on their homes, along with their family and friends. We offer a hand up, not a hand out. This year 10 families and more partnered together to create stable neighborhoods and communities with God’s people in Valdosta and Lowndes County. If you were a part of this great work your heart must be filled with genuine warmth and compassion, if not come join us, you will never do better work.

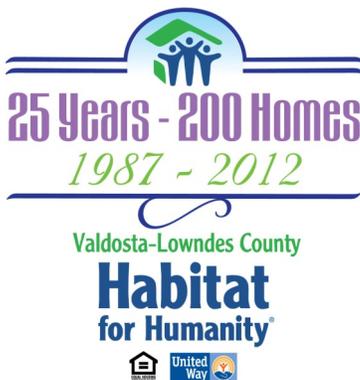
2012 will be a year of celebration.

Many wonderful and dedicated people chose to be a part of the ministry that is Habitat for Humanity Valdosta Lowndes Co., for many years, far too many names, and place to mention, but each effort placing a brick in the foundation of our wonderful community.

We will build in this year of 2012 our 200th home, and will celebrate our 25th year of service.

—Stuart Mullis, Executive Director

Valdosta-Lowndes County Habitat for Humanity



Psalms 127:1

Unless the LORD builds the house,
its builders labor in vain.
Unless the LORD watches over the city,
the watchmen stand guard in vain.

Best Kept Secret in Town

For far too long, the Habitat for Humanity ReStore has been the best kept secret in town. We hope the cat gets let out of the bag and everyone finds us at our location at 2010 Cypress Street in Valdosta. The ReStore should be the first place you look when an idea strikes you to renovate a room, do any project around the house, or even start building a new structure. You never know what you may find at the Habitat ReStore!!

The ReStore receives merchandise such as doors, windows, furniture, paint, carpet, tile, appliances, and much, much more, from donors such as corporations, contractors, businesses, and individuals. Donated items may be new or slightly used but in working condition. The sale of this merchandise provides assets for the construction of new Habitat homes. Receipts will be given to each donor so that you may use the donation as a tax deduction. Without these donors and their donations the ReStore could not operate therefore limiting the number of homes our affiliate would be able to build. Donations may be dropped off at the ReStore during operating hours Thursday thru Sat 9 - 5 or call the ReStore at 229-247-8513 or Mike Eddington at 229-560-1112 to schedule a pickup.

All business owners know they would be in trouble if it were not for YOU, the customer. To be a customer, no trade skills are necessary, no sore thumbs from smashing with a hammer, no sore backs, just shop at the ReStore and you help build the home that someone has never had the opportunity to have. Without customers the ReStore would cease to exist. There must be income for any business to operate and make a profit. The money spent in the ReStore stays with VLCHF. With your purchase you not only get items at a greatly reduced price but you also help build a home for someone and **DON'T KEEP IT A SECRET**. Help eliminate sub-standard housing in the Valdosta-Lowndes County area. Buy a hammer, buy a door, buy an appliance, and help build a house, it really works.



Valdosta—Lowndes County Habitat for Humanity is a non—profit ecumenical Christian housing ministry committed to demonstrate the love and teachings of Jesus Christ. We are dedicated to elimination of sub-standard housing in our community as working together with families, volunteers, and donors from all walks of life. We believe every man, woman, and child should having a simple, decent affordable place to live regardless of race, religion, or background.

Valdosta—Lowndes County

Habitat for Humanity Contact Information:

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E-mail: volunteerhabitat@bellsouth.net

Website: www.valdostahabitat.org



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