



smithcountyhabitat.org ■ 822 West Front Street Tyler, TX 75702 ■ 903 - 595 - 6630

Tyler Man Achieves Dream as a New Habitat Homeowner



Jonathan McClish never thought the day would come that he would own a home. “This means everything to me that I am able to become a homeowner. It hasn’t sunk in yet.”

Several years ago, Jonathan’s mother, Brenda, lost her home after she became disabled and could no longer work. “We had 48 hours to move out of our house and this began a pattern of renting substandard places or living in hotel rooms that took most of my paycheck and not being able to afford basic things like food and medicine.”

Last year, the place Jonathan was renting flooded four times because of the heavy rains. He couldn’t afford to move and ended up getting sick and being hospitalized because of the conditions he was living in. They also lost most of their belongings after they were damaged by the water.

Jonathan works at the Habitat for Humanity of Smith County ReStore. His supervisor says you would never know that Jonathan had all these things going on in his life. “He never wants to miss a day of work and loves his job. Through it all, Jonathan kept a positive outlook on life and as a man of faith, kept his trust that God would answer his prayers,” said director of the ReStore Danny Saenz.

Jonathan says he enjoys his job because he’s able to help people get a fresh start by purchasing furniture or building products like new flooring from the ReStore. The ReStore sells donated products that are new or in very good condition at a discounted price to support the programs of Habitat for Humanity of Smith County. Habitat helps low-income families, seniors, veterans and people with disabilities get into affordable housing or complete critical repairs on their homes.

“Jonathan recently qualified for one of our older Habitat homes that came back to us,” said Jack Wilson, CEO of Habitat for Humanity of Smith County.

“We are so excited that once again we can improve another family’s life by becoming a homeowner. He will have an affordable monthly mortgage now and put his hard-earned money towards owning instead of renting.”

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With tears in his eyes, Jonathan tried to put into words what it means to be a homeowner. "Not everyone knows what it's like to not have a place to live. I now have a roof over my head and can take care of my mother. I can't wait to work on my yard this spring and plant flower beds."

Jonathan adopted a brindle Labrador from the animal shelter that he named "Diesel." He is just now beginning to decorate but was afraid to nail his first hole in the wall to hang a picture or the TV because when he rented, he couldn't do that.

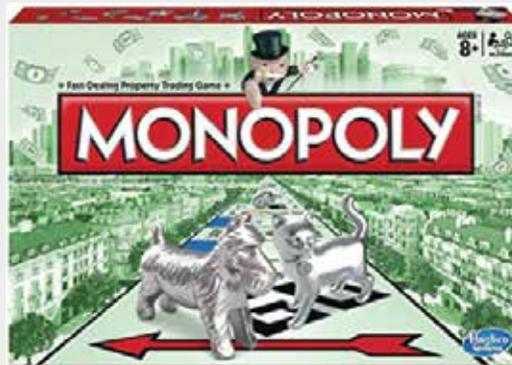
"I just want to thank my co-workers at Habitat for believing in me and helping me through these challenging times," said Jonathan. "I am so thankful to God and Habitat for making my future for me and my mom a lot brighter. I hope I can pay it forward one day and help others who are in similar situations so they know that through hard work and faith you can achieve your dreams."



Monopoly Tournament to Benefit Habitat for Humanity of Smith County

On **Saturday, September 12, 2020**, Habitat for Humanity of Smith County will hold a **Monopoly tournament** in Tyler as a fundraiser. Registration for players will open in June and will be limited to the first 128 players who register. The tournament will feature cash prizes for the top four players. Players must be 13 years of age and up. We will play by the official Monopoly rules but play four rounds with the top players in each round moving on. We will also have opportunities for businesses and individuals to sponsor the event. Information will be coming out soon.

If you are interested in sponsoring please email rebecca@smithcountyhabitat.org Make sure you like us on Facebook or visit our web page for updates:



SAVE the DATE 9.12.2020

Sponsor A Stud and Help Habitat for Humanity of Smith County

Habitat for Humanity of Smith County is offering the public a chance to leave their mark on the next Habitat home by sponsoring a stud for \$100.

"A stud is a 2x4 piece of wood that is used to frame the house. East Texans can write an inspirational message, a favorite scripture or paint designs by sponsoring one of the boards," said Rebecca Berkley, director of development.

"Our next wall raising is in late March and we still need to sell about 25 stud boards so please come by the ReStore to sponsor a stud," said Berkley. "We have markers in the store and a space to design your board if you don't want to check it out and bring back."

The studs will be used in the 110th and 111th homes.



First Christian Church Provides Lead Gift for Habitat Home

The home on Tenneha is the 109th home built by Habitat. First Christian Church of Tyler gave the lead gift. Church members are building the house. "We are so excited to work with Habitat on this home build," said Chris Pulliam, FCC senior minister.

Funds were also provided by BBVA Foundation. Several East Texans also bought parts of the house such as appliances, lighting, plumbing fixtures, windows, doors, etc. at a live auction during Playhouses on the Plaza.

Habitat Build Donors include: Mitch & Kerry Adams, Rebecca & Scott Berkley, Matt & Trisha Brinton, Scott & Misty Childs, Steve & Donna Emmons, Suzette & Lee Farr, Corey and Mary Alice Guidry, Jennifer & John Gaston, Andrew & Audrey Gutierrez, Marcia and Randy Garrett, Jesse & Rebecca Grimaldo, Judith Guthrie, Scott Heater, Paul & Paula Hintz, D'Ann Miller, Bill & Dianne Moore, Mike & Penny Patterson, Steve & Rita Poole, Fred & Carol Smith, Stephanie & Chris Taylor, Robert & Mary Walker, James & Mary Wilhite, Jack & Patricia Wilson, Walter & Ashley Wilhelmi, Terry & Christi Williamson and Dawn Yount.

Habitat Build Partners include the City of Tyler, High and Tight Framing, Trane, Tyler Roofing, B.M.S., 6M Electric, Coy Dodd, Blue Star Plumbing, McCoy's, Kovarik Drywall, J&S Contractors, Randy Madden Concrete, Green Science, LLC, Alpha Pest Control, All Seasons Windows & Doors, Lowes, Home Depot, East Texas Fence, Whirlpool, Woodshed Truss, Assured Insulation and Nance's Cleaning.



Habitat for Humanity of Smith County Volunteer Builds 50th Home

Habitat for Humanity of Smith County volunteer Bob Beckley helped raise the walls in December on his 50th home build.

Beckley, who's 85 years old, has helped build Habitat homes since 2004. He says his favorite part of home builds are having the homeowner put the first nails in the first wall. "I also love it when we are building a home with children and having them write their name on the slab that will be their room."

The build will be the final home constructed by Beckley as he prepares to retire from his volunteer work. He says it's bitter-sweet, but he's enjoyed his time with Habitat.



East Texans can help Habitat while "Spring Cleaning"

The ReStore saves shopper's money, keeps items out of the landfill and support the programs of Habitat. "You never know what you are going to find as the stock changes daily," said Danny Saenz, director of the ReStore. The store also carries new items such as mattresses, flooring, paint, garden tools and more.

"If you are renovating a house for example, we have lots of doors and windows to choose from, trim, insulation, tile, lumber, plumbing items and lots more to save you money," said Saenz.

The store also will pick up your donations. "If you are spring cleaning your home call us," said Saenz. Furniture items need to be in good condition. The ReStore also offers deconstruction services for items such as cabinets or fixtures they can sell.

All proceeds help Habitat with completing critical repairs for seniors and veterans and building new homes for low-income families. The ReStore is open Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. If you would like more information about how to donate an item or find out if something is in stock call 903-531-0072.

North Tyler Home Donated to Habitat for Humanity of Smith County



Slabs were poured in late February for the #110 and #111 houses on Tenneha. The consistent rainfall that we have received has delayed our projects but hope to do wall raisings in late March.



A rent house near the Tenneha Development was donated in December to Habitat.

Freedom Financial Group President Taylor White donated the house and land valued at \$35,000. The house will be demolished and a new affordable home will be built in its place.

If you have land or houses you would like to donate please call Habitat.

Habitat for Humanity of Smith County Announces New Director of Operations

Carl Watson has been named the director of operations for Habitat for Humanity of Smith County.

Watson has an extensive background in operations, sales, marketing, human resources and management. He worked with the Sherwin-Williams Company and Bishop TK Gorman Catholic School.

He's a graduate of Leadership Tyler Class 25. He served as treasurer for the Bishop TK Gorman PTO Board, is a member of the South Tyler Rotary, member of the East Texas Woods and Water Foundation and member of Grace Community Church. He also volunteers with the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and is on the board for Meals on Wheels.

A graduate of Sam Houston State University, Watson has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Marketing with an emphasis on Management.

"We are so excited to have Carl rejoin our Habitat team," said Jack Wilson, CEO of Habitat for Humanity of Smith County. "He was the director of the ReStore many years ago, so he knows our brand and brings a lot of experience to our organization to help us continue to grow."

