

IMPACT
REPORT
2018



New Orleans Area
Habitat
for Humanity®



In lieu of my usual letter, I wanted you to read this message from one of this year's Habitat homeowners. "Tuba" Steve Glenn is an exceptional musician who came to our program through friends of his who already own Habitat homes in the Lower Ninth Ward. He wrote this letter as a message to future applicants, sharing his experiences in the program. What Steve writes here is an excellent example of what your support has made possible." **JIM PATE, NOAHH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

DEAR FUTURE NOAHH PARTNER FAMILY,

The path ahead is not necessarily a short one, but it is perhaps one of the most enjoyable, exciting, and worthwhile things you will do in the next year; this much I can guarantee. Allow me to give you an idea of what lies ahead: You will start your volunteer hours floating around the Habitat ReStore; moving couches; organizing resellable merchandise; pricing items; if you're lucky, maybe you'll get to destroy a few things with a sledgehammer in order to break them down; meeting amazing and good people, staff and other volunteers who are working on their hours towards their own homes. A few weeks in, you'll get to choose the lot where your house will be built. If you're like me, perhaps this is where the dreaming begins... driving from lot to lot just imagining what the house you'll help build will look like: What will the drive home from work be like? Which side of the back yard will the garden be? Shed? Color of the house?
Who is going to mow the lawn?

A few more hours in the ReStore will find you starting the "sweat" part of your equity, though admittedly for me not in the way expected. I'll say it plainly: putting work in on other peoples' houses is REWARDING and relatively easy work. It is an overwhelming feeling of pride to be on-site, learning new skills to help build a house. Hammer here, cut there, staple this, wrap that, what's that type of nail called again? and



is this siding or trim? or sheathing or board? or Hardie or wood? And just when you start to get a handle of things... IT'S TIME TO START YOUR HOUSE. Which, naturally, means you instantly forget everything you've learned thus far! Day 1 of the journey of building your own house starts with hammering a bunch of 2x4s together on a raised platform. In a matter of hours, those 2x4s become the first wall of your house. As you raise this wall, suddenly the whole process becomes real. Before you know it, you'll have all of the exterior walls up. Suddenly, it's not just some platform... this thing is becoming a house(!) Interior walls and roofing start to go up. Within a few weeks, you're putting up siding, and painting what now looks like the near-completed shell of your future home. You may start to realize how much you've taken the little things for granted once you start installing windows and doors with locks. In short, the first few weeks of the building process is exhilarating as so much changes so fast and an empty lot quickly becomes a house on the rise—your future house.

This is a glimpse of what is to come down the road. It is a vision powered by a potent organization with a philanthropic mission, the hands of many, many volunteers and other future homeowners like yourself. As

stated, it is not a necessarily short journey but beyond worthwhile, exciting and enjoyable. Enjoyable for us, as future homeowners assuredly, but also enjoyable for the many hands that will be engaged in that process for us as they get to see, meet and work with someone directly benefiting from their effort and work. With all of that said...

Thank you. Thank you for deciding to be a homeowner. Thank you for including NOAHH on your path in your journey to homeownership. Thank you for helping build our NOAHH community—hundreds strong and counting every day. It's because of NOAHH that people like you and me are able to be future homeowners but it is similarly because of people like you and me that great organizations like NOAHH are needed. A beautiful relationship indeed... and certainly one that our fellow partner families and the staff and volunteers of the organization share a special appreciation for. Good luck!



-STEVE GLENN
NOAHH Partner &
Sousaphone at Large



WHAT YOUR SUPPORT HAS ACCOMPLISHED THIS YEAR:

23

HOMES
COMPLETED

17

ABWK REPAIR
PROJECTS
COMPLETED

6

AFFORDABLE
RENTAL UNITS
COMPLETED



VOLUNTEERS BY THE NUMBERS:

2,724

SPRING BREAK
VOLUNTEERS

925

RESTORE
VOLUNTEERS

5,441

CONSTRUCTION
VOLUNTEERS

6,383

TOTAL VOLUNTEERS

85,191

TOTAL
VOLUNTEERS
HOURS

To volunteer,
contact Michelle at
michellec@habitat-nola.org
or call 504-861-4121

Coming Home to the Lower Ninth Ward

New Orleans has rightly been referred to as a success story of hope and resilience. Among the many neighborhoods affected by the devastation of Hurricane Katrina was the Lower Ninth Ward. NOAHH has begun to play a vital role in rebuilding there, and our current partner families who have chosen lots in this neighborhood, including Henry Langlois and Tyler St. Jean, cannot wait to call it home.

Henry, a life-long resident of New Orleans and Big Chief to the Downtown Thunder Mardi Gras Indian Tribe, grew up in the Lower Ninth Ward but was displaced by Katrina. He will return to his childhood neighborhood when the construction of his new home ends next year. "I am very excited to be a homeowner in New Orleans, my city. It brings me much happiness to return to the neighborhood I grew up in. Without this program, my partner and I would not be able to purchase a home on our own."

For Tyler, a mother and yoga teacher, purchasing her first home was a life-long goal. "When I arrived in New Orleans ten years ago, I knew immediately that I never wanted to live anywhere else. Now my daughter and I will never have to leave the city we LOVE... the city where I found myself, became a mother and discovered my gifts and purpose in life. It feels so appropriate and special to step-up and become fully invested in this community."

Working closely with New Orleans Redevelopment Authority and the Lower 9th Ward Homeownership Association, NOAHH has built 20 home and rental units in the Lower Ninth Ward since Katrina as a part of our commitment to constructing 100 units over the next four years. In addition to the homes we have built here with our partner families, we have also provided rental opportunities for families who are interested in homeownership but do not yet meet all of the qualifications for our First-Time Homebuyer's Program. These families rent an affordable unit

from NOAHH while working closely with our Family Services staff, paying down past-due debt, and/or addressing any other barriers to homeownership.

"There were things that were on my credit report from years ago that I didn't even know about," says Cole Williams. Cole was a participant in our Rental Incubator Program, and has begun fulfilling her requirements for our First-Time Homebuyer's Program. "[The program required] a lot of following up and a lot of patience. You go into it to purchase a home on paper. But really, I got my entire life together."

What has remained constant in the Lower Ninth Ward is the faith, love, and resilience demonstrated so vividly by its residents. With a look back at all that has been accomplished – and recognition of the work that continues – we celebrate the strength and stability that Habitat partners in the Lower Ninth Ward once again claim as their own.



Generations of Change

INVESTMENT

Time and/or Money
Individuals
Companies + Sponsorships
Faith-Based + Civic Organizations
Habitat Restore
Donations
Foundations + Government

NOAHH

Lead Construction & Volunteers
Acquire Land
Purchase Building Materials
Fundraising
Recruit and Educate Homebuyers

OUTCOMES

Property Taxes
Neighborhood Economic Impact
Reduced Crime & Blight
More Neighborhood Investment
Increased Property Values

FAMILY ACHIEVES GOAL

Family Stability
Home Equity
Self-Reliance
Empowerment
Savings for Health Care,

*Jackie Rayford
and her daughter
at their home
dedication.*



Tingue Day of Service

Recently, Tingue, a family-owned and operated organization in the commercial laundries industry, came out for a special build day. In April of this year, Tingue took the opportunity to reach out to NOAHH and lend a hand while they were in the city for a training seminar. About fifty Tingue employees from the sales division, along with CEO David Tingue and company president Ty Acton, spent a day working in small groups on two Habitat homes. Tingue found that volunteering for NOAHH was the perfect way to give back to a community that they visit so often.



We wanted to help in our own small way. The event was so incredibly rewarding for our team, and the Habitat community was gracious and extremely appreciative to have the help... After doing this event, I believe more companies in our industry may want to get involved and give back to a community in need."

-TY ACTON, TINGUE PRESIDENT

Pink Tutu Krewe

The Pink Tutu Krewe—née Pink Tutu Club—was formed by local men to support friends, loved ones and colleagues participating in Women Build. The group was named for the first male volunteer who showed up at Women Build 2017 with GE Digital's team. Required to wear a pink tutu to participate, he was a good sport and helped out on site while decked out in frilly pink. Since then, the krewe has grown into a support organization for NOAHH events. PTK members hosted a Bowling Night, and they will soon represent NOAHH while running in the Crescent City Classic and planning a Father-Daughter Build. Contact Jim Dempsey at jimd@habitat-nola.org or call 504-609-3338 to get involved.



Women Build 2018



Two cousins who grew up together and joined the NOAHH homeownership program at the same time, Kina Henry and Brittani Frank chose lots next to each other. Currently, both work in the service industry. While Brittani is working on her real estate license and a criminal law degree, Kina has gotten her CDL to drive 18-wheelers. At Women Build 2018, they not only worked on their own homes, but on each other's, as part of a 12-day all woman accelerated build.

"I am going to tell Kina when she is 72

that we built this house together," said Brittani. "I never expected it to be like this. The best part about working with the ladies is being able to have conversations, because I really love the personal relationship we have been building over the last few days."

The build took place in the Lower Ninth Ward, bringing over 500 women to the site. The two homes were finished in 12 days across four weekends in May and June 2018.

"I see the people in the neighborhood are driving around," said Kina. "They wonder what's going on, and then they see all this pink. All of the hats that are bedazzled out here. It's a fulfilling type of thing that's going on. The essence of it, it's very exciting, very collaborative."

The volunteers all came from different backgrounds, but many found something in common with Kina and Brittani. For some, it was the fact that they were both following their dreams. For others, it was their hard work and determination. And for others, it was the shared experience of homeownership.

"It's great to help other working women own their own homes," said Women

Build team leader Ellie Rand. "I know it meant a lot to me when I was able to own my first home. You care about it. You can live your life in it and start a family and hopefully grow old in it."

The build fostered a spirit of cooperation. With other women guiding the construction and building the houses, no matter which team they were on, no matter which house they were building, the volunteers were there for each other.

"I think there's just a different level of camaraderie among women," said Free to Be team leader Arianna Baseman. "Especially when we're doing something that's like 'a man's work', bringing all these women out here, working like badasses, hammering and nailing and cutting with power tools."

Each team leader built her team from friends, coworkers, and family. They bedazzled hard hats, picked out team names, hosted happy hours and raffles, and raised the money to build both homes.

"We decided to name the team Lady Laborers of Love because that's what we are: women who are New Orleanians coming together to help other New Orleans





Brittani and Kina celebrate their new homes.

women,” said team leader Vicki Sadin. Teams like the Greater New Orleans Hotel and Lodging Association brought people from all over the hospitality industry to the site to help fellow workers. Teams like All the Shingle Ladies were made up mostly of coworkers from the New Orleans Advocate, who were one of the main sponsors of the build. “We get to see what people are made of,” said Lauren Ruello, team leader of All the Shingle Ladies. “We are all learning new things. It is great to see that there are more companies like ours willing to help out in any way that they can.” “I’m so impressed with all of these

women,” said Riley Kennedy, team leader of the Brick Freedias. “A lot of them are moms; a lot of them are running their own businesses. We have a surgeon whose whole livelihood is in her hands, and she’s out there hammering nails despite people telling her not to. It’s impressive to see people come together and literally build something together with their friends.” Other teams, like the Fetes de Femmes or the Hammer On Krewe, brought families together on site. “This is a context we don’t get to work in,” added Maddy Foster Martinez of the Hammer On Krewe. “[My sister and I] have been doing siding, and there is something

really satisfying about it. At one point we were hammering in unison, saying, ‘We got this!’” “Whenever we pass here we will think, ‘Oh, we all worked on that together,’” said Sarah Wachter, co-team leader of Fetes de Femmes. “It is something else we have to share as a memory together throughout our lives. What is cool is a lot of these memories have with these people are all separate, but this is the first one we all have together.”

If you are interested in being part of Women Build 2019, contact Marguerite at marguerite@habitat-nola.org or call 504-609-3335.



Tradition of Giving

Three siblings from the Williams family have now joined NOAHH's homeownership program. Their story of giving back to their community, supporting one another, and persevering through the greatest obstacles is both remarkable and yet very familiar—compassion and hard work is what motivates partner families to build better futures for themselves, their children, and their communities:

Their father taught them to give back. Growing up in a house with seven children, NOAHH homebuyers and twin sisters Shanell and Shantel Williams and their brother Ernest Williams lived in a small shotgun house where they shared a room with two other brothers and two children their parents had taken in. The limited space meant they had to be creative about sleeping quarters. At times, one of their

siblings would use a storage compartment as a bed. By the age of 16,

each of them found a job so they could help support their family, and every year, their father would take them to bring food and clothing to the homeless.

"It was just a small table underneath the bridge," Shantel said. "Now when we do it, we have a trailer. Tables, chairs, clothes, personal hygiene items. It started just me and my dad, but then the family wanted to do it. It got bigger."

When their father died, the tradition paused for a few years until a friend of Shantel asked for help. Supporting her friend reawakened the need to give back, and within a few years, her siblings rejoined her in the work. Growing up knowing how hard Christmas could be for low-income families, the Williams siblings decided to start a toy drive. "Five kids living in the St. Thomas Project, we didn't have everything," Shanell said. "Even though we had two parents

in the household, when ends couldn't meet, we'd have to cut back. And we had maybe one toy a piece at Christmas."

Neighbors, friends, and family all support the toy drive, but the bulk of it is the Williams siblings. They collect all year to prepare for the holidays. "I said to Ernest, 'I need the trailer, because it ain't going to fit in my car no more,'" said Shantel. "He had to lock the trailer door because it was so full it couldn't close."

"The best moments are the looks on the kids' faces and their families' faces," Shanell said.

As single parents in the Habitat program, it isn't always easy, but the Williams family supports each other. When Shanell started the program, Shantel would take care of her children while her sister did her sweat equity hours; now that Shantel is in the program, Shanell is returning the favor. The family motivates each other.

"Being a single parent with two kids, you have to work hard," said Shanell. "You





I fill out forms. They feed it back to me in a way that I talk. [The partnership] would never have happened if it wasn't for them." When he first applied to the program, he felt daunted by the paperwork. Though his case manager was there to support him, he still called his sisters for calming and guidance. He uses his phone's search engine to help him understand written words by having it read out definitions to him. He's become so proficient with it, few ever notice. "There's no such thing as 'I can't do it' or 'It's not going to work,'" Ernest said. "There's no such thing for me."

have a job. You have kids. There's a lot of stuff we can't do. My 13 year old, he acts like he's 20 something. He'd ask me if he could come help do hours. I'd say, 'No, baby, you can't come help. I wish you can, but you can help me with your grades. That goes toward hours.'" Like Shanell's son, Shantel's daughter is too young to volunteer, but her daughter motivates her to work through the challenge—and inspired her to apply to the program. When Shantel's family first visited Shanell's new Habitat home, it was her daughter who convinced Shantel to apply.

"My daughter knows the green [partner family] shirt," said Shantel. "She asks, 'We're going to get my house when I turn eight, right?' I say, 'Yes, when you turn eight, we'll have our own house.' This is what pushes me: her."

As a child, Ernest suffered a seizure that left him unable to process what he reads. His sisters—and his own ingenuity—help him work around the limitations that come with it.

"I've never done drugs, none of that stuff, a day in my life, due to my sisters and brothers," he said. "I call my sisters when

All of the Williams siblings faced difficulties in finding affordable housing. Housing costs have risen 46% since Hurricane Katrina, meaning families have less to spend on other necessities. Childcare often costs as much as rent. The Williams family struggled, but they had each other's support.

"With the rent so high down here, there are some things you can't pay for," said Shanell. "You have to figure out food, lights, or rent."

For the Williams siblings, having homes of their own means privacy and security. Growing up in a shotgun home meant living with open floor plans.

"It's all worth it at the end," said Shanell. "We lived in a shotgun house all our lives, so my kids didn't always have their own room. It's peace and quiet now."

For Shanell, becoming a homeowner has meant financial stability. Her electric bill has dropped to only \$118 a month. Her monthly payment is a third of what her brother pays for rent, and it includes mortgage principal, insurance, termite contract, and taxes. She saved so much her first few months in the home that she was able to take

her sons on their first family vacation.

"My financial situation is so much better," Shanell said. "I can take my kids on trips, and that's something we never did because I didn't have the money to do it. To see their faces on that trip to Florida was amazing. They said it was the best trip ever."

For Shantel, it means having something permanent. "Just to have my own," Shantel said. "To have a house in my name, and it's mine and no one can take it. That's what I'm looking forward to."

"This helps so much," said Shanell. "Believe it or not, I get up every Saturday morning singing. It's a peace of mind where I don't have to worry about how I'm going to pay this rent. I just wish my daddy could be here to see us accomplish this. To say 'Okay, daddy, you worked so hard, and this is where we are at now.'"

If you want to apply for our homeownership program, call Andrew at 504-609-3340 or email andrewb@habitat-nola.org.



The Williams siblings are always there for each other.

Love at First Site

Matt Haldeman jokes that his wife Lindsay was duped. The task of hammering nails into the roof of a porch can be difficult: but it is much easier for a taller person. Outfitted with a tool belt and hammer, the six foot two inch Pennsylvania native's first impression on his future bride was strong. It was also a bit misleading.

"We just bought a house—our first house—and I can't fix anything. Anytime anything breaks, I just call somebody," laughed Matt, who met Lindsay on a New Orleans Habitat worksite nearly a decade ago.

Though the details of their first meeting are hazy—"Lindsay claims I saw her working on another porch and just left my group to go work with her", Matt said—they spent the rest of the afternoon working side by side.

Matt and Lindsay Haldeman were two of 50 Harvard Business School students who attended a weeklong service trip to New Orleans in 2009. Matt and Lindsay had "literally never laid eyes on each other" until they spent two days together on a Habitat construction site that January.

"The nice thing about building [is that] conversations just sort of naturally happen because there's not a lot of pressure," said Lindsay. "You're busy actually doing and creating and caring about it. And you're doing it well because it's someone's home. Conversation starts to naturally flow."

Their worksite conversation quickly veered into a mutual interest in education reform. Education – and service, in general – are still priorities for the couple; both work in education, and are active in the community

through the church and other outlets.

When Matt and Lindsay Haldeman married in 2011, their unconventional gift registry allowed friends and family to donate to a cause close to the couple's hearts: New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity. "That's ultimately the connection that we had," Lindsay explained. Their wedding donations brought in \$9,000 for the New Orleans affiliate.

New Orleans Habitat remains a big part of the Haldemans' story. "I feel like the story about how someone didn't have a home, and they worked hard to help with their home, and we helped them build their home," Matt reflected. "I feel like that's a story that even our three year old can understand."

To commemorate their first meeting 10 years ago - "On the porch of one of the houses" - the Haldemans will visit New Orleans with their children, three boys under age five, this holiday season.

Just as NOAHH plays an outsized role in the lives of this Boston-based family, so does the



city itself, along with its people and culture. Matt remembers sitting in Mother's Restaurant with a woman who had moved to New Orleans a few years before the storm. "She said one of the amazing things that happened in New Orleans is that if you were there, and a part of the recovery effort, you were automatically a native," Matt shared. "It didn't matter whether you'd been there for a few years, or for a few months, or whether your family had been there for generations. I always thought that was pretty amazing and pretty powerful."



Patrick Tanner's Legacy

In 1997, 19-year-old Patrick Tanner moved south to work for New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity as an AmeriCorps member. Patrick's sister Liza still remembers the spaghetti dinner her brother prepared for Liza and their parents when they visited him in New Orleans. "When Patrick cooked us dinner in his new apartment, he showed me what an adult he had become," Liza said. "And he was so proud to show the improvements he was making to the apartment, using skills he had learned at Habitat."

Sadly, Patrick died shortly thereafter. Since his death, Liza and her parents John and Nancy Tanner have taken on his passion for service. "His work with New Orleans Habitat certainly inspired my family's dedication to that cause," Liza said. "He helped us to understand how volunteering



with Habitat can be empowering as you're learning a new skill, helping a family to build a home." The Tanners have given generously to NOAHH for years.

They are also active with Habitat's DC affiliate, for whom they coordinate an annual build day that draws friends from all over the country in honor of Patrick. "It has been such a meaningful way to continue Patrick's legacy," said Liza.

In her first trip to New Orleans since the late 90s, Liza scheduled time to meet with NOAHH staff and volunteers, and see the work that her family's support makes possible. "It was really wonderful

to see the work that's being done by New Orleans Habitat - the houses being built [in New Orleans East] and the large groups of volunteers."

Members of NOAHH's Advancement team accompanied Liza and her husband Mike to Hermes Street in New Orleans East, where they toured some of the houses built over the past year. "The need is so prevalent. I certainly didn't see it when we drove around in 1997 because Katrina hadn't happened. Seeing the X's still on the homes from Katrina, I got a view of New Orleans that you don't see as a tourist."

The NOAHH home that houses AmeriCorps members now displays a plaque memorializing Patrick's commitment to the people of New Orleans. "I was absolutely taken aback and it was so emotional to see a house where AmeriCorps volunteers stay," said Liza. "A few houses in a row with a garden create a little community. It was so meaningful to see his legacy continue there."

Let That Eagle Fly!

The Warren Easton High School Eagles football team joined NOAHH on site for their senior day of service. Their team work and camaraderie was evident both in their singing and dancing on site and in the amazing progress they made in framing a house in the Upper Ninth Ward. They also brought with them a production crew from the Netflix show *QB1: Beyond the Lights*, featuring their star quarterback Lance LeGendre.





Live Loud: Sixthman Cruise Volunteers

When you think of friends heading out on a cruise, you might imagine lots of cocktails, new cities, sightseeing and having all the fun, right? In January 2018 we had a group of passengers on Sixthman Cruises who would prove you wrong. They decided before they sailed out of New Orleans that they wanted to give back. Why not come to town a day early and meet other passengers while swinging hammers and having a different kind of fun?

Lauraine Frank, Sixthman Ambassador, said, "Sixthman's motto is Live Loud, but we also GIVE Loud; giving back to philanthropic causes is an important part of our culture. We strive to 'party for a

purpose' and make a positive impact while creating incredible vacation moments."

This wasn't Sixthman's first time giving back to rebuilding efforts. They had planned to sail from New Orleans in September 2005, but those plans changed. They teamed together with artists and passengers to host a fundraising event that raised \$55,000 for Hurricane Katrina Relief. Their story is already part of our story.

On a January day in 2018, NOAHH welcomed 50 volunteers and staff from Sixthman to Hermes Street in New Orleans East. Immediately upon meeting this group, we knew it'd be a fun day. From new acquaintances and long lost friends to family and fellow music lovers, this group was ready to work. They spent their afternoon

in the New Orleans East neighborhood where NOAHH has completed many homes over the years. They painted and framed homes, met homeowners, and built floor systems. At the end of the day, they were tired, but they saw the impact they had made on our community.

A few days later, when they were all aboard the cruise, enjoying vacation and relaxing, Lauraine said, "There was visible pride among this tight-knit group of 50 out of 2,200 guests. It was clear throughout our five days at sea, as they high-fived passing each other on the ship, became new fast friends, and shared photos and stories when they returned home. Any time we can make a positive impact in a port city, we are happy to do so and it was such a pleasure working with the team at Habitat!"

Studies have shown correlations between homeownership rates and life expectancy, children's grades, and job stability. Here are some figures that illustrate the connections your home has to the rest of your life:

The average American spends

90%

of their time indoors, especially in their own home.

1 of 7

renters (or about 12,300 households) lives in a unit with severe or moderate physical problems in New Orleans.

For every

100

low-income renters, there are 35 affordable rental units available in New Orleans.

The average car-owner in New Orleans can reach

86%

of the jobs in the area in 30 minutes or less, but those who rely on public transportation can only reach

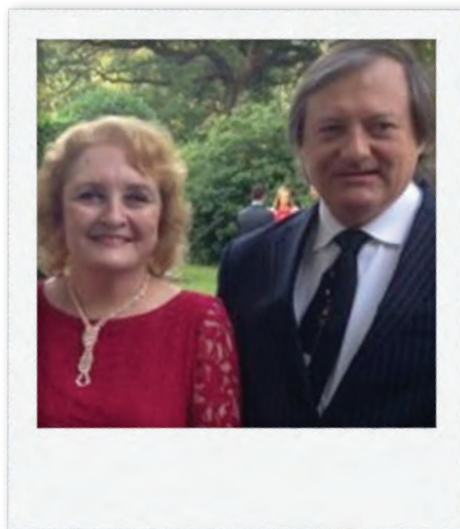
11%

of jobs in that time frame.

15%

of renters lack access to adequate food, 10% higher than homeowners.

Robert Przygocki - an amazing volunteer



There are many ways to help NOAHH. Donating money to the affiliate or calling the ReStore to pick up used appliances, tables, chairs or office furniture are what might come to mind first. But some, like Robert Przygocki, give their time and energy as core volunteers. Robert first learned about New Orleans Habitat through his wife Cheryl, a former NOAHH staff member. Now, he is recently retired. For Robert, retirement meant that he finally had time to do give back to the New

Orleans community, the city he calls home. He decided to volunteer his time in the ReStore. Robert was even more motivated when he learned that his former employer, ExxonMobil, donates \$500 to NOAHH for every 20 hours that Robert works in the ReStore. ExxonMobil amplifies Robert's gift of time by matching up to 80 hours a year or \$2,000. For this very reason, Robert believes that all ExxonMobil retirees should get behind a cause they believe in.

Working in the ReStore is the perfect fit for Robert. He said, "I can make my own hours and work as often as I want." From the store customers, he learns about the community of New Orleans and gets to know the people who shop the ReStore. "I like seeing customers purchase things that make their lives easier," said Robert. "I get a feeling of accomplishment when I know what I do makes a difference in their lives." Robert shared that he has made many good "Habitat friends" with the staff who work hard picking up the donations. New Orleans Habitat greatly appreciates all of its donors in whatever way they decide to give. When you support New Orleans Habitat, you are part of something really special: a community committed to building safe, affordable housing for hard-working families in the New Orleans area.



Our Family Services staff does outreach presentations to local businesses and organizations. We'll come to you to talk to your staff, or you can set up a special time to meet with us. Contact Andrew at 504-609-3340 or andrewb@habitat-nola.org to learn more.

Shirts Across America



Imagine traveling with close to 100 high school students across the country...and then getting them out of bed before 7 a.m. every morning of their spring break to rebuild a community. This is the name of the game for Shirts Across America (SAA), an organization that provides young adults an opportunity to become thoughtful leaders as they volunteer to rebuild homes in communities affected by natural disasters. While they take trips all across America, Executive Director Randy Novak says they made a “commitment to New Orleans and the Gulf Coast over 10 years ago...and we want the people of New Orleans to know that we are on this journey with them.”

SAA finds, as most volunteers discover, that New Orleans feels like their second home. While volunteering, the students get the opportunity to meet our NOAHH homebuyers and see neighborhoods transformed. Randy said, “We love to meet the partner families

and hear their stories. We feel blessed to meet these resilient homebuyers.”

This past spring, the group of 118 from SAA had the opportunity to build on Hermes Street in New Orleans East. They had students and leaders on more than six sites throughout the week, allowing them to see tangible changes in each house as well as the entire street. According to Randy, they had “hundreds of volunteers tackle this unique project and feel lucky to have worked on six homes...and the students and parents have been excited to see these homes completed as we update them with current photos.”

Leading students to New Orleans is no easy task, but for some it’s become a family affair! SAA focuses on teamwork and family, and each trip breaks people into teams, and those teams do everything together throughout the week. They are creating bonds with each other, learning about New Orleans, building homes with NOAHH

and creating friendships that last for years. One recurring theme is the opportunity to “learn to walk with the homebuyers on their journey to homeownership.” For NOAHH, it starts with a family and a house, then progress on each block, and then neighborhoods are transformed. Without volunteers like SAA and thousands of others, our work would be impossible.



Matching Values: Bart's Office Moving's ReStore Partnership



Ashley Hebert has likely donated enough over the years to have filled multiple ReStores many times over. As the Chief Operating Officer at Bart's Office Moving, she is responsible for coordinating donations not just from Bart's directly, but also from many of their clients.

Bart's commitment to the community is reflected in the ReStore's mission, and their commitment to environmental sustainability is reflected in the store itself. By selling donated furniture, appliances, building materials, and more, the ReStore keeps over a million cubic yards of

material out of landfills every year, and everything sold at the store raises funds for NOAHH's mission. "The ReStore is an easy, convenient resource to re-distribute many items that are still in good shape and can be useful to someone," Ashley said. "The ReStore helps us maintain our Green Initiatives even in a time crunch!"

Ashley and the team at Bart's worked with NOAHH on Women Build and as supporters of the ReStore for years. They make use of the ReStore's free donation pickup service regularly, but they've also been known to deliver directly.

"Whenever I schedule a delivery or show up last minute with a truck full of furniture, the crew at the ReStore is always accommodating," Ashley said. "They help us unload, and usually take more than they can fit. This is great for Bart's because we hate to dispose of anything that still has life and can be useful to someone."

They are looking forward to the Grand Opening for our Kenner location in January 2019, which will mark the beginning of a new phase of their partnership, with the two locations making it easier for them to donate and creating opportunities for the ReStore, for Bart's, and for new community partners.

"I can't wait to fill up the Kenner location, too. I hope it's huge," said Ashley.



An Enduring Legacy

The Lupo family donated land in New Orleans East to NOAHH in 2016. That land has been transformed by thousands of volunteers and supporters and partner families into a thriving neighborhood in Pines Village. Norris Williams represented the family at the 2017 Unity Build dedication and spoke about her family's commitment to giving back. Their gift has so far helped nearly a dozen hard working families become homeowners.



ReStore

**2ND RESTORE LOCATION COMING
TO KENNER IN EARLY 2019**

Schedule a FREE donation pickup

WWW.RESTOREPICKUP.ORG



The ReStore raises funds for NOAHH's programs by selling donated building materials, furniture, appliances, and more at discounted prices.

DONATE

The ReStore accepts a wide variety of items, from flooring to refrigerators, from office chairs to art-work. If you're renovating, moving, or just want to clear up some space, call

**THE RESTORE AT
504-943-2240**

for a **free** in-home donation pickup or visit restorepickup.org.

VOLUNTEER

ReStore volunteers help move stock, price goods, arrange the sales floor, assist customers, and work alongside partner families.

SHOP

Every dollar spent in the ReStore goes toward NOAHH's programs. Stop by for great deals, regular sales, and surprising finds.

SPREAD THE WORD

Tell your friends about the ReStore. Whether they are bargain shoppers or small business owners, hotel managers or DIY enthusiasts, there's a place for them in the ReStore family.

To learn more, contact Richelle at richeller@habitat-nola.org or call 504-609-3331.