

# Newsletter

January 2022

## MEET THE STAFF

Get a behind the scenes look at our newest staff member.

## FAMILY FEATURE

See what we're all about by reading about the families we serve in the community.

## NEW HOPE IN BRYAN FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Read about how we are serving our communities with faith and hope through service.



Bryan/College Station  
**Habitat**  
for Humanity®

# TABLE OF CONTENT

## MEET THE STAFF - 2

Come behind the scenes of our affiliate by meeting our staff and seeing what we're up to with Habitat!

## EVENTS - 2

See what we're up to and how you can join in to get involved in B/CS Habitat for Humanity.

## THE EXECUTIVE CORNER - 3

Hear what Executive Director Andy York has to say about our mission and how you can impart change.

## ESPINOZA FAMILY - 4

Meet the families that Habitat is helping with our houses and hear their stories. Hear their journey and how Habitat impacted them.

## NEW HOPE IN BRYAN FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING - 5

Habitat is bringing hope to our community, and big projects are taking place. Get up to date with one of these big plans and how it serves others.

## A RESTORE STORY - 7

Meet our volunteer, Kenny Bergman, who started giving his time to the Habitat in September of 2021 and has reached 400 hours of service.

## DONOR IMPACT - 9

We can't do it without them. See how our donors have made it possible for us to serve others.

## SPOTLIGHT EVENTS

### Meet our Staff!



This quarter we'd like to introduce our new Marketing and Communications Coordinator, Matt Browning.

Matt comes to us from Texas A&M University and is excited to use his communications knowledge to help us further our mission and purpose.

He was inspired to work with our local Habitat for Humanity after seeing the need for the community to be built up, especially following the impact COVID-19 had, Matt then decided that he wanted to be one of those who worked to do so, and dedicated himself to the Habitat cause.

#### COMMUNITY BUILDERS BREAKFAST FACEBOOK LIVE

Join Habitat and our Community Builders as we celebrate another year of building up our communities and look toward the future and what we can do in 2022!

#### THINK BRAZOS PODCAST

Keep up to date with local elections and general housing issues by following our very own Think Brazos podcast.

#### HOMEOWNER INFORMATIONALS

Our Homeowner Informational is taking place on February 25, 2022. This is where we are able to inform prospective homebuyers about our program and how to qualify.



Dear Readers,

It has been over two years since the COVID-19 pandemic began. During this time, our faith in God and our commitment to partnering with families in need of decent, affordable housing has grown stronger. God's grace—and your generous support—helps us continue to persevere through all of the challenges.

We are excited to begin 2022 by dedicating Habitat homes for four families. We'll also be starting homes for five local families between February and June 2022. If you haven't added your email address to our email list, you can go to our newsletter page on our website to receive updates and notices of wall raisings and dedications. I hope you will join us on these momentous occasions; it touches my heart to see hope and joy manifested through the community coming together

With COVID and its variants still impacting our daily lives, we wish you health and peace in the New Year. These stressful times remind us how interconnected we are and how important working together is in accomplishing our mission.

Without our donors and volunteers, our work would not be possible. To view our volunteer opportunities, visit [habitatbcs.org/volunteer](https://habitatbcs.org/volunteer). To donate, visit [habitatbcs.org/donate](https://habitatbcs.org/donate). Every donation, no matter how large or small, makes you a partner in this work. Thank you for being a part of our mission to put God's love into action by building homes, communities, and hope in Brazos County.

In grateful partnership,

Andy York  
Executive Director





Bryan/College Station

**Habitat**  
for Humanity®



## FAMILY FOCUS

Espinoza

Enrique and his wife, Luz Maria, are the proud parents of five beautiful children. The oldest is Kayla (11), followed by Kevin (8), Andrew (6), Anthony (3), and Kamila (1). They moved to Bryan, Texas, from San Diego, California, about five years ago. The family currently lives in an old, two-bedroom house without central heating and cooling.

“

*Our favorite part of this whole process has been meeting the other families*

It was Enrique's sister who encouraged the couple to apply to Habitat's homeownership program. They had nothing to lose, so they submitted all the required paperwork. When they were approved to become Habitat homeowners three months later, they were ecstatic! Bryan/College Station Habitat for Humanity doesn't just sell homes, it sets homebuyers up for success by requiring them to attend home maintenance and financial fitness classes. The home maintenance classes teach preventive care, and the budgeting classes stress fiscal responsibility and restraint.



Enrique and Luz enjoyed the classes. "We got to meet new people," Enrique said. "We also learned how to be good neighbors and how to fix common home-maintenance issues."

Habitat homebuyers also help build their homes and their neighbors' homes.

"Our favorite part of this whole process has been meeting the other families while working on their houses," the couple said. "We can't wait until it's our turn to have our own house and see it grow from the ground up."

Home after home, B/CS Habitat continues to give families a hand up out of poverty housing. It can only do that through the dedication of our donors and volunteers, who share the belief that everyone in our community deserves a decent, afford place to call home and thrive.

Enrique and Luz Maria want to thank their future sponsors for "making our dream a reality."

"The kids can't wait to see the new home!" the couple said. "They are looking forward to having their own room, their own space."

# NEW HOPE IN BRYAN FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

---



“

*Touchette estimates that the subdivision will be completed in 10 years, as we will build in other locations in addition to this subdivision.*

We are pleased to announce that the infrastructure on Phase 1 of Habitat’s latest subdivision, named Hope, will begin in March 2022. The subdivision is located east of N. Harvey Mitchell Parkway (FM 2818) near the Jane Long Intermediate School.



According to Nathan Touchette, B/CS Habitat’s Director of Property, Acquisition, Development and Maintenance, construction on the first six homes will begin in September 2022. When completed, Hope Subdivision will house 88 families. The subdivision will be built in four phases. Touchette estimates that the subdivision will be completed in 10 years, as we will build in other locations in addition to this subdivision.

The plan for Hope began in late 2014, when local businessman and philanthropist, Donald Adam, graciously gifted ownership of 8.12 acres of land to B/CS Habitat.

The following year, we reached out to the adjacent property owner, Joseph Barrychuck, about getting street access across his property. Mr. Barrychuck supported our vision for Hope and sold B/CS Habitat an additional 9.06 acres at a favorable price. A bequest from Margaret “Joan” Griffiths was used for the additional land purchase.

Developing land is expensive. The funding sources we had worked with in the past on subdivision developments became unavailable to us as we began planning on this project. This meant we needed to find new funding partners to replace the significant capital required to make undeveloped, wooded land ready to build houses. A few previous Habitat house sponsors were kind enough to listen to our vision for the new subdivision and commit to partnering in the work of building roads, detention ponds, and storm sewers. Without their support, this project would not be happening.



“

*We trust that God has a plan and that His timing is better than our timing*

“We were disappointed when circumstances delayed the project, but now we are again moving forward,” said Executive Director Andy York. “We trust that God has a plan and that His timing is better than our timing.”

Now that all the preliminary work has been completed, the anticipation is finally over.

We are deeply grateful to Donald Adam, Joseph Barrychuck, Joan Griffiths, the city of Bryan staff and all the individuals and business donors who made Hope-Phase 1 possible. Your support has paved the way for B/CS Habitat to partner with 88 families. Through our homeownership program, these families will have the opportunity to build better lives and brighter futures in a close-knit community!



# A ReStore Story

When stepping into the B/CS ReStore, chances are that you've come across a man selling painted rocks or serenading the guests with his guitar and voice as they wait in line. This heartwarming scene is not uncommonly found at the ReStore, and is due to a single man whom we've been blessed to have with us.

Kenny Bergman (83) is a volunteer here at Bryan/College Station Habitat for Humanity who is proud to show his love for the community and the world through service. Kenny was also a proud member of the United States Air Force and served his country with pride before leaving his military career behind him in order to return to his family in Boerne, TX.

“

*The good Lord gives me good days and I want to do all I can for the World.*

Upon his return, he began helping with the family business and eventually became a carpenter for over 30 years due to an uncle in the lumber industry. He was thankful for this experience because, later in life, this gave him the skills to work with our local Habitat for Humanity.

Before he came to us, Kenny was a family man who worked at the St. Joseph's hospital (then called The Med) until his wife retired from her nursing career around the time COVID-19 began affecting their lives. He had to leave his maintenance job there and proceeded to work a variety of "honey-do" jobs, as he called them. However, he is "too young to retire" and needs to live an active life, so a friend of his recommended that he should begin volunteering with our Habitat construction team.

Kenny began with donating his time with our construction team and eventually felt called to help with the ReStore during the summer of 2021 after an injury. Kenny has now worked over 400 hours for our

organization since he began donating his time to us!

Kenny is excited about his work at the ReStore, and loves to do his part to be a steward of the world in even the smallest interactions. He loves to bring up his relationship to the staff as a regular volunteer and goes to state that “it can’t get better than this” because he “[loves] being here and [loves] helping people.” The ReStore team embraced him as a member of the family and eventually set him up with his own desk to greet customers and guests of the ReStore.

Kenny loves what he is doing and loves to help others through his role here at B/CS Habitat for Humanity. When asked why he does all of it, Kenny responded that “the good Lord gives [him] good days and [he] wants to do all [he] can for the world” while he is here. We’ve been blessed by his impact as a volunteer since September of 2020, and he is truly a part of the Habitat family.



Kenny likes to serenade the guests of the ReStore with folk and holiday songs.



# ***THE DONOR EFFECT***

How you make it possible

Donors and volunteers are the lifeblood of a nonprofit. Without them, organizations such as our own would be unable to operate at the scale we do currently. But, what exactly does all this charity go to? What has Bryan/College Station Habitat been able to do because of our donations?

The generous support of our donors has always humbled our organization. Even when COVID-19 began, we were blessed by their charity and could assist over 30 families due to donations to the Resiliency Fund.

From July through December of 2021, our corporate and individual donors gifted us over \$350,000! This money has gone toward recycling houses in the community, building new homes for our homeowners, and contributing to the local economy by using vendors for our non-volunteer construction.

Because of the donations we have received, as well as the support of our community, we have been able to continue our mission in Bryan/College Station.



**You don't have to lift a hammer to help!**

*Volunteer or Join a Committee Today!*



**Church Liaisons**  
Coming Together



**Homeowner**  
Selection

Bryan/College Station  
**Habitat for Humanity®**



**Build a Home**  
**Today!**



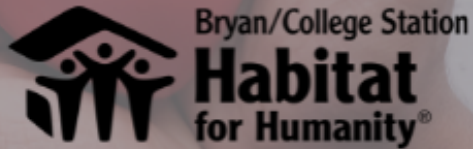
**Contact KC Fisher, State Farm Agent**  
kcfisher.com  
979-314-8745

Here to help life go right.



# Quotes For Good

When you receive a quote for life insurance, they will make a donation back to B/CS Habitat for Humanity!



**amazon**smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.

**sponsor a**





***It's about more than building houses,  
it's about building communities.***

119 Lake Street  
Bryan, Texas 77801  
(979) 823-7200  
Email: [communications@habitatbcs.org](mailto:communications@habitatbcs.org)

[www.habitatbcs.org](http://www.habitatbcs.org)