

Quarterly

NEWSLETTER

Quarter #03 - February , 2023



Raising the walls of the Ragston home in Brenham on Dec. 3, 2022

DAY AT THE DOME: 2023 CAPITOL BUILD

"Home" starts at the
State House

HABITAT GUATEMALA

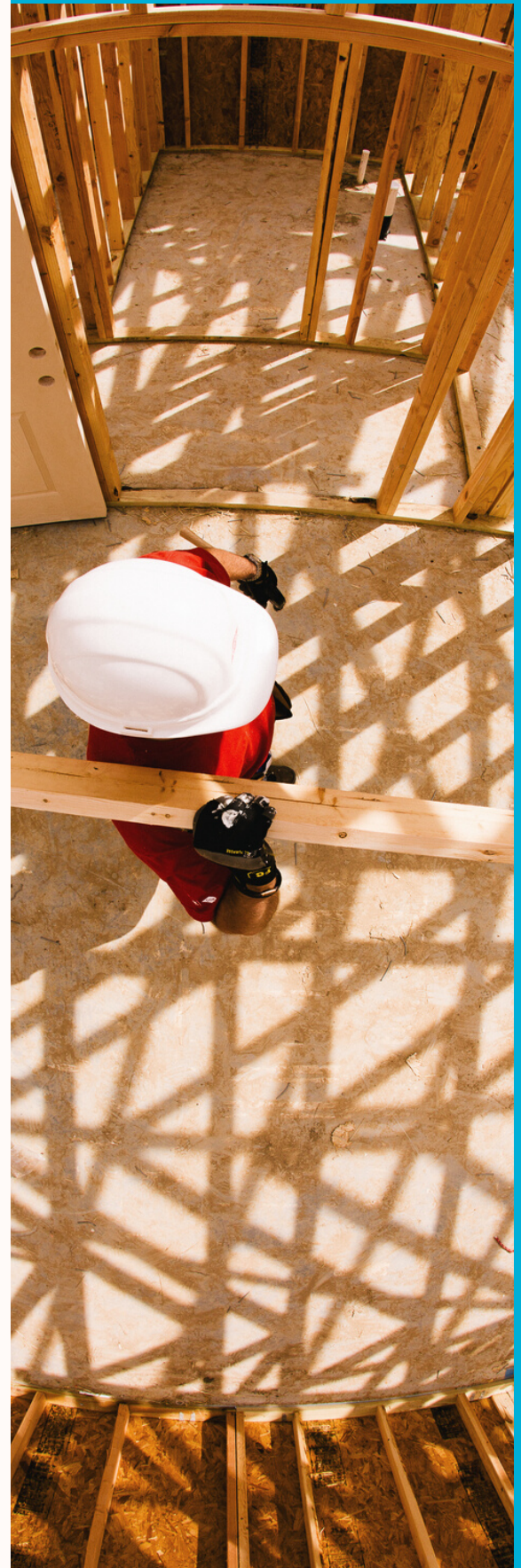
Meet the homeowners we've
helped support internationally

BRYAN ISD BUILD PROJECT

Empowering students.
Empowering community.

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The Executive's Corner



Andy York | Executive Director



Dear Friends,

When I was in junior high and high school, I got interested in the type of work Habitat for Humanity does as a result of going on church mission trips around Texas, to Louisiana, and even internationally. Those experiences I had outside of my own community made it easier for me to see the need for safe, decent, affordable housing – AND that insignificant little old me could help. That realization was empowering. And then I learned I could do that work in my community, and it changed my life.

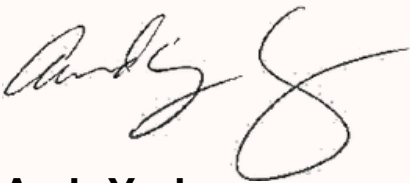
Habitat for Humanity is a global organization, but the work is done at the most local level it can be, house by house by house. When you support Bryan/College Station Habitat for Humanity, then we (this includes you) serve Brazos county, and we partner with Washington County Habitat for Humanity to serve the Brenham area. We (still includes you!) are part of Habitat for Humanity Texas, where we serve all Texas citizens through advocacy and education. We (you get the idea now) are part of Habitat for Humanity International, that supports the entire US network as well as the network of Habitat operations across the globe. Specifically, we partner with Habitat for Humanity Guatemala, with both fundraising campaigns and in person trips through the Global Village program, to support the work in their country.

The Executive's Corner continued...

This newsletter highlights work at all of these geographic levels. It shows that no matter where we are, we are part of the community, and that our community doesn't stop at the border of Bryan or College Station, or Texas, or the United States. In the Lord's Prayer, the prayer begins with "Our Father." Until recently, I hadn't given any thought to why the prayer isn't "My Father;" that's how I've always thought about it. Jesus could have said "My Father... Give me this day my daily bread... Forgive me my trespasses..." and to be clear, that's the way I thought about it. I learned it as a child, and I was self centered the way children can be, and I let that understanding persist even as I matured. I'm grateful that a friend recommended some material that highlighted and opened my eyes to the community focus of that prayer. I can't stop thinking about it now, and I am freshly energized to participate in bringing God's kingdom to earth.

At Habitat for Humanity, we provide a basic need in an impactful way. Like food and clothing, we need shelter to survive. At Habitat, we focus our efforts on homeownership, because it results in specific outcomes unique to the family stability of ownership. So when you and I think about Habitat for Humanity, remember that's what shelter is – part of OUR daily bread. I don't only pray for it for myself, or the people in Bryan and College Station, but for all God's children.

In grateful partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andy York". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "Y" and "K".

**Andy York
Executive Director**

Family Focus

GODBOLT

B/CS Habitat's 310th family

About the Godbolt Family

Life as a single mom of four can be challenging, especially when you live in a substandard, one-bedroom home.

This is the struggle faced by Angelica Godbolt and her children: Erwin (19), Stephan (17), Emarion (15) and Lariah (13). Having to split between sleeping in the bedroom and the living room, this family has worked hard to make their substandard house livable until a better option was available to them.

Angelica's prayers were answered after she worked with B/CS Habitat for Humanity to learn how to pay off her debt and become financially eligible for the homebuyer program. In the Spring of 2020, Angelica Godbolt and her family were accepted into the program and began working on completing their sweat equity hours.

"The process of becoming a part of this program taught me about a drive I never knew existed" said Angelica, "I've been able to pay off almost all of my debt and became more responsible."

Angelica and her family celebrated the wall raising for their family home in the Fall of 2022. B/CS Habitat and the Godbolt family would like to thank the sponsors of this home, the Donald and Donna Adam Family Foundation, for making it possible for the family to move into their new home this Spring.





Bryan/College Station
Habitat
for Humanity®

Habitat *Highlights*

Come see our new store layout!



ReStore®

Bryan/College Station Habitat for Humanity



Wednesday
March | 01 | 2023
7:30 - 8:30 a.m.

Contact Carl Orozco for
more information:
corozco@habitatbcs.org

Think Brazos

Learn more about local housing policy



Feb. 24, 2023

Homebuyer Program Information Meeting

English: 6 p.m.
Español: 7 p.m.

Education Building
119 Lake St, Bryan

Applications Due March 31, 2023

Interested in learning more about financing a home?

Schedule A H.U.D. Housing Counseling Appointment

Bryan/College Station Habitat for
Humanity has two (2) licensed
H.U.D. counselors on staff, so call
us at **(979) 823 - 7200 ext. 112**
and schedule your appointment
today!



Run for the House

April 1, 2023

habitatbcs.org/events/runforthehouse





Global Partners

OUR WORK ABROAD

Guatemala Habitat for Humanity

Building a Global Community

Bryan/College Station Habitat for Humanity has been committed to helping individuals and families outside the United States through Habitat for Humanity International's Global Village program.

Global Village is a program that allows volunteers to travel abroad and experience Habitat's mission on an international scale. Habitat homes built outside the U.S. are much different, and the volunteers get to experience what affordable housing means in other countries.

In December of 2017, B/CS Habitat staff members invited others to join them on a Global Village trip to Guatemala. An additional Global Village Trip was made to Portugal in the Summer of 2018 before the staff and volunteers returned to Guatemala in the Spring of 2019 and the Spring of 2020.

With the onset of the pandemic, B/CS Habitat had to put its annual trips to Guatemala on hold. Instead, it decided to continue to support Guatemala Habitat for Humanity by holding a Facebook fundraiser. The fundraiser was launched in 2021 to fund two Hybrid homes for the Rosales and Top families.

In 2022, Guatemala Habitat contacted B/CS Habitat to inform them that the Top family needed a full house sponsorship due to the special needs of their grandson. With the gracious support of the local Bryan/College Station community, B/CS Habitat was able to raise enough money to fund a full house sponsorship for the Top family.

Because of this support, the Rosales and Top families have been able to move out of their substandard living conditions and begin a new chapter in their lives. Blanca Rosales and her sons, Edgar and Jorge, are now living in their Hybrid Home, and have a home that no longer leaks during the rainy season. Marina and Cruz Top, along with their five grandchildren, went from living in an unsafe, substandard home to living in a new home with a healthier environment.

We would like to thank the B/CS community for their support. B/CS Habitat's ability to transform the living conditions of these families wouldn't have been possible without your generosity!

With the Global Village program on the verge of being re-opened, we hope we can count on your support as we continue our efforts to build a global community.

THE TOP FAMILY

Marina and Cruz Top live with their five grandchildren in Cerro Alto in San Juan Sacatepéquez. Marina and Cruz have been working hard to raise their grandchildren after the children's mother passed, but their home was made of corrugated metal sheets with a dirt floor and was located in an unsafe area. The couple worried for the health and safety of their grandchildren, especially as one is disabled. Thanks to your support, the Top family has been able to move into a new home that is both safe and affordable.



THE ROSALES FAMILY

Blanca Rosales and her two sons, Edgar and Jorge, dreamed of owning a home. This family had been living in Santa Cruz, El Quiché, working hard to make ends meet. Their previous home was built out of corrugated metal sheets, had a dirt floor and would constantly leak during the rainy season. This caused damage to their belongings in addition to worsening their health. Thanks to your support, the Rosales family is living in their new Hybrid Home.

EMPOWERING STUDENTS.
EMPOWERING COMMUNITY.

BRYAN ISD BUILD

On August 10, 2022, the Bryan Independent School District (ISD) publicly announced an innovative collaboration with Bryan/College Station Habitat for Humanity. Bryan ISD Superintendent Ginger Carrabine spearheaded the effort, which was christened the Bryan ISD Build. In the Fall of 2022, Bryan ISD was able to exceed their \$80,000 goal with the help of a \$40,000 matching gift generously provided by the Clearfield family, in memory of Ruth Clearfield.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held on Friday, February 3, to mark the beginning of the construction phase for the Bryan ISD Build — B/CS Habitat's 313th home. In addition to building a house with the Quintero-Mendez family, one of the biggest goals of the Bryan ISD Build is to engage the students.

"Bryan ISD is thrilled to see the construction phase begin for the Bryan ISD Build" said Superintendent Carrabine. "We want to teach





students the importance of community service while reinforcing the Essential Eight character traits that the district promotes. By providing this hands-on experience, it is our hope that our students will be intrinsically motivated to serve others."

So far, younger students have decorated the studs for the home, and Bryan ISD staff have helped build the walls. As the months progress, there will be even more volunteer opportunities available to the students of Bryan ISD and the community at large.

B/CS Habitat's Executive Director, Andy York — a former Bryan ISD student — is also excited by the collaboration.

"I can't help but think about the long-term

impact on all the students participating in this project," he said. "There's a whole generation of students in Bryan ISD who get to see a tangible way of serving their community and now know more about the need for affordable housing."

This project would not have been possible without the support of our local community. Bryan ISD Build has brought the staff, students, and community together to give a hand up to the Quintero-Mendez family. We would like to extend our thanks to long-time Habitat supporter, Denise Bermudez, for sponsoring the land portion of the Bryan ISD Build. B/CS Habitat also extends a big thank-you to Bryan ISD, the Clearfield family, and all the community members who helped make this sponsorship possible.

Love Your Neighbor



At B/CS Habitat, one of our core values is "love your neighbor." In the month of February, we'd like to take the time to reflect on how this has influenced both our organization and the families we serve.

GALATIANS 5:14, NRSV

"For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment. "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

"We feel more united to the community as we work with other families and volunteers. We've learned how to connect with other people and be more sociable."

Juan Salas

B/CS Habitat's
299th Homeowner





DONOR SPOTLIGHT

M.G. CANGELOSE

Martin “Marty” Cangelose is a man committed to giving back to his community. A Bryan native, Marty has a deep connection to the B/CS community, and it has driven him to look for ways to serve those around him. One of the ways he does this is through his business, M. G. Cangelose & Associates.

M. G. Cangelose & Associates — a local real estate appraisal service — was established in 1984. The company conducts property appraisals. An appraisal is an unbiased professional opinion of a home’s value. It is influenced by recent sales of similar properties and current market trends.

Because Bryan/College Station Habitat for Humanity provides zero-interest mortgages to prospective homebuyers, we are required to obtain appraisals for all of our properties. That's why we reached out to Marty not long after our organization was established in 1989.

“It was a charitable thing of course, wanting to help the community out, and we thought that Habitat was a great way to do that,” said Marty, “I think it's incredible how B/CS Habitat requires homebuyers to perform sweat-equity hours by helping to build their homes. It gives potential homeowners another reason to be invested in their homes, and

that really inspired me to look into supporting Habitat.”

Marty continues to offer his appraisal services to B/CS Habitat after more than 30 years.

“I think of Habitat, and I think of charity,” he said. “That love for the community and helping people who cannot get conventional loans. Habitat stands for the common good of individuals and the community. I think that's why it's so important. It pulls everyone together in a way that is unique to any other organizations in town.”

“Habitat stands for the common good of individuals and the community.”





Volunteer

BECOME A PART OF THE MISSION

How YOU make Habitat happen

Want to get involved with the mission of Habitat? Now it's easier than ever to become a part of our family. Consider becoming a Habitat volunteer TODAY by visiting our website.

 www.habitatbcs.org/volunteer

Home by home, B/CS Habitat for Humanity has been changing the lives of families in need for over 30 years. But we can't do it without YOU!

Volunteers and donors are the lifeblood of our organization. Because of the generous support of our community, we have been able to raise support and build over 300 homes.

Help us continue to be a blessing to the Bryan-College Station community by donating through our website or volunteering your time to serve. There is a place for everyone on our team and we look forward to serving alongside you.





VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

CADY ENGLER

While Cady Engler may no longer be a professor with Texas A&M University, he is someone who continues to embody the core values of an Aggie: loyalty, integrity, excellence, leadership, respect and, most of all, selfless service.

Cady began volunteering with Bryan/College Station Habitat for Humanity through his church and felt connected to our philosophy of giving homeowners a hand up, not a handout. In 2015, he increased his volunteer service while he was teaching part-time at TAMU. Upon his retirement, Cady decided to devote even more time volunteering with B/CS Habitat.



“When I retired, I called Dr. Murray Milford to see how I could get more involved,” Cady said. “I jumped right into volunteering regularly, and we began to gain more people.”

Today, he is part of a team of close-knit volunteers is known as the Paint Team. This is a group of four regular volunteers who help with painting and caulking the homes.

With his memories of working alongside the late Dr. Milford, Cady continues to feel inspired by Habitat’s mission, as well as the

volunteers and community members who make our organization’s work possible.

“If I could be even half the inspiration that Dr. Milford was,” he said, “that would be a goal to strive for.”

During the pandemic, Cady began volunteering for other nonprofits such as Meals on Wheels to further serve the community. Despite all of these commitments, Cady continues to serve regularly at B/CS Habitat. In addition to being on the Paint Team, he also began serving on B/CS Habitat’s Board of Directors as another way to give back.

Cady’s favorite part about volunteering at B/CS Habitat is working alongside and getting to know the Habitat homebuyers. Because of the memories he has made and the positive impact he has witnessed on families and the larger community, Cady hopes to continue volunteering for B/CS Habitat as long as he can.



10-year Anniversaries

Meet the staff members who will be celebrating a decade of service with B/CS Habitat in 2023!



Nathan Touchette
Hired Jan. 7, 2013



Janice Moseley
Hired Apr. 15, 2013



Julie Gurnon
Hired Aug. 19, 2023



Andy York
Hired Sep. 3, 2013



Carl Orozco
Hired Sep. 16, 2013

DAY AT THE DOME 2023

Advocating for Affordable Housing At Home and Throughout Texas



B/CS Habitat staff after completing the final wall of the Palmer family home

On February 7, 2023, our staff joined other Habitat affiliates from Texas at the Capitol building in Austin for the 2023 Day at the Dome build. Together, we built the walls of the Palmer family's future home on the steps of the state house.

Single mother Adasha Palmer and her three boys (ages 7, 10 and 15) currently live in a substandard rental with unsafe conditions. Now that we have built the walls of her future home, Adasha is looking

forward to beginning the construction of her family's new Habitat home in Beaumont, Texas.

“ [Advocacy] is a vital part of Habitat's mission ”

- Charley Coats



B/CS Habitat staff posing with Rep. John Raney

Day at the Dome continued...

The Palmers are one of many families who have benefitted from the annual Day at the Dome event. Every year, Habitat for Humanity Texas recruits staff members from Habitat affiliates across the state to travel outside of their normal service areas, come together and help build the walls of a Habitat home.

The event also provides opportunities for Habitat staff members to advocate for affordable housing policy directly to state representatives.

“This is a vital part of Habitat’s mission of building affordable housing,” said Charley Coats, our Director of Homebuyer Services. “It is important for Habitat affiliates to be involved in the legislative process at both the state and local levels. Opportunities like this allow us to advocate for affordable

housing in a way that empowers us to build the affordable homes that our communities need.”

In the upcoming legislative session, there are two House Bills that directly impact the work we do here at Habitat: [HB 1472](#) and [HB 1704](#). The passing of these bills would aid us in our mission to build affordable homes, and you can help! To learn more about how you can help advocate for affordable housing in our community, contact Charley at ccoats@habitatbcs.org.





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

Bryan/College Station Habitat for Humanity has been bringing people together to build homes, community and hope since our founding in 1989. Through the work of our staff, donors, volunteers and board of directors, our affiliate has been able to serve 312 families in need for over 30 years.

Our newsletter articles are written by our Marketing and Communications Coordinator, Matt Browning. If you have any stories or pictures that you would like to share with us, please email him at communications@habitatbcs.org with your submission!



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