

# Newsletter

*April 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.

## COMMUNITY

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

QUARTERLY



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Thank you to the 2021 Corporate Challenge Sponsors who helped build our 306 home!

# Highlights

## MEET OUR STAFF

## EVENTS



This quarter we'd like to introduce Chad Einkauf (I-en-cough), our new Construction Superintendent. Chad's chief responsibility is to make sure that habitat homes are built correctly, but he also ensures that volunteers who come out to help on a construction site are safe and have a great experience working on a home. Chad loves the impact that his work has on the people he is serving and the relationships he has developed with habitat families, and we are excited to have Chad as part of our construction team.

### BOWL TO BUILD

Get ready to Strike Out substandard housing. Be sure to sign up a team for our Bowling Tournament on Friday, July 15.

### THINK BRAZOS PODCAST

Wondering how to stay up to date with local news and politics? Follow the Think Brazos podcast for regular stories on local elections and general housing issues.

### TEES FOR KEYS

Bryan/College Station Habitat for Humanity invites you to our annual Tees for Keys Golf Tournament at the beautiful Traditions Club! This tournament will be on Monday, September 12, 2022!



Dear Readers,

It is heartwarming to see the dedication and support you have for our mission. Because of you, and others like you, we are able to work toward ending substandard housing in our community. Thank you for all you have given us, both in time and monetary donations.

We have many exciting opportunities on the horizon. From our annual fundraisers to wall raisings and dedications of new houses, B/CS Habitat is an organization actively working toward our vision: a world where everyone has a decent place to live.

Within the past three months alone, we have made large steps toward achieving this goal by hosting two wall raisings and three home dedications for our partner families. That is five families who are actively working on or living in their new Habitat homes. If you would like to join us for one of these events, please [click here](#) to subscribe to our newsletter or follow us on Facebook where we post about what is happening here at Habitat.

Without our donors and volunteers, our work would not be possible. To view our volunteer opportunities, [click here](#). To donate, visit [habitat.org/donate](https://www.habitat.org/donate). Every donation, no matter how large or small, makes you a partner in this work. We are looking forward to continuing this work and, with your help, continuing to build homes, communities and hope here in Bryan/College Station. Thank you for all you do to help us in our mission to put God's love into action.

In grateful partnership,

Andy York  
Executive Director





## FAMILY FOCUS

### The Lomas Family

Crystal Lomas is a resident of Bryan, Texas and proud mother of five children. Crystal and her kids-Daisy, David, Derick, Dianne, and Lino- currently live together in an old, two-bedroom mobile home.

With six people living in two bedrooms, their current house lacks space for the kids to grow and play. Beyond significant repair issues, the mobile home is located in an unsafe neighborhood for the children.



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*I realized exactly how helping others goes a long way*

After two years of trying to purchase an affordable home through a conventional loan, Crystal Lomas was not hopeful when she applied for the Habitat homeownership program. Since being approved, Crystal has been working hard on her sweat-equity hours in preparation for the building of her home.

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.

Through the completion of these sweat equity hours and the homeownership classes, Crystal is ready to be a new homeowner. She has loved all people she has met through this process.

"I realized exactly how helping others goes a long way" Habitat homebuyers also help build their homes and their neighbors' homes. "I am not really a social person, but I have made a lot of new friends through Habitat. It has made me realize that I wasn't the only one struggling."

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, affordable place to call home.

Crystal wants her home sponsors to know how grateful she is for making her dream of homeownership come true. "I can't wait for us to have our own home. May God bless you for all the help that you have given."



# DECLARATION DAY

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The Bryan/College Station area has grown into a thriving community that many are proud to call home. The love for this community is evident in the selfless service of its local residents and the students from Texas A&M University and Blinn College. Since its founding, Bryan/College Station Habitat for Humanity has been the recipient of countless service hours from individuals and large groups alike.

One such group was a local church in particular that has played an integral role in service over the last year. Declaration Church has been partnering with B/CS Habitat since April of 2021. Two staff members in charge of Neighbor Relations, Ben Markow and Mallory Kappel, attended the 2021 Community Builders Breakfast alongside Habitat staff member, Hayley Pennesi. It was at this event that Ben and Mallory experienced the call to action to engage their members in meaningful service with Habitat for Humanity.

Ben and Mallory became members of B/CS Habitat's Faith in Action Committee and joined over nine other local churches in serving our Habitat families. When asked what inspired them to take the next step in partnering with B/CS Habitat, they said, "We want to be a blessing to our community and serve our

neighbors. [Declaration Church]’s mission is declaring and demonstrating the gospel to Bryan/College Station and beyond. We get to do the part of declaring and demonstrating the gospel through Habitat.”

Assistant Director of Development and Faith Relations, Hayley Pennesi, oversees the Faith in Action Committee and was excited to see the enthusiasm Ben and Mallory carried as a team. “Declaration Church has been an incredible asset to our Faith in Action Committee”, says Hayley. “When I met Ben and Mallory, it was evident that these two had the passion to serve our community and guide their members to do the same. They are an incredible example of being engaged and living out the Habitat mission of putting God’s love into action. Declaration Church is consistently represented at our meetings and events ready to be a part of the work that needs to be done in order to better serve our community and Habitat families.”

On Saturday, April 9, Declaration Church gathered nearly 100 student-members of their congregation to volunteer. These volunteers participated in a neighborhood revitalization and beautification initiative by painting four B/CS Habitat homes and meeting with the homeowners. The work and heart of these volunteers had a tangible impact on the lives of these four Habitat families. Homeowner Patricia Robertson said, “I thank each of you for your service, I really enjoyed meeting such an awesome group of people. It’s the love that we have for Christ that bonds us together...true servants of God.”

“

*We want to be a blessing to our community and serve our neighbors”*

B/CS Habitat thanks the congregation and staff of Declaration Church for their continued support of our mission. It is through strong partnerships such as this that B/CS Habitat is able to positively impact families and show God’s love to the Bryan/College Station community.





# Volunteer Spotlight

## Betty Morgan

Betty Morgan, a loyal and dedicated volunteer for the B/CS Habitat Paint Crew, spent the month of March putting the final touches on the paint to four different Habitat homes dedicated that month. As the houses were finished and the families moved in, she smiles knowing that she had a part in turning these houses into homes.

Betty began working on the Paint Crew in 2014 when her friend, Dr. Murray Milford, invited her to join what was then a one-man Habitat Paint Crew. The crew has now grown to include over six individuals who volunteer their time consistently throughout the week for different construction projects. "Our goal is to give families a place that they can call home; one that's comfortable and looks like it was done right," says Betty, "they put so much work into their homes, it's only right that we do the same."

Betty recalled learning first-hand how dedicated and involved Habitat homeowners

“*Affordable housing is the foundation of stability*”

are in building their own houses when she worked alongside a homeowner, saying “she was a single mother...and she would come out here past when us volunteers would go home. That’s when I realized she really wants this house.” Betty has seen that, for thankful Habitat homeowners, this kind of dedication is a very common theme. Betty is



always deeply moved by their dedication to their future homes.

It's been nearly eight years, that Betty has been working with the homeowners and Habitat staff, and she still has that deep motivation to continue to donate her time to B/CS Habitat and its partner families. "We are people with the same focus, coming together to achieve something greater," Betty shares. Habitat's impact on the community further motivates her to volunteer because she "[understands] the value of Habitat's mission and how important housing is to build, not just for individual families but also for communities."

Betty has seen areas, such as Angel Gate, go from undeveloped land to

neighborhoods where kids play together outside and "neighbors help their neighbors." To Betty, "Habitat homes bring back this sense of community. It reminds [her] of [her] own childhood when a sense of community was vital, and those who lived together supported one another." It is thanks to volunteers like Betty that Habitat for Humanity is able to build neighborhoods like Angel's Gate, and bring a sense of community back to Bryan/College Station.



“  
*Habitat homes  
bring back this  
sense of  
community*



# Thank You Student Workers!

April 10-16, 2022 is student employee appreciation week at TAMU. We have been blessed to have these students working with us to end substandard housing in Bryan/College Station!

---

Jelly



Larissa



Paulina



Alex



Sergio



Melissa



Belle



Kayla



Joe



Gerardo



Karla



Zach



Bryan



Moises



Casey



Edmundo



Dylan



Tori



Riley



Emiliano





# ***BECOME A PART OF THE MISSION***

How YOU make Habitat happen



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

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

Brick by brick Habitat for Humanity Bryan-College Station 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.



# Corporate Challenge home

## Underwriters:

Texas Commercial Waste  
Bobcat of the Brazos Valley  
M.G. Cangelose & Associates  
Palasota Contracting  
Habitat homeowners' mortgage payments

www.habitat.org

## MDU RESOURCES

2021 Saws N' Shingles  
Sponsor

Liam Mendez

Thank you MDU Resources for your Corporate Challenge Saws N' Shingles sponsorship. Your contribution will help Liam Mendez and his siblings have a spacious place that they can call home!



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# Corporate Challenge home

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www.habitat

## REC INDUSTRIES

2021 Saws N' Shingles  
Sponsor

Liam Mendez

Thank you REC Industries for your generous gift as part of our Corporate Challenge Campaign. Your company is allowing Liam Mendez and his siblings to have a bright future and a spacious place that they can call home!



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**REC**  
INDUSTRIES

# 2021 Corporate Challenge Sponsors

Thank you to all of our corporate challenge sponsors from 2021. Thanks to the contributions from these businesses, we have been able to build safe and affordable housing in our community!



## How can you get involved?



**July 15  
2022**



**September 12  
2022**

**Shop, Donate, Volunteer**







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

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