

# QUARTERLY — NEWSLETTER —



## Meet the Aguilar Family

An inspiring tale from a family working to build the foundation for their future.

## Wayfair at the Warehouse

Read about how we partnered with their local office to build a better B/CS.

## B/CS Wells Fargo Builds

Learn about Habitat for Humanity's longstanding partnership with Wells Fargo!



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# The Executive's Corner



Dear Friends,

For many of us, this is a time to come together with friends and family to celebrate a season of thanks and charity. We share in the love of those closest to us as we gather around warm hearths and open hearts.

However, this season can be a heart-wrenching time for many families within our community, especially those struggling with the added hardship of substandard and unaffordable living situations. It has often become the case that families need to choose between celebrating this time with their loved ones and working to make ends meet. More than 18 million U.S. households - 1 in 6 - spend more than half of their income on housing, and the current housing market has made decent places to live impossible to afford for families working low-to-medium wage jobs. Many of these families are then forced into substandard and overcrowded living situations. The unfortunate truth is that, with housing costs continuing to climb, those who work hard are no longer guaranteed to achieve everything they are working toward.

However, there is a light of hope for families in need: you. Your financial investment and dedication empower hardworking families to work toward owning a home with a new strength that lasts for generations. You are the key to solving the substandard housing problem in our community.

Thank you for the warmth and compassion you show for the local families who urgently need secure housing – during this holiday season and in the future.

In grateful partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy York'.

**Andy York**

**Executive Director**



# Highlights

Bryan/CollegeStation  
**Habitat for Humanity®**



## INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERS

We are strengthened by the dedication of our volunteers, and we need you! Volunteer today by going to

[habitatbrazos.volunteerhub.com](https://habitatbrazos.volunteerhub.com)



## THINK BRAZOS

Follow the Think Brazos podcast for regular stories on local elections and general housing issues.

[thinkbrazos.org](https://thinkbrazos.org)



## VOLUNTEER WITH A GROUP

Build a better community! We schedule groups on a first-come-first-serve basis. Email Lacey Peters to schedule today!

[lpeters@habitatbcs.org](mailto:lpeters@habitatbcs.org)



*Interested in learning more about financing a home?*

## Schedule A H.U.D . Housing Counseling Appointment

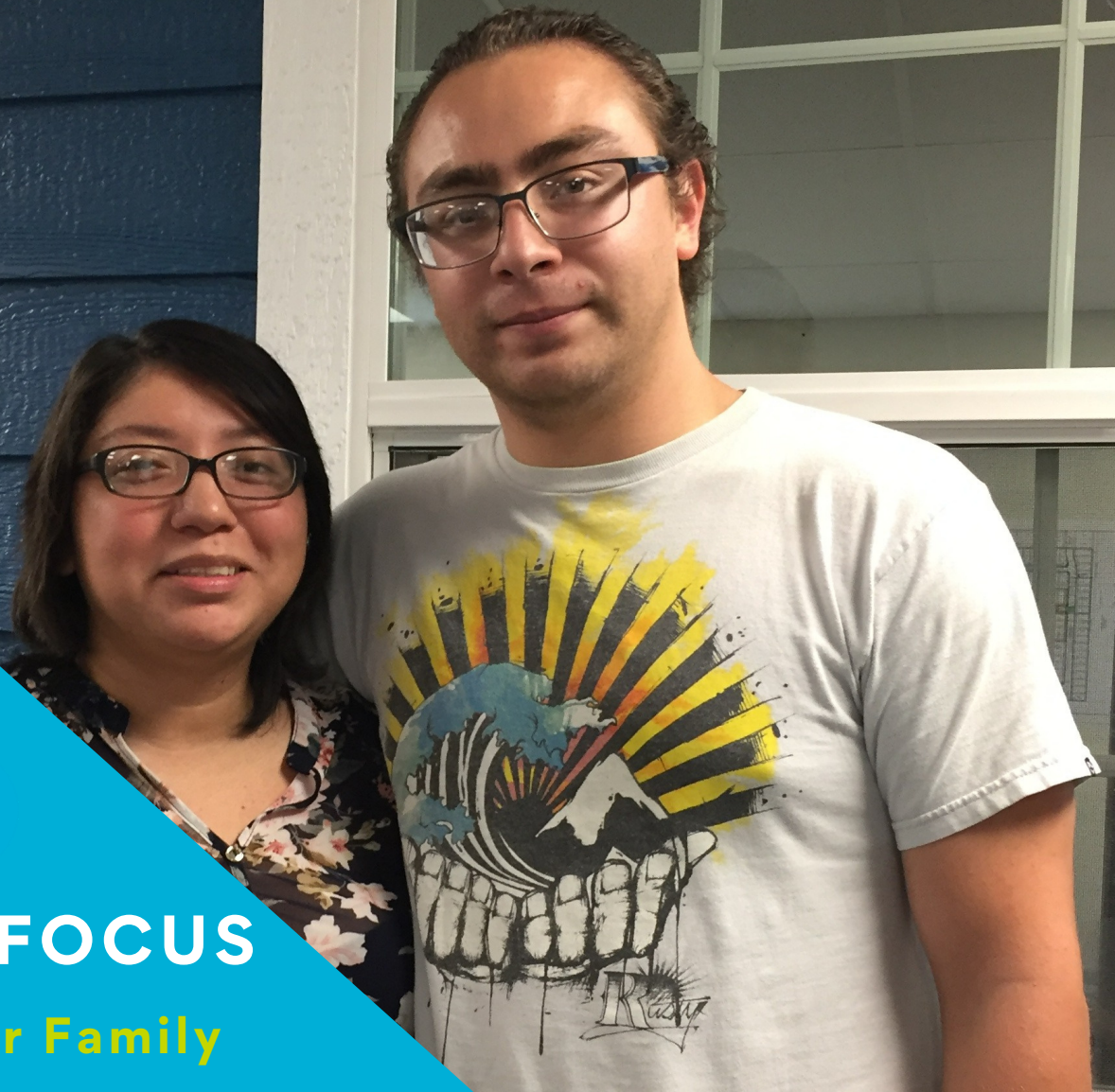
Bryan/College Station Habitat for Humanity has two (2) licensed H.U.D. counselors on staff, so call us at **(979) 823 - 7200** and schedule your appointment today!





Bryan/College Station

**Habitat**  
for Humanity®



## FAMILY FOCUS

### The Aguilar Family

Argenis Aguilar moved to Bryan, Texas, with his family in 2009. Originally, from Mexico, the 28-year-old Argenis has worked at The Eagle since October 2014.

In May 2022, Argenis married his sweetheart of nine years, Kaylah. The two met years before at a mutual friend's graduation party.



While most couples look forward to settling into a place of their own, Argenis and Kaylah struggled to find stable, affordable places to rent. That's why they moved in with Kaylah's mother, who is a Habitat homeowner herself. It was Kaylah's mother who encouraged Argenis to apply for Habitat's homeownership program.

At the time, Argenis's mother was also living with them. She was bed-ridden because of severe arthritis, and he was taking care of her. Any type of movement would cause her a great deal of pain. She would live in the Habitat home with Argenis and Kaylah.



Argenis remembers the day he was accepted into the Habitat program. "We were extremely happy and grateful that we would finally have a place of our own," said Argenis. "My mom was very grateful, too."

Sadly, Argenis's mom passed away less than a year after his acceptance. But her memory has motivated them to persevere through the program. They knew how happy she was, knowing that the home would give them a solid foundation to build their future.

Argenis and Kaylah are incredibly thankful to the donors and volunteers who are making it possible for them to realize their dream of homeownership.

"We are very thankful, and words can't describe how happy we are," Argenis said. "We really appreciate that there are people in the world that help families struggling to have a decent place to live."





# *The Season of Giving*

## Our Reason for the Season



**Empowering  
Homeowners**



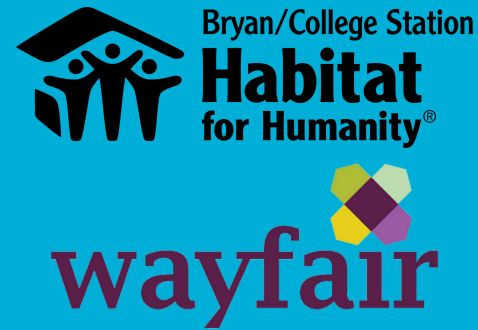
**Building Communities,  
Building People**

"I couldn't believe that kind of love existed, where people would come together to help us build a home we could actually afford. I encourage you to get involved in our community and find these families who are in impossible living situations like we were. They often don't know there's another way, but you can change that. Thank you!"

*Victor  
Gonzalez*

**B/CS Habitat's  
First Homeowner**





# WAYFAIR IN THE WAREHOUSE

EMPLOYEES FROM LOCAL WAYFAIR JOIN CONSTRUCTION CREW TO BUILD UP OUR COMMUNITY

Written by:

Julie Gurnon

Matt Browning



Bryan/College Station Habitat for Humanity is pleased to announce that it has received several grants from Wayfair, one of the world’s largest home retailers.

The first grant came earlier this year when the local Wayfair call center in Bryan awarded B/CS Habitat a \$3,500 grant.

The second grant comes from a partnership between Wayfair and Habitat for Humanity International. Habitat affiliates across the United States are hosting corporate team build events for local Wayfair employees. B/CS Habitat hosted its corporate team build event on Friday, September 16, 2022. Wayfair employees helped build the walls for an upcoming Habitat home.

“It was great having Wayfair employees help us build the walls of a future home,”

said Lacey Peters, Director of Volunteer Engagement. “By volunteering their time and hard work, they are also ensuring that one of our partner homebuyers will have a solid foundation for the future.”

B/CS Habitat is thankful for Wayfair and the Bryan call center for their commitment to social responsibility and for their partnership in building better places to call home.

To learn more about Wayfair’s commitments to making an impact in communities across the world, go to [www.aboutwayfair.com/our-impact/](http://www.aboutwayfair.com/our-impact/)

Interested in volunteering at B/CS Habitat for Humanity with your group? Contact Lacey Peters at [lpeters@habitatbcs.org](mailto:lpeters@habitatbcs.org).

“ Far too many people across the country are facing housing instability, and one of our key priorities is to create housing affordability solutions where everyone can have a safe and affordable place to call home. ”

*Christopher Rios  
V.P. of Social Impact  
Wells Fargo*

# WELLS FARGO BUILDS COMMUNITY

*WELLS FARGO PARTNERS WITH LOCAL HABITAT TO COMBAT AFFORDABLE HOUSING CRISIS IN THE COMMUNITY*

Ashley Potter  
B/CS Habitat for Humanity



Bryan/College Station Habitat for Humanity recently received a \$15,000 grant from the Wells Fargo Foundation for its 2022 Wells Fargo Builds initiative. This is the fourth time that B/CS Habitat has received a Wells Fargo Builds grant.

B/CS Habitat is one of more than 230 Habitat for Humanity affiliates participating in this nationwide initiative to help families with low to moderate incomes build and improve their homes.

On Saturday, October 15, 2022, six Wells Fargo employees volunteered alongside the Espinoza family to help build the family's future home in Bryan.

Guillermo and Martha Espinoza have struggled to find decent, affordable housing for themselves and their three children. Their lives will be transformed when the family moves from a dilapidated two-bedroom home to a brand new five-bedroom, two-bath Habitat home.

Bryan/College Station Habitat for Humanity is deeply grateful for the partnership with the Wells Fargo Foundation. Prior to the Wells Fargo Builds initiative, the foundation's support dates back to 2001. Since that time, Wells Fargo has helped B/CS Habitat build homes for 29 families in the Bryan/College Station community.

Thank you, Wells Fargo!





## Washington County Habitat for Humanity Renews Building Program

After a seven-year hiatus, Washington County Habitat for Humanity is excited to announce that construction of its 12th home began at 9 a.m. on December 3, 2022, in Brenham.

Washington County Habitat is able to begin building its 12th home thanks to a generous full-house sponsorship from an anonymous local donor.



“There is a great need in our community, and we have a tremendous opportunity to serve,” said Bryan Best, a Washington County Habitat board member. “Moving forward, we hope to complete one to two homes each year and partner with hardworking families in our community to provide affordable places to call home.”

Residents in and around Brenham are invited to help build the home. Visit [wchh.org/volunteer-work/](http://wchh.org/volunteer-work/) to sign up. Financial donations are also encouraged to keep Washington County Habitat building in Brenham. To give online, visit [wchh.org/donate/](http://wchh.org/donate/). Gifts payable to Washington County Habitat for Humanity can also be mailed to P.O. Box 377, Brenham, TX 77834.





# ***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.





# Bryan/CollegeStation Habitat for Humanity®

## Charitable Opportunities

### IT'S MUNCH TIME

Contact Lacey Peters to see how you can get involved in 2023!



[lpeters@habitatbcs.org](mailto:lpeters@habitatbcs.org)

Shop | Donate | Volunteer



Bryan/College Station Habitat for Humanity



## 2023 Upcoming Events



Run for the House  
April 1, 2023



Bowl to Build  
DATE TBD



Tees for Keys  
DATE TBD

To learn more about our events and how you can get involved, go to <https://habitatbcs.org/> today!



***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 310 families in need in over 30 years.

Become a part of a movement to ensure everyone has a decent place to live, in our community and in the world! Get involved with B/CS Habitat today!



119 Lake Street  
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(979) 823-7200  
<https://habitatbcs.org/>