



**1201 E MAIN ST  
CHATTANOOGA, TN 37408**

**SEEKING TO PUT GOD'S LOVE INTO ACTION, HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER TO BUILD HOMES, COMMUNITIES AND HOPE.**

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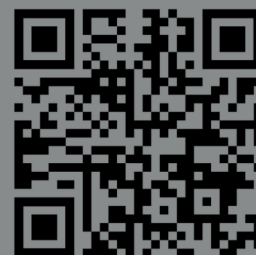
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**GIVE TODAY**



*A world where everyone has a decent place  
to live.*

# HABICHATTER

## A WORD FROM OUR CEO



**JENS CHRISTENSEN**

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Last week, as I was walking through the backyard with my three-year-old son, he asked me “daddy, do you not like the yellow ones?” I realized then that I was mindlessly stopping to dig up dandelions as we walked. Spring has definitely sprung. The time has changed (why do we even do this still?). And new projects are beginning. And, yes, once again, I am engaged in a never-ending battle with the dandelions for no logical reason whatsoever.

While my battle with the little yellow flowers may be a bit futile, our work here at Habitat definitely is not. Over the past few weeks, dandelions are not the only things we’ve seen spring from the ground. Our 300th home, for Tangela, is officially taking root with footers and block work under way. We’re making progress through 302 homes actually, and partner families have now selected lots for numbers 303, 304 and 305.

Even more, we are actively making plans for our first ever townhome project, to be located on five acres off Shallowford Road thanks to a generous property donation by Drs. Ruth and C.Y. Liu. To our knowledge, this will be the first affordable home ownership development in the Hamilton Place area.

And we are currently working with the City of Chattanooga to expand our Critical Home Repair program, ultimately doubling our capacity to offer essential, aging-in-place repairs over the next three years.

Which brings me back to those blasted dandelions.... My daughter, now 18 and in her first year of college, began watching me mindlessly pick those little yellow flowers in our backyard years ago. My 14-year-old son saw the same...he even helps from time to time these days. And of course, now with our three-year-old, the circle continues.

Because of you and your support, there are over 300 other families in Chattanooga who are also enjoying home ownership, growing dandelions in their own backyards this spring, and building memories they don’t even realize are happening as a result. And, with your continued support, there are many more families to come – all enjoying stability, the creation of wealth and an end to generational poverty by becoming Habitat partner families.

**For this, I thank you.**



## WOMEN BUILD BRUNCH 2024



**Friday, April 26th 11:00 AM - 1 PM**  
*PROGRAM STARTS PROMPTLY AT 11:30 AM*



**The Chattanooga Hotel**  
**1201 Broad St, Chattanooga, TN**



[www.habichatt.org/womenbuild](http://www.habichatt.org/womenbuild)

**INDIVIDUAL TICKET: \$75.00**

**TABLE: \$500.00**

*SPONSORSHIP OPTIONS AVAILABLE*

**Women Build is a unique opportunity for women to join together to help a local family realize the dream of homeownership.**



**SCAN QR CODE TO PURCHASE TICKETS**

*OR VISIT [WWW.HABICHATT.ORG/WOMENBUILD](http://WWW.HABICHATT.ORG/WOMENBUILD)*

### FUTURE HOMEOWNERS: THE NYBENDA FAMILY

The Nybenda family is headed by Mariam, mother of Juma and Adija. The children were born in Burundi and moved to Tanzania in their childhood. Burundi & Tanzania being some of the poorest countries in the world, they faced many challenges of scarcity and adversity and decided to make a brave decision to seek a better life in the United States. Drawn to Chattanooga for its warmth and opportunities, they have found solace amidst family and community. As they prepare to move into their Habitat home, gratitude fills their hearts.



Mariam works at Pilgrim's Pride and Adija is a sophomore at Howard High School. Juma is studying business at Chattanooga State. Both of Mariam's children represent the family's aspirations for education, have contributed significantly to the family's sweat equity, and have helped move the family through the program quickly. Their excitement about their new home reflects their belief in a brighter future. As construction begins on their future home, the family is determined to build a better life for themselves and their family, both here and in Africa.



# VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS

Volunteers are vital pieces of our mission, helping day-in and day-out to build homes, communities, and hope. We are extremely grateful to all of our volunteers who dedicate their time to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve.

## HOMESERVE USA



## TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY



## CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



## Meet Tom, our Director of Construction!

Tom joined our team in September of 2022 as Home Preservation Manager, but began serving as Director of Construction in February of 2023, taking oversight of the day-to-day operations of both new home construction and home repair while managing a team of four. Since joining us in Chattanooga, Tom says that having people reporting to him directly and managing the team has allowed him to grow as both an individual and leader.

Tom's Habitat journey started in 2008 when he served as an Americorps volunteer. A friend of Tom's served with AmeriCorps before Tom began his own journey with AmeriCorps, and he participated in mission trips and alternative spring breaks with Habitat throughout high school and college.

Habitat's unique model of working alongside future homeowners is what motivates Tom each day he steps into the office or on-site. He says, "Knowing the people whose house you're working on means a world of difference." He emphasizes that at Habitat, we want to build houses that last.

Beyond new construction homes, Tom mentions the importance of home repairs at Habitat. "There are people whose kitchen or bathroom hasn't worked for years, but through home repairs, they can now live comfortably in their own home."

With Tom's construction expertise to build homes and ability to teach volunteers to help get the job done correctly, we can feel confident in our mission and help others live safely and comfortably, with dignity.