



Building Friends,

It's winter in Avery County! The above home was completed on December 22 for the Gwyn Family. Chris, Amanda, and their children Tylor and Katie were excited about the snow for their first Christmas in their new home. Although we were not able to properly dedicate their home (it may be during the spring thaw) the family is living safe and warm in their energy efficient home.

We were greatly blessed in 2009 as four families became homeowners. Two new homes and two rehabbed homes were completed. This could not be possible without the support of our donors, countless volunteer hours and the prayers of many.

2010 brings many challenges as we hope to complete three homes for partner families. One home is under roof for Chasidie Hudson and her two children. In the spring we will start two new homes in Phase II of the Milford Meadows Subdivision in Elk Park. We hope to complete these two homes for Bobby Lunsford and his two daughters, and Lynn and Angela Brown and their three children.

Again, keep us in your prayers and thanks for your support.

Building on Faith,
Terry Woodruff, Executive Director

OUR MISSION:

“Avery County Habitat for Humanity works in partnership with God and people from all walks of life to build and renovate affordable houses in decent communities, where every person can live and grow into all that God intends.”

To some we are a “faith based organization”; to others a home builder; and to others a social service agency. In the name of full disclosure we are all of these things. The bottom line is that we are about children's health. Our mission is structured around housing and that is best described in terms of children's health. The healthy child goes to school regularly, doesn't have serious accidents at home or at play. The healthy child usually comes from a healthy home. The roof doesn't leak, the temperature is consistent, and the parents are not worried about how they are going to pay the rent or heat the house. The younger a child is the more time they spend at home and the more likely they are to be exposed to peeling lead paint, wood smoke, be burned by touching space heaters, or exposed to extreme changes in temperature. Avery County is like many places in the country in that we have a shortage of affordable housing. What that means is given the average wage and the average cost of a typical two bedroom apartment a person must work 85 hours per week to afford the rent. That often produces stress and leaves less time to be mom or dad to the kids. According to HUD, housing is affordable if it doesn't exceed more than 30% of a family's net income. Your time and donations help housing become a reality for families in Avery County.

It's All About the Kids



Thanks to the generosity of the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina, seven kids were able to attend the Wonderful Opportunities Waiting 4-H Summer Program (W.O.W.). Given the flexibility of this program, children were able to attend the days they most preferred that were based on their particular interests. The Avery Journal sent a reporter to interview the children and learn more about the program. She was very impressed, and exclaimed, "You are building more than houses, you are building community". All of the supporters of Avery County Habitat for Humanity should feel especially proud about this observation. An unexpected gift for our kids came from the W.O.W. program and as a result all of our children are wearing helmets when they ride their bicycles. This is yet another aspect of children's health.

Banner Elk Kiwanis Club

There is a playground in the works for the Milford Meadows Community. It has been started with a basketball goal and planned volleyball facility. This is made possible thanks to a grant from the Banner Elk Kiwanis Club. This is yet another example of the community supporting our development here at Milford Meadows. So you see it takes land, money, and labor but it also takes the community to support our ministry.

Community Partners

Toe Valley Charge

It is tangible when we are able to have temporary housing for a family that has been approved as a partner family but has immediate and desperate need for a place to live. Thanks to the Toe Valley Charge United Methodist Churches, we have access to temporary housing so we can address this need. Currently David & Margaret Brown and their two children are blessed with this opportunity.



One of our new partner families
David, Maggie, Eric & Gracie Brown

To build a Habitat house you need several resources. It starts with having land on which to build. We are extremely fortunate to have Milford Meadows, for many affiliates where to build is a constant struggle. Then we need families who have a housing need and have the ability to make a house payment. We need volunteers and family partners to build the house. Then we need funding for materials. Thanks again to local churches, businesses and supportive individuals. Then there is that which we often take for granted and that is community support.



**Chasidie Hudson
with
Sienna & Dakota**



**The Hudson Home
to be completed
late spring 2010**



**Bobby Lunsford
with Bonnie & Lucie
Construction starts this spring**



**Lynn & Angela Brown
with Olivia, Chandler & Sarah
Construction starts late spring**



**Chris and Amanda Gwyn
with Katie & Tylor
Proud new homeowners!**



**Michael & Edith Sheppard
with Erica, Rebecca & baby Anna
Planned completion late Spring 2011**

New Partner Families

Sheppard Family (Planned home completion late Spring 2011)

This is a family of five who live in inadequate housing where the roof leaks, the “water is orange”, the insulation is inadequate, and only half the house is heated. Given the availability of housing in Avery County, they can’t afford anything better, and even then it would still be a rental with no chance to build any equity. Edith works part time for H & R Block, and Michael does construction work. They have a two year old (Rebecca) and a new born (Anna). Their daughter Erica is the oldest at 7 years and in elementary school. For families such as the Sheppard’s, Habitat is a chance to gain wealth from home ownership instead of rent for inadequate housing or payments on a depreciating trailer.

Willis Family (Planned home completion Summer 2011)

Leah is a single mom with one nine year old son, River. They live in an inadequately small house with no closets, serious mold (aggravating respiratory problems), lack of insulation and a dangerous electrical situation. She is an office administrator and has worked at the same firm for two and a half years. However like so many of our “partners”, she doesn’t earn enough to afford to buy a house on the open market. Hers is a typical story where hard work and responsibility are not enough to afford the most modest house. Avery County Habitat for Humanity will be able to have a positive impact on this family. We can create an environment where Leah can raise her son in a place that is healthy and secure, and where mother and son can both thrive.

Brown Family (Planned home completion late Fall 2011)

David, Maggie and their two kids Eric and Gracie lived in an older trailer that had roaches, doors and windows that wouldn’t close, leaks in the roof, mold, a dangerous electrical situation, and a cracked tub. Our family selection committee chairman, who has been making home visits for 19 years, said it was the worst living situation he had ever seen. Thanks to the support of the Toe Valley Charge UMC, we were able to get the family out of the trailer and into one of the houses that they are rehabbing. This takes care of their immediate need but they need a permanent home of their own. The trailer they rented is a statement of how severe the housing situation is for low income families in Avery County.

Humanity Includes You!

Volunteers Needed

ReStore: Tuesday – Saturday

Call (828) 733-2025

Office: Monday – Friday

Call (828) 733-1909

Avery County
 **Habitat for Humanity®**

ReStore

Building Houses, Building Hope

**Donate your used furniture,
appliances, household items
and building materials.**

**All profits go toward home
building efforts.**

**To Schedule A FREE Pickup or to
Volunteer Call (828) 733-2025**

Open T-F 9:00 to 5:00, Sat 9:00 to 3:00

Credit and debit cards accepted.

130 Montezuma St in Newland

Next door to the Courthouse

ReStore Friends,

Happy New Year from all of us at the Avery County Habitat for Humanity ReStore. We want to thank everybody for their support in 2009 and look forward to seeing everyone in 2010. At this time of year we are anticipating spring and we have many items to help with spring spruce up. Find help with your landscape to generally improving the look of your yard. This is your chance to get a great deal while supporting a great cause.

Come and see us,

Lisa Whittington, ReStore Manager

Board of Directors:

James Thatcher, *President*

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Teri Seegers

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Staff:

Melanie Burgin, *Office & Programs Manager*

Andrew Hensley, *ReStore Assistant Manager*

Doris Shoemaker, *ReStore Clerk*

Joshua Stow, *VISTA Volunteer Coordinator*

Lisa Whittington, *ReStore Manager*

Terry Woodruff, *Executive Director*

Brian Yaffe, *VISTA Resource Development*

How to Contact Us:

<http://www.averycofh.org>

or send email to info@averycofh.org

ReStore: 130 Montezuma St, Newland,
next to the Courthouse – (828) 733-2025

Office in the Gilmer Community Center:
151 Friendship Lane, Elk Park – (828) 733-1909



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