

Building Houses

Building Lives

Building Hope

Building Community

Family rises from fire, finds a home with Avery Habitat



Above: Franki Barlow with Patricia Galloway
Right: Students from Dominican College help Frank Barlow install flooring into the house the Barlows are about to close on.



Inside this issue:

WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS!	2
FROM DIRECTOR'S DESK	2
NEWS	3
MORE NEWS	3
RESTORE CORNER	4

An interview of Franki Barlow by Patricia Galloway

Franki Barlow was visiting a friend when her mother called in tears to tell her they had lost everything but the clothes on their backs due to a house fire. Those losses included a beloved pet and a portfolio of drawings Franki had prepared as she sought entrance into art school.

She and her family are extremely grateful for the outpouring of generosity and support shown to them by the residents of Avery County, including art supplies given to Franki.

"It was a big relief" when they were offered temporary housing in a Habitat built home. A home they are now in the process of buying as they discovered they qualified to be a Partner Family. "We were glad to have a roof over our heads again as a family." They love the house, especially the size of their yard, due to her mother's love of plants. The are "excited to actually be able to own the house." continued on page 3

Welcome Jillian Rosato, Resource Development Manager!

After 6 years of service to Lees-McRae College in the department of Alumni Giving and Relations, Jillian Rosato joins the Avery Habitat team as Resource Development Manager. Her primary responsibility is filling the Gilmer Center with groups, making sure those groups have the best time possible in Avery County, as well as assisting in development efforts. "Jillian is a key piece of the team and our ability to reach our goals over the next few years within Avery County. She has hit the ground running and we cannot wait for our groups, old and new, to connect with her and help propel Avery County Habitat even further forward," says ED Christon Clark.

"I am excited to get the word out about Avery Habitat and all the work we do. I am also excited to share the renovations at Gilmer and the positive impact our volunteer groups have on our community."

Jillian and her husband Frank have one son, Noah. She likes to cook, shop and watch her son play baseball.





Volunteer Groups

Avery High Carpentry Class
Covenant Presbyterian
Dominican College
Grandfather Ladies
Iowa State University
Lees-McRae College Softball team
Marquette University
Otterbein University
RV Care-a-Vanners
Saginaw Valley State University
Tuesday Quality Team
University of Central Florida
University of Pittsburgh - Greensburg
University of Wisconsin Stevens Point
Vanderbilt University
Wednesday FAB Team



*Thank You to all our volunteers
that keep Avery Habitat moving
and building forward!!!*

From the Director's Desk

This is always an exciting time of year as collegiate spring breaks help fill the Gilmer Center with young, vibrant volunteers eager to make an impact. This March has been no different as we have hosted 98 students over the last three weeks from seven schools. And there are 38 more to come in April. These students have built walls for our next house, removed and installed flooring & trim in a rehab, installed siding, trim, insulation, drywall and more on our current build. They have helped in the ReStore as well as the office. Projects are numerous, our volunteer needs are vast and we are grateful for these students, as well as all our volunteers that take significant time away from their hectic schedules to work with us!

As we look forward to spring and the remainder of 2019 we are excited to see our schedule filling with groups staying in and around the Gilmer Center. We



Literally the desk, a reclaimed lakehouse door fashioned into a very nice desk thanks to reclaimed barnwood bases.

are blessed to have Jillian join our team, she brings a skill set of significant value.

I am truly blessed to lead a wonderful team and work with volunteers who turn their passion into homes and so much more for hard working Avery County families in need of an opportunity.

God Speed,
Christon



News: Gilmer Renovations, Shell Build and more



Above left is renovated women's bathroom with pine dividers.
Above right is the expanded kitchen.
Below is Lees-McRae Softball team demo-ing the women's bathroom, pantry and laundry room.



Students from Dominican College putting new ping pang table to good use.

The Gilmer Center continues to undergo renovations to better serve our groups. The women's bathroom has been completely gutted and re-engineered to bring four shower stalls, one tub/shower, two commodes and the vanity is about to receive an upgrade with an additional faucet. Pine dividers, ceiling and trim add a rustic vibe to a great new space to cleanup after a hard day of work! Each shower includes a private changing area just a step from the stall. The men's bathroom is set to undergo renovations shortly.

The Shell Build, the first 5 bedroom in our history is awaiting approval from the health department. Five bedrooms require quite a bit of area and the soil in the undeveloped area of Milford Meadows is undergoing work via a soil engineer to find the right placement now that the precipitatory part of winter has vacated. The walls for the house were built by our first collegiate challenge groups of the season. We are looking forward to raising them this spring!

As of March 1st, there are four approved Partner Families working on their sweat equity to move to the construction phase! In addition to the three families currently in the construction/closing phase.



Students from University of Pittsburgh - Greensburg presented Christon with a check for \$1,000 as a donation to the build efforts of Avery County Habitat.

An Interview with Franki Barlow, continued from page 1

Franki continues to pursue her dreams in spite of the losses and is currently studying at Mayland Community College where, she says, "Everyone is so good to me." Small class size and one on one assistance from instructors is aiding her scholastic success. She says all of the staff are "nice, speak to and stop and talk with students. They are all happy and you can tell they actually like their jobs." They do more than teach, they listen" and give wise counsel.

Welcome home Franki, we wish you and your parents the best in your new home!!!



ReStore Corner

This beautiful piano remains available for purchase as of printing of this newsletter.



WSJ

The Wall Street Journal @WSJ · 4m

The Marie Kondo effect on thrift stores: "Some people give us stuff that isn't very useful. We aren't a place for people to just dump their rubbish."



Marie Kondo Isn't Sparking Joy for Thrift Stores
wsj.com

The ReStore is beginning to fill up as spring approaches and our pickups increase. Our goal is to turn donated items into funds to further our mission, while also eliminating things of value going to the landfill. A significant amount of items we wind up taking to the landfill includes broken items that have no opportunity for repair. Doing so makes Lisa sad. On a positive note, Lisa got married and is currently cruising the Caribbean on her honeymoon. Stop into the store in April and congratulate her!

**Habitat for Humanity®**

ReStore



Donate or purchase furniture, appliances, house wares, building materials, antiques, automobiles, campers, or boats.

Tuesday – Saturday
9am-5pm

828.733.2025

2170 Millers Gap Hwy, Newland
All donations are 100% tax deductible

Free Donation Pickup

Board of Directors:

Mike Fields, *President*
Leah Willis, *Secretary*
Cammy Pittman, *Treasurer*

Mae Weed
Brenda Lyerly
Larry Zimmer

Cody Hoilman
Melissa Phillips
Ruth Shirley

Staff:

Christon Clark, *Executive Director*
Melanie Burgin, *Office & Programs Manager*
Jillian Rosato, *Resource Development Manager*
Bruce Benfield, *Construction Manager*
Lisa Sawyer, *ReStore Manager*
Ken Cain, *ReStore Associate*

How to Donate Online: [Click here!](#)

How to Contact Us:

<http://www.averycofhf.org>
Or send email to
info@averycofhf.org
Look us up on Facebook!

ReStore:

2170 Millers Gap Hwy, Newland - (828) 733-2025

New Office (GPS Address):

57 Taylor Road, Newland - (828) 733-1909

Mailing Address:

PO Box 1016, Newland, NC 28657



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