

Building Houses

Building Lives

Building Hope

Building Community

## Patricia O'Connor Galloway, inspiring us to continue our mission & do more!

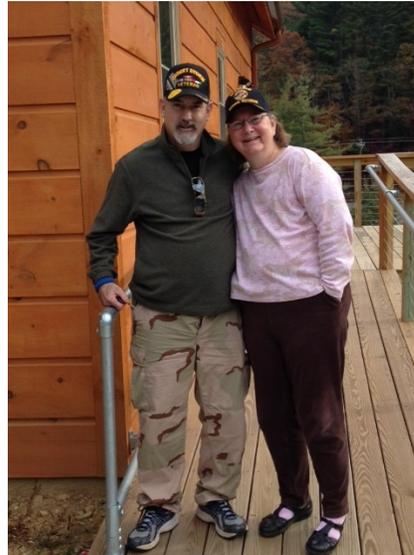
In Patricia's own words, "I was diagnosed with cancer less than two years after the passing of my husband. Between chemo treatments, insurance co-pays and deductibles I was several thousand dollars in debt. It took six years but I did pay it all off!

Just as I was getting back on my feet, my Marine Corps injured shoulder went bad on me and due to a VA snafu, I was left homeless in 2013. I left everything I had known living on the coast for 30 years and was taken in by friends in Avery County. I went back to work with the assistance of NC Vocational Rehabilitation services.

I received food stamps and lived in subsidized housing but found this to be a very frustrating experience. Every time I increased my working hours I was required to report the resulting increase in income. This led to my rent being increased and my food stamps decreased. When I asked the apartment management how people were expected to get out of the system I was told, 'they aren't.' I looked at her and said, "Well, by the grace of God I am finding a way!"

I thought Habitat for Humanity just built for people with children so I was very happy to find out that they would accept a disabled, widowed Marine. And I was excited about being able to own a home rather than continuing to pay rent to someone else.

I am excited to close on my "new" Habitat home, along with my new husband. We met at the VA



Thank you for your service Patricia and Rich, welcome home!

while doing post-operative physical therapy.

Thank you so much for your support of Avery Habitat for Humanity; it is truly making a difference in people's lives!"

**Thank you Patricia, you are making a difference beyond belief!**



The RV Care-A-Vanners recently added a wheelchair ramp to the future Galloway home to make it fully accessible.

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## Avery Habitat named Avery Chamber of Commerce 2016 Nonprofit of the Year



Christon Clark & Melanie Burgin along with Board Member Fred Abernethy accept the award from the Avery Chamber of Commerce

"In the past 25 years one organization in Avery County has continuously dedicated its effort to helping families fill the greatest need of all. Without shelter and a place to call home, the challenges a family face can be insurmountable. Around the world Habitat for Humanity has impacted more than five million lives since 1976. Since 1991 Avery County Habitat has built 44 affordable houses for those in our community." MC Delee Scott went on, "At Avery Habitat they build. They build because they believe that everyone, everywhere should have a healthy, affordable place to call home. More than building homes, they build communities. They build hope. They build an opportunity for families to help themselves and others."

This award goes to each and every individual that has lent a hand at Avery Habitat over the past 25 years for the betterment of others!





## From the Director's Desk

Rarely does the job description for anyone get longer, yet there is no complaint. It happened to me back in early September when Patricia O'Connor, one of our Partner Families working on her sweat equity came and asked if I would walk her down the aisle at her impending wedding as her 92-year old mother could not make the trip from Iowa. Patricia is a Marine Veteran, breast cancer survivor, Disabled American Veteran's Chaplain, widow and was also homeless for a period of time. She met her fiancée, now husband, at the VA as he is an Air Force Veteran having served in the thick of things during Desert Storm. They had even planned the ceremony around my travel schedule; how could I say no? Nestled between Rotary and a new partner family orientation session that evening I nervously walked Patricia down the aisle and witnessed a ceremony that restored my faith in all that is good in this world. We hear plenty about the bad, and if you want to sit down and discuss the housing situation in Avery County, the US as a whole, or pretty much anywhere on the planet I would be glad to do so. I will buy the meal, you bring your checkbook!

We do what we do because of people! Not all have served their country but everyone in this country deserves the



With Patricia on her wedding day, right before I walked her down the aisle!

opportunity for affordable homeownership if they are willing to put in the effort (sweat equity & more) necessary. To those that have the dream, I am willing to walk you down the aisle.

Your help is crucial in that walk, thank you for your continued support!

God Speed,  
Christon

Like Fred on the next page, consider making Habitat part of your Legacy through your estate plan.



### Summer & Fall Volunteer Groups

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| Seven Oaks Presbyterian (SC)           | Camp Linn Haven         |
| East Allen Church of Christ (IN)       | St Matthews Lutheran    |
| Culpeper Presbyterian (VA)             | Media Presbyterian (PA) |
| Hudson Memorial Presbyterian (NC)      | Zion Lutheran (IA)      |
| RV Care-A-Vanners (FL, GA, OH & NC)    | Tuesday Local Crew (NC) |
| Avery High School Carpentry Class      | Baxter Healthcare       |
| Covenant Presbyterian Young Adult (NC) | Beech Mountain Club     |
| Little Chapel on the Boardwalk (NC)    |                         |



# News: Homeowner Training, Avery Schools Build, Carpentry Class...



Starting in September, all Partner Families that had not yet closed on their home were required to attend the first session of Team Success, Homeowner Training. Led by professional instructors Donna and Ken Miller, the class consisted of seven weeknight sessions as well as a full hands-on Saturday at Gilmer Community Center. Also, participants walked through an existing Habitat



New metal roof going on the future Clawson home courtesy of Avery High Carpentry Class

home, learning how to troubleshoot problems and make easy repairs without calling for an expensive service call. The classes have prepared the next batch of six families for Habitat homeownership. Our goal is to open the classes community-wide in the next session. We appreciate the support of First Citizens Bank in the first session!

With funding from Chief Cares and High Country Charitable Foundations, the very first Avery Schools Habitat Build is fully funded and set to break ground sometime this winter. Just before school started the principals and administrative staff gathered for a thank you photo.



As part of a grant applied for and received by Avery Schools called "Habitat High", twelve senior Carpentry students have been working on Habitat sites and projects since school started in August. So far they have installed two metal roofs, sided an entire house, built stairs onto a raised deck and many more helpful tasks!



EVERY HABITAT BUILDS HIGHLY EFFICIENT HOUSES, HEATING & COOLING COSTS AVERAGE LESS THAN \$30 A MONTH!!!



Carmen says join the groups from Banner Elk Pres, Alpha Phi at App State and Cannon Memorial in the fun that is Women Build!

## Women Build, we want YOU, to join!

Build days a monthly occurrence. If you would like to be included on WB email notices please visit our website [www.averycofh.org/get-involved](http://www.averycofh.org/get-involved) or go directly to the registration link below and make sure to click on the Women Build box under Areas of Interest.

If you are perusing an electronic version you can go directly to the volunteer registration page by [clicking here](#).

Email: [info@averycofh.org](mailto:info@averycofh.org) with any questions.

So far this fall we have had two Women Build days on the Jones build. Our goal is to make Women



## Volunteer Spotlight: Fred Abernethy



Give Fred an iPhone and you never know what type of shot or shots (45 in his first attempt) you will get! Our friends from Guatemala (above) found him just as charming as everyone else does!

Fred eats, sleeps and breathes helping his community. His activities include: picking up donated food at local grocery stores and delivering to Feeding Avery Families, lending a generous hand at Yellow Mountain, and serving six years as a board member here at Habitat. He has chaired the fundraising committee, provided guidance for three successful Summer Events and ran two Special Match campaigns, as well as being the most active Habitat advocate out in the community. In addition, Fred will leave a lasting legacy for FAF, YM & Habitat through his estate plan- *Thank You Fred!!!*



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

**Tuesday – Saturday  
9am-5pm**

**828.733.2025**  
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All donations are 100% tax deductible

**Free Donation Pickup**

Annual Lowe's donation will be in-store November 7th!

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