



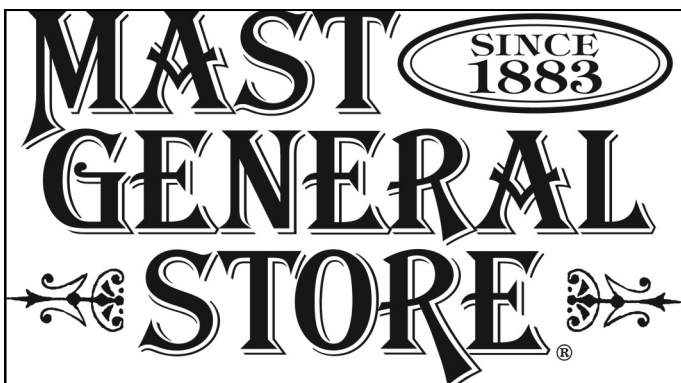
## A Time for Thanksgiving

By next fall, two families are going to have new homes in the Greenwood Community built by Watauga Habitat volunteers and they can't wait! Habitat homes normally take about six months to build. Once the road is completed and location of septic and wells is confirmed, the two foundations will be poured and many volunteers will be needed to get the families in as soon as possible. With the coming winter weather, the start date for building is projected to be in April, 2011. With this start, we hope to build 18-22 houses in the next 8-10 years.

To reach the spring start date, a big thank you goes to JV Potter and the crew from the Watauga Public Works Department for providing their expertise for clearing trees and cutting in the road for the first half of the neighborhood. Because of the support of the Watauga County Commissioners for affordable housing, construction on the first phase of the road into Greenwood is nearly complete. It's partnerships like these that allow us to keep construction costs down, savings that are eventually passed on to our partner families. Another big contributor to the progress of Greenwood is Vulcan Materials, who has graciously donated the first 500 tons of gravel needed for the road for free with any additional gravel needed at a reduced cost.

As the road is being put in, Kim Marland, our lead architect, in tandem with other designers, has been working towards the design of the first cluster of homes. These home designs will stress energy efficiency and utilize materials to minimize maintenance for the families. Watauga Habitat hopes to set an example for other Habitat for Humanity affiliates on how to create an innovative and sustainable neighborhood while still adhering to the principle of simple, decent, and affordable housing.

The Greenwood project is located off Highway 194 on a 20-acre tract of land that borders Green Valley School. Watauga Habitat for Humanity has completed 20 homes since its founding in 1987 and the Greenwood community will more than double this number. We know we are making strides in achieving the organization's goal of providing modest, affordable housing to low-income families in Watauga County, but we need the continued support of our community to continue making a real dent in this ever-growing problem. As a New Year's Resolution, please consider organizing a group of volunteers to work on a house or in our ReStore (great in the winter!). In addition to volunteering, a tax deductible donation will help give a family a hand up out of cold, drafty housing.



We, at Habitat, would like to thank the employee-owners of the Mast General Store for helping to bring the dream closer to reality for our next partner family. At our October board meeting, Mark Gould and Janet Mahala from the Mast General Store Leadership Team informed us that they are honoring John and Faye Cooper's thirty years of commitment to their employees and Mast Store's communities by donating the first home to be constructed in the new Greenwood community. It has been Faye's dream to build a Habitat home, and the Leadership Team felt this was a great way to mark their 30th anniversary as caretakers of the Mast Store.

**Watauga County  
Habitat for Humanity**

**Board Members**

**Janice Koppenhaver**..... *President*  
**Wanda Hinshaw** ..... *Vice President*  
**Jason Parker** ..... *Treasurer*  
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**Alex Poorman**                      **Albert Olszewski**  
**Jeffrey Ramsdell**                **Gardner Hoover**  
**Bernie Edwards**                **Andy Bryant**  
**Brenda Gray**                    **Susan Norris**  
**Todd Mortenson**

**Team Leaders**

**Claire Olander** ..... *Family Selection/Support*  
**Gardner Hoover**.....*ReStore/Land Development*  
**Janice Koppenhaver**.....*Resource Development*

**Staff**

**Alex Hooker**.....*Executive Director*  
**Rick Melo**.....*ReStore Manager*  
**Jennifer Ramey** .....*Vol. Coord./Admin Assistant*

**Contact Information**

PO Box 33 DTS                      828-268-9545 Office  
Boone, NC 28607                    828-268-9696 ReStore  
2447 Old Hwy 421-South            828-268-9686 Fax  
Boone, NC 28607  
www.wataugahabitat.org

**Our Mission:**

To provide decent, affordable housing to low-income Watauga County residents. We do this by building simple, decent homes with volunteer labor. We seek donations of land and materials to minimize costs. Habitat offers no interest mortgages to the homeowners. The homes are sold at no profit.

**Our History:**

Watauga Habitat was established in 1987. We have built 21 homes and are in the process of beginning development of a neighborhood in Green Valley.

**Our Goal:**

To increase community support and involvement in our mission. We seek to partner with local residents, businesses, and churches in advancing our mission. We plan to build 2 houses per year for the next 3 years.

**From the Director**



Alex Hooker

It has been a time for thanksgiving for us here at Watauga Habitat. Thanks to the support of our community members, volunteers, and business partners, we were finally able to break ground on our new Greenwood community and the road into the first phase is nearing completion. We anticipate beginning construction on the first two homes in early spring and have set a goal for completing eight homes in the next three years. Four partner families have been through the selection process and two should be in their new homes by next holiday season. There is much work to be done, but these are exciting times for Habitat. The homes in Greenwood will provide simple, decent housing for 9 children and their parents next year and put a small dent in the problem of affordable housing in Watauga County. Keep Watauga Habitat and our partner families in mind over the holidays. For your New Year's resolution, why not consider volunteering on the new houses or in the ReStore. From the staff at Watauga Habitat, we wish a happy holiday season to you and yours.

*Alex Hooker, Executive Director*

**Winter Volunteer Opportunities**

**WARNING:** Volunteering at the Habitat ReStore can lead to shopping and obtaining great deals on all your home needs!

We would like to invite our many construction volunteer groups and individuals to give the ReStore a try. The Habitat ReStore serves as a fundraiser to cover administrative costs, allowing every donor dollar to go directly toward program and house costs. Very few nonprofit organizations can say that! We are proud of our ReStore and would like you to experience it too. Volunteer with us to see how donated items from generous area residents and contractors are refurbished and sold for a fraction of their value to the general public looking for inexpensive solutions for home improvement projects. It's a win-win for all involved. Many tons of waste are kept out of the landfill, keeping Watauga County a beautiful place to live. As an added bonus we offer our regular Habitat ReStore volunteers a 20 percent discount on their purchases.



**Meet our New Board Member Todd Mortenson**

I grew up on the coast in Hilton Head Island, SC. Being surrounded by the island's natural beauty produced a love and appreciation for the outdoors and God's creation. My college years led me to the University of Georgia in Athens, where I studied journalism and theatre and met my adventurous wife, Miel. We have had the fortunate opportunity to travel overseas and lead trips with Habitat for Humanity's Global Village program in both Romania and Poland. Graduate Studies in Educational Leadership and the birth of our first child took place at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. I moved to Boone in the summer of 2004 to work at ASU with student volunteers and the non-profit community via the Appalachian and Community Together Program (ACT). This time last year, I launched a website known as ToddsCalendar.com--- a High Country community events calendar that features unique things to do everyday. We and our three children (Ella Jane, Leif and Laurel) plus two crazy chickens and one inherited tomcat, are currently living and restoring an old farm house in Green Valley--just a mile down the road from the Habitat's new Greenwood neighborhood off Big Hill Rd.



Todd & Miel Mortenson

## ASU Habitat Club News

The ASU chapter of Watauga Habitat for Humanity was off to a bang this fall semester. After meeting on Sept. 30, we came up with a number of ideas of how to help Watauga Habitat. On Oct. 17th, the officers and Susan Doll, the club advisor, attended the Greenwood community groundbreaking ceremony. In the weeks following the groundbreaking, we had two events to help our community. On Nov. 13, club members gathered to for the annual Rake-A-Thon to rake leaves in local houses in order to raise some money for the club. Over \$400 was raised from the two day event. On Nov. 20, club members and a service learning class helped local homeowners with raking, cleaning up landscaping and digging a trench to divert water away from one of the homes.



Matt Foss, President; Robert Waldron, Treasurer; Kelen Dowdy, Vice President; Susan Doll, Faculty Advisor,; and Kayla Tadeo, Secretary. Not pictured is Lenda Aloumari, Historian.

Before the club adjourns at the end of the fall semester, we have planned on getting together at our next meeting to make holiday gift baskets for the Habitat families in Watauga County. The students of the service learning class will be gathering wreaths from a local Christmas tree farm and the club will gather other holiday gifts to compile in a gift basket and then distribute them prior to ASU's winter break. All in all, this has been a very rewarding semester, we feel we have accomplished a lot. In the spring semester, we plan to volunteer at the new Greenwood community.

## Alternative Holiday Giving

Looking for a gift idea for someone who has everything? This holiday season, make a donation to Habitat in honor of a loved one. Your gift will help Watauga Habitat in its mission to eliminate substandard housing in Watauga County. Just fill out the enclosed form and return it and we will send a card to your loved one, neighbor, family friend, clients or employees informing them of your gift in their honor. All donations are tax deductible. If you have any questions about this holiday giving opportunity, please call us at 828-268-9545.



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 2447 Old Hwy 421-S  
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Return Service Requested

**Want to help Habitat for Humanity but just can't find the time?** The Carpenters' Club is a way for you to make a financial contribution to Habitat on a regular basis. The Carpenters' Club raises money through pledges that are collected at the completion of each home. The pledge money is then applied toward funding the next home.

- 1,400 Carpenters pledging \$50 per home will build a house
- 700 Carpenters pledging \$100 per home will build a house
- 70 Carpenters pledging \$1,000 per home will build a house



Yes! I would like to join the Carpenters' Club!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I cannot join the Carpenters' Club  
 at this time, but I am enclosing a one-time  
 donation of

\_\_\_\_\_ (amount)

My pledge amount is: (please circle one)  
 \$50    \$100    \$1,000    Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to: Watauga County Habitat for Humanity  
 PO Box 33 DTS, 2447 Old Hwy 421-S, Boone, NC 28607