



Habitat completes record breaking year

With an eventful 2024 winding down, I'm excited to share the news that this year we were confirmed by Habitat for Humanity International as the single most productive Habitat for a service area of our size (with 37 new builds completed) in the US and Canada. In addition, we saw the strongest growth in year over year productivity with the single biggest jump in home production for families compared to any other Habitat affiliate.

Our work in Southwood has also been recognized just this week with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) naming us an award recipient for their new and innovative Preservation and Reinvestment Initiative for Community Enhancement (PRICE) program.

This is a huge feat – only possible because you've stood beside us. Thank you!

Over and above this national standard for home production, I am proud to reflect on some of our most memorable accomplishments that haven't always shown up on the "stat sheet." With your support, we:

- Finished development of Southwood's Mixed Income Village I, rehousing 49 families in brand new homes while beginning 19 additional homes in the next two areas.
- Purchased the Carlton Mobile Home Park as part of an unprecedented partnership with Legal Aid Justice Center, Piedmont Housing Alliance and the City of Charlottesville. This effort will prevent the displacement of 64 of our most vulnerable local families.
- Supported our neighbors in need in Asheville in the wake of Hurricane Helene.
- Walked side by side with more than 100 aspiring new homeowners looking to purchase in the upcoming Flint Hill community in the City.

Please keep scrolling to read a month by month breakdown of this incredible year.

Our work requires bold action, extensive collaboration, and deep investment from partners across the Greater Charlottesville region. As you take a look back through this "Best of" E-news edition, I hope you are as moved as I was to see the tremendous impact you've made in the lives of our friends and neighbors during 2024.

Wishing you a safe, happy, healthy holiday season,

In **January**, we were honored to stand side-by-side with our incredible partners from Piedmont Housing Alliance, as they broke ground in Southwood for their Hickory Hope apartments. These affordable rentals will provide 121 units and opportunities for low-wealth families to secure affordable homes.



Featured: Jason Tickle, Executive Director for Habitat of Caroline County and Lakeshia Washington of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Charlottesville

February was a time for focused advocacy for Habitat nationwide, with its annual Habitat on the Hill event in Washington, D.C., where both president and CEO Dan Rosensweig and Associate Director of Community Partnerships Lakeshia Washington represented our Charlottesville community. Check out the Urban Institute panel conversation regarding [Zoning Reforms that Improve Access to Housing for All](#), where Dan was a featured panelist. You can also check out this Habitat International [video on zoning reforms](#) highlighting our local accomplishments achieving critical zoning reforms.

In **March**, we welcomed home two new homebuyers to the Old Trail Village community in Crozet – Katrena Cooper and Tanjah Wheeler. With opportunities for affordable housing becoming increasingly challenging, this project partnership with Craig Builders helped to open doors for local families who want to remain here, but would otherwise be forced out. You can check out the [CBS19 News coverage here](#).



In **April**, Greene County resident and Habitat Founding Board Member Ester Thorne received a special visit from UVA's Growing for Change gardening volunteer group, who built her raised garden beds to adorn her new ramp that



had recently been installed by the Habitat Greene Team. Ester had reached out to the Habitat volunteer team in Greene last year, and received a prompt reply that she qualified for Habitat's critical home repair program. To learn more and see if you qualify, [click here](#).

In **May**, The Habitat Store [received funding support](#) from the Cavs Future Foundation as one of 13 local organizations for impactful work in the community, exemplifying innovation, dedication, and a deep commitment to improving the lives of our fellow residents.



In **June**, we received [the alarming news](#) that the Carlton Mobile Home Park was being sold, due to a letter from the owners advising residents of an (anonymous) offer for \$7 million that they were poised to accept, potentially displacing the 60+ families currently residing there. We immediately began engaging with community partners, including Piedmont Housing Alliance, Legal Aid Justice Center and the City of Charlottesville to determine what course of action, if any, we could take in support of residents.



In **July**, a local Greene family was honored with a dedication for their new home. The couple and their children were joined by neighbors, local community members, volunteers and staff in an intimate ceremony and blessing over the home. The house was built in partnership with the GCTEC school and relocated to its current location for completion. You can watch the original [home transport coverage with NBC 29 news here](#); and catch up on the dedication with [the Greene Journal here](#).





On **August** 6th, we learned that our offer to purchase the Carlton Mobile Home Park on behalf of its residents was accepted. We were humbled to know that the residents of the Carlton community were willing to take this leap of faith with us, and are already actively engaging with residents as they pursue their hopes and dreams for their future community. By the end of the month, a new community advisory committee was already in the works.

The **September** E-news featured the Saints for Shelby, a group of 17 St Anne's alumna class of 1976 who joined us this summer for a service project to honor one of their own, Shelby Ochs Owen, who had recently received a cancer diagnosis. At the end of four long days of construction on the build site at Southwood, Shelby and husband Steve even came out so that Shelby, an Episcopal priest, could bless the homes.



We are saddened to share the news of [Shelby's recent passing](#) earlier this month. In lieu of flowers, gifts can be made to the Anna Julia Cooper School or the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund.



In **October**, we celebrated homebuyer Binta Rose in the mixed-income neighborhood of Burnett Commons. Binta's story of perseverance in the face of deep adversity is truly inspirational. A Licensed Practical Nurse at the Student Wellness Center at UVA and mother of three sons, Binta lost her eldest child, Rahmean Rose-Thurston, in a tragic motorcycle accident in 2020 very near to the location of the new home. Though she and her boys felt a connection to the home – especially given how close it is to her work – she wrestled with her decision to purchase it because of its proximity to the site of her worst moment.

Ultimately, she says, she relied on her strong faith in God's guidance. "Even when I didn't think it was time for me to take Burnet, I think God said, 'no Binta, it's time for you now,'" she said.

You can listen to the [audio recording of the dedication ceremony here](#).

In **November**, nearly 600 volunteers came together for our 11th annual Rake-a-Thon to rake lawns and earn funds for Habitat's building program. This annual, family-friendly event recruits local volunteers in partnership with the Habitat for Humanity Club of the University of Virginia (HUVA) and pairs them with local neighbors who donate to Habitat in exchange for their lawns being raked.



Now in **December**, we've learned that our productivity has elevated us further on the national map – we are the most productive affiliate for a service area of our size. Further, our year-over-year increase in productivity was the strongest of any affiliate nationwide. And just this week, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development named us an award recipient for their new and innovative Preservation and Reinvestment Initiative for Community Enhancement (PRICE) program!

None of this would be possible without you! Thanks for your unwavering partnership in making dreams of affordable home ownership a reality in our community.

[Make a Year-end Gift](#)

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Charlottesville | 967 2nd Street SE, Charlottesville, VA 22902

Did you know that many Habitat supporters choose to invest in our mission through gifts of appreciated stock, donor advised funds and IRA charitable contributions? If you are considering a new way of giving this holiday season, we're happy to help! Contact Kelly Eplee (keplee@cvillehabitat.org) to make your 2024 gift or to learn how you can leave a lasting legacy.

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Charlottesville | 967 2nd Street SE | Charlottesville, VA 22902 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!