his next year promises to be among the most exciting in our history. As Habitat celebrates 25 years of service to this community, we are bringing together the many thousands of people who have joined hands over the course of the past quarter century to help our hard-working neighbors build their dreams.

“At the same time,” emphasized Habitat President and CEO Dan Rosensweig, “we are taking this opportunity to think strategically about the future, reaching out into the community to help us plan our next 25 years of impact.”

Habitat’s 25 anniversary year will include multiple community events—from a “come one, come all” block party on October 8th to smaller gatherings of committed volunteers and donors to a year-long strategic planning process that will culminate in a plan for us to multiply our affordable housing impact over the course of the next few decades.

“We can’t rest on our laurels,” said Habitat Board Chair Doug Ford. “We won’t stop until every one of our neighbors has access to safe, decent and affordable housing. At the same time, we know that what we accomplish today is a result of the incredible dedication of the many people who came before us.”

Frances Lee-Vandell was one of those pioneers.

“We saw that houses in Charlottesville were becoming unaffordable and we knew we had to take action,” said Lee-Vandell, a founding member of Habitat Charlottesville. “We raised $21 at our first meeting—it’s been amazing to watch how much the Charlottesville community has stepped up over the years in support of Habitat.”

As Charlottesville has grown and changed from those early days, Habitat has grown from building one house at a time to building five mixed-income neighborhoods, constructing more than 170 new Partner Family homes and safely housing more than 2,000 neighbors. Each one of those homes represents a special and unique blessing to Habitat families. “Having our own home means stability,” said Habitat Partner Family Angel Turner, who moves into her new home this summer with her son Zachariah. “It’s the blessing of a neighborhood home.”

How will you help us expand our impact in our 25th year?

Volunteer
Be part of the engine that powers Habitat’s mission to transform lives and communities.

Donate
Consider a donation today to provide a “hand up” to our wonderful families. Your gift will make dreams come true and help build a better Charlottesville.

Advocate
Help put the wind in the sails of a hard-working local family or raise consciousness in support of more sustainable, inclusive housing policy.

SAVE THE DATE: 10.08.16
We hope you’ll join us on October 8th at IX Art Park for Habitat’s 25th Anniversary Block Party—a day of games, food, fun and Habitat building activities!
Best,

Dan Rosensweig

PARTNERSHIPS

From Homeless to Homeowner: Tim Turner’s Story of Hope

THREE YEARS AGO, Tim Turner was homeless, and fighting for full custody of his seven-year-old son, Damyanti. When he gave himself space to dream, he imagined one day having his own home and providing a stable life for Damyanti. Today, that dream is about to become reality.

After some encouragement from a friend, Tim decided to apply to the Habitat Homebuyer’s Program and was accepted in January 2014. He’s been working on earning enough sweat equity to buy a home ever since.

“I want from being homeless, to living with family, to getting full custody of my son, to working toward owning my own home,” said Tim. “I've learned that if you have the will and determination, you can make it.”

This summer, Tim and Damyanti will move into their brand new home at Burnet Commons III. The Park.

“I can’t believe it’s almost here, it’s like a dream,” said Tim. “There’s a light at the end of the tunnel. We can’t wait to finally be home.”

that’s safe, where everyone knows each other and the kids can have playdates and birthday parties."

We hope that you will be inspired to support the many wonderful people like Angeles who are working to build their dreams. This year, please share with us your Habitat story, swing a hammer on the construction site or visit the Habitat Store—and be sure to save the date for the Habitat 25th Anniversary Block Party at IX Art Park on October 8th.

Please help us celebrate our 25th Anniversary! Contact Development Manager, Saki Green at sgreen@vashabitat.org or call the office at 434-293-1066.

CONTRIBUTED FROM PAGE 1

Board of Directors 2014-2017
Doug Ford, Chair
Jeff Hall, Vice-Chair
Larry McElwain, Secretary
David Owen, Treasurer
Kathleen Ball
Wendy Brown
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Hunter Smith
Temple M. Smith

Habitat Staff
Max Office
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Shelley Cline
John Dersham
Jessica Emmore
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Sandra Greene
Ryan Jacoby
Senta Lee
Kris Lucas
Rod Oks
Kimberly Pundy
Coral Rosetti
Dane Rosenweig
Lynda Runkle
Ruth Stone
Ken Sweeney
White
Garnett Twigg

Construction
Trey Bennett
Tom Casanova
Ben Goodman
Emm
Kerrie Grimmer
Samuel Kurgel
Samnie Lilli
Phillip Lott
Kris Lucas
David Schmidt

Habitat Store
Lois Combs
Sarah Granger
Jackie Hetwiek
Larry Scott
Eleen Sabol
David Winder

Southwest
Dylan Coxe
Michael Creweford
Jill Denker
Will Kilean
Molly McComb
Kelly Molloy
Jr. Olson

Bladen
Loretta Johnson
Photography
Habitat Staff,
Zaide Progno

COMMUNITY

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that’s safe, where everyone knows each other and the kids can have playdates and birthday parties."
1) First Charlottesville Habitat home
Phyllis Meredith became the first Charlottesville Habitat homeowner in 1992.

2) Porter’s Village
This neighborhood of 15 rural homes in Esmont was built in 1998-1999.

3) Paton Street
This 34-home development, complete in 2010, was the first Habitat mixed-income community in Virginia.

4) Sunrise
In 2013, Habitat completed construction at Sunrise, the nation’s first trailer park transformation without resident displacement.

5) Belmont Cottages
This mixed-income neighborhood was completed in 2014, and features eight Habitat homes.

6) Burnet Commons II: The Woods
Featuring seven Habitat homes, this 50-unit, mixed-income community in the heart of Charlottesville will be complete in 2016.

7) Burnet Commons III: The Park
When complete in 2016, The Park will feature 18 Habitat homes and 26 market-rate homes.

8) Martin Street
Construction on this single-family home will begin this spring.

9) Wickham Pond
This summer, construction will begin on six homes in the Wickham Pond neighborhood, our first mixed-income community in Crozet.

10) Harmony Ridge
This fall, construction will begin on our seventh mixed-income community, Harmony Ridge, featuring ten Habitat homes.

11) Southwood
In 2007, Habitat purchased Southwood. Consisting of 120 acres and 341 trailers, it is the area’s largest concentration of affordable housing.

Future Builds
Past and Current Builds
Habitat Homes

170+ Habitat homes completed since 1991.
“Early Adopters” to Plan first Model Village at Southwood

After Habitat purchased the Southwood Mobile Home Park in 2007, we promised the 1,500 residents that each of them would have a place to call home following redevelopment of the property into a vibrant, mixed-income community.

But replacement housing is only part of the story. In our 25 years of working side-by-side with families, we have learned time and again that personal investment and pride in ownership are essential ingredients in creating long-term success and sustainability of a home or a neighborhood.

“Doing things for people only carries them so far,” said Habitat President and CEO Dan Rosensweig. “As we’ve moved from homes to communities, we’ve redefined ourselves to empowering community members, to inspiring them and helping them achieve skills to become the engineers and architects of their own future.”

Today at Southwood this form of empowerment is in overdrive. This summer, a cohort of “early adopters” will step forward to participate in the design of a first model village. Over the course of the next year, this group—brought together by their shared enthusiasm and preparedness for redeveloping their community—will work side-by-side with design professionals to generate a plan for the first phase of development.

To prepare for the experience, early adopters will participate in community leadership development and have opportunities to increase their knowledge of planning, architecture, land use entitlement and financial management. Additionally, they will receive one-on-one financial counseling and work with Habitat staff to generate individualized plans to transition into homeownership and other forms of secure and safe tenancy.

The initial village that the early adopters design will be a microcosm for the larger community. It will include opportunities for homeownership and affordable rentals, market rate lots, open space and other amenities. It will also allow Habitat to generate a land and financial plan to carry the project from its first phase through completion of redevelopment. This masterplan will form the basis for our rezoning application, help us to structure our capital campaign, and inform the types and scope of partnerships needed.

“This is a really exciting time,” said Rosensweig. “We can’t wait to start working with this first group at Southwood as they begin planning their own future and creating a model which will shape the future of affordable housing for years to come. In the upcoming year, we will be reaching out to the broader community to invite you to learn more and consider investing your time, labor, treasure and expertise in this paradigm-shifting project.”

“AS WE’VE MOVED FROM HOMES TO COMMUNITIES, WE’VE REDEDICATED OURSELVES TO EMPOWERING COMMUNITY MEMBERS, TO INSPIRING THEM AND HELPING THEM ACHIEVE SKILLS TO BECOME THE ENGINEERS AND ARCHITECTS OF THEIR OWN FUTURE.”