

Habitat Hero Spotlight: Richard Tremblay

Richard Tremblay's service to Habitat has taken many forms over the years. He recently ended his second term of board tenure in June, and is already nostalgic for it.

"It was a total joy to work with Dan (Rosensweig) over those six years and other members of the leadership team...particularly the officers with their commitment to Habitat. I miss it! It was a great 6 years! I recommend board service to anyone that is interested," stated Tremblay.

After returning in 2013 to the Charlottesville community where he grew up, this time with his wife, Susan, Richard started supporting Habitat's Land Development team, vetting new building opportunities and helping Habitat staff obtain permits.



Richard loved that work, but also wanted to get involved building homes. So he joined the midweek construction crew, a dedicated group of recurring jobsite volunteers.

"I've always enjoyed working with my hands," he said. "The midweek crew is the most fun! Swinging a hammer...picking up a paint brush...whatever it takes!"

Richard found it particularly fulfilling to bring the first phase of Southwood "out of the ground." He recently rounded out his board tenure by serving two years as Chair. In typical fashion, he speaks modestly about it, "I had some misgivings about whether a retired guy was the best choice, but I appreciate[d] [the board's] confidence in me. I enjoyed that role."

Habitat's President and CEO says that the advances made during Richard's tenure were anything but modest.

"Of course Richard would undersell his contribution," said Dan Rosensweig. "But, under his leadership, Habitat accomplished an unprecedented amount. We updated the bylaws, completed a capital campaign and made the single biggest jump in production (31 more homes year over year) of any Habitat affiliate in the

US and Canada.”

Thank you, Richard, for all of your dedication and service! We look forward to seeing you out on the job site.

To learn more about volunteering with Habitat, [visit our website](#).

Home Dedication in Greene

On Friday evening, July 26th, Habitat hosted a home dedication for a local Greene family.

This newly built, single-family detached home originated as a modular house built by and purchased from The Greene County Technical Education Center (GCTEC). The home was moved to its existing lot in the Pin Oaks subdivision in Stanardsville and built to completion by the Habitat Greene volunteer team in partnership with the family.

“We have been working toward this moment in Greene County over the course of the last year, and it’s very exciting to see it all come together for the family,” said Andre Zalud, Regional Housing Director for Habitat, “We are incredibly grateful for the support we’ve received from the Greene County Board of Supervisors, Planning Staff and the Planning Commission that has made our work in the community possible.”

You can read more about the dedication ceremony and see footage of the event via the [Greene Journal](#).

In addition to new home construction in Greene and Louisa Counties, Habitat and local volunteers operate a robust critical home repair program. This year our goal is to help at least 20 families stay in their homes via repairs in the rural counties.



Community members and Habitat staff gather for Greene home dedication

Summer in Southwood

It's been a busy summer in Southwood!

In June, Village One residents along with the Piedmont Master Gardeners came together to put some well laid plans into action, planting the pocket park located at the corner of Cardinal Hill Lane and Horizon Road. This project has not only resulted in neighborhood beautification, it has also fostered a deeper sense of unity and pride among the residents.



And just last week, Southwood families enjoyed a well-attended back-to-school bash with nearly 300 children participating in the event to pick up schedules, register for meals, meet teachers, and more. It was a great way to kick off the new school year.

Progress in Carlton Mobile Home Park

Many of our supporters have been following Habitat's work with partners to secure a brighter and more secure future for residents of the Carlton Mobile Home Park. When we were approached by panicked residents who received a note in June that the land underneath their homes was under contract and set to be sold in 60 days, Habitat – along with the City of Charlottesville, the Piedmont Housing Alliance, the Legal Aid Justice Center and the residents themselves – sprung into action. We worked within the guidance of a new state law allowing us to make a counteroffer to purchase the property in partnership with the residents.

We were so excited and relieved when the Bolton family accepted the offer and are now focusing on listening sessions with residents, preparing to responsibly manage the park and closing on the transaction. The closing is scheduled for mid September.

For a detailed overview of the project, including the broader context of Habitat's work throughout Charlottesville, check out [this radio interview with Michael Guthrie on Real Estate Matters](#).

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Habitat for Humanity of Greater Charlottesville | 434-293-9066

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

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