

# THE HABITAT HERALD

FAYETTE COUNTY, TEXAS

SUMMER 2025

## Habitat Celebrates Completion of Wright Family Home



By Kenny Couch

On the afternoon of May 30th, beneath a blue Texas sky, laughter spilled from the porch of the newest Fayette County Habitat for Humanity home in La Grange. It wasn't the clatter of hammers or the buzz of construction tools; this time it was something warmer. The sound of family. The sound of joy. The sound of home.

Joined by Habitat volunteers, staff, donors, and supporters, Johnny Wright and his four children; Demarion, Dereon, Dylan, and Sydney stood together to receive the keys to their new home during a blessing ceremony that filled the home with emotion, gratitude, and celebration.

"It's always wonderful when we get to do this and you immediately hear what a real home sounds like," said Habitat Executive Director, Kenny Couch.

The home blessing ceremony marked the end of a long journey for the Wright family and the beginning of a new one. For months, Johnny and Demarion worked side by side with volunteers putting in the "sweat equity" that Habitat asks of every partner family.

The home itself is a stately brown with crisp white trim. Centered at the front is a small, welcoming porch that beckons to friends and family. The Wright kids are already dreaming up adventures for the back yard.

Among the friends gathered at the ceremony was Habitat Board Member, Curtis Bradbury, who delivered the blessing. After gathering everyone into the living room, heads were bowed and the house filled with a calm silence. "God of laughter, God of Joy, we give you thanks for this time together, to be with one another, and to look forward to the joyful noise that will be in this house with

laughter and love," he prayed. "We also give thanks for the blood, sweat, and tears. The drawing and imagination, that went into this home."

That joyful noise could be heard throughout the ceremony in the sound of children giggling, friends chatting, and supporters embracing one another, proud of what they helped accomplish.

As with every Habitat project, the Wright house was not built alone. It was the result of months of hard work by hundreds of volunteers, donors, and supporters; each playing a role in making this dream come true. Volunteers sawed lumber and swung hammers. Small businesses donated supplies and food. Local

Habitat job site.

"Every home that Habitat builds is a testimony to the amazing things this community can do when we come together," said Habitat Fundraising Committee Chair, Meg Keilbach. "We don't just build houses, we build a strong foundation for the futures of the families we serve."

Johnny Wright wiped away tears as he thanked the crowd. "This is amazing," Wright said. "This is more for my children than it is for me. Thank y'all. Much love and respect. God bless y'all. I'll appreciate it for ever and ever. Y'all will never be forgotten."

For the Wright's, this home represents more than shelter. It's stability. It's pride. It's a safe place to raise children, host Sunday dinners, celebrate birthdays, and weather life's storms.

The completion of the Wright home marks the latest success in Fayette County Habitat's mission to provide affordable housing to hard working families in need. But it is far from the last.

As the ceremony wound down, guests lingered while sharing hugs and snapping photos.

"It's always surreal walking away from one of our home for the last time," remarked Couch. "It's the first time we leave the lights on. We don't have keys anymore. It's not a Habitat project anymore, it's the Wright Family home."

At the end of the night the porch light burned bright and the sounds of a family made a house a home.

To learn more about Fayette County Habitat for Humanity please visit us online at [FayetteCountyHabitat.org](http://FayetteCountyHabitat.org) for up to date information about our mission here in beautiful Fayette County, Texas.



donated many hours of time and expertise.

Johnny's mother, Terri, worked with Mary Behal and Jill Stueber to make sure the work crew was kept well fed. Her gumbo, served on a chilly afternoon, and became something of a legend on the

### SAVE THE DATE

#### CASINO NIGHT 2025

Get ready to roll the dice for a great cause! Fayette County Habitat for Humanity is thrilled to announce the return of our Casino Night Fundraiser on Friday, September 27th, at the Historic Casino Hall in downtown La Grange.

Join us for an unforgettable evening featuring classic casino games like slots, blackjack, poker, roulette, and craps; plus a silent auction, raffle prizes, open bar, and heavy hors d'oeuvres. Whether you're a seasoned card shark or just in it for the fun, there's something for everyone at Casino Night!

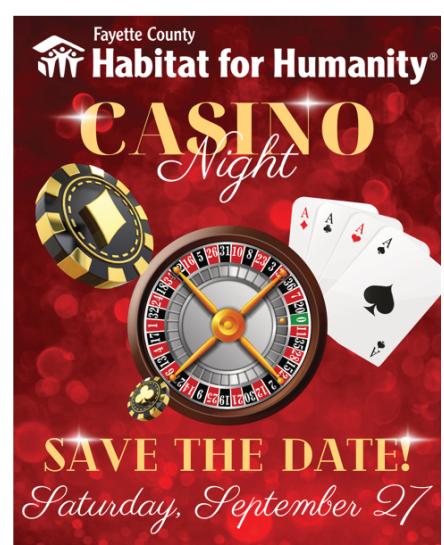
Every dollar raised will support Habitat's mission to build safe, affordable homes for hardworking families right here in Fayette County.

We are currently seeking event sponsors, raffle prize donations, and silent auction items. If you or your business would like to get involved, your support will help us raise the stakes, and raise more walls, for local families in need.

For the latest updates visit us at [FayetteCountyHabitat.org](http://FayetteCountyHabitat.org)

Together, we can turn every hand dealt into hope, opportunity, and a place to call home. Because a bet on affordable housing is a bet on the future of Fayette County.

We'll see you September 27th!



A BENEFIT TO SUPPORT LOCAL FAMILIES WITH AFFORDABLE HOUSING.



## SMALL BUSINESS PASSPORT 2025

BENEFITING FAYETTE COUNTY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

### Support Local, Build Local

Fayette County Habitat for Humanity has launched its 2025 Small Business Passport, a one-of-a-kind fundraiser designed to uplift both affordable housing efforts and the local businesses that make them possible. With only 200 books printed, each passport includes 46 valuable coupons from small businesses across Fayette County and they're going fast.

Available now for \$50 at [FayetteCountyHabitat.org/passport](http://FayetteCountyHabitat.org/passport), the Passport isn't just a great deal for shoppers; it's a tribute to the generosity of Fayette County's small business community. While large corporations may get the headlines, it's often the small, locally owned establishments that give the most consistently; donating time, products, services, and heart to causes that directly impact their neighbors.

"These businesses are the heart of our community," said Habitat Executive Director, Kenny Couch. "They've helped build homes, feed volunteers, donate prizes, and create opportunities. The Passport is our way of saying thank you, and encouraging others to support them in return."

Wendy Rohan, owner of Blissful Folly Farm and a proud Habitat supporter, emphasized how mutual support creates a resilient community. "When we support Habitat and local families, we're investing in our shared future. Our community is stronger when we work together, and that's what this Passport is all about."

Participating businesses span the county, and the coupons offer deals on everything from dining and shopping to experiences and services.

Proceeds from the Passport go towards building safe, affordable housing for Fayette County families. And each purchase is a vote of confidence in the businesses that keep our towns thriving.

With only 200 books available, the 2025 Small Business Passport is a limited-edition opportunity to shop local, save money, and support housing all at one. Get yours today at [FayetteCountyHabitat.org/passport](http://FayetteCountyHabitat.org/passport) and take a journey through the heart of Fayette County, one small business at a time.

#### Participating Businesses

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Carmine</b><br>Busted Oak Cellars  | Los Pinos Imports<br>Mac's Daqs<br>Potluck Trading<br>Reba's Deli & Pizzeria<br>The Studio Space<br>Taylored Ink Co.<br>The Texas Quilt Museum<br>Tidy Touches<br>Hank's Express<br>The Quilted Skein<br>Spill the T   |
| <b>Cistern</b><br>Cistern Country Store & Grill   |  |
| <b>Fayetteville</b><br>Blue Mule Winery   |  |
| <b>Flatonia</b><br>Darlin's Diner<br>Edna's Kitchenette   |  |
| <b>La Grange</b><br>Blissful Folly Farm<br>Bodega Wine & Cheese Cafe<br>Bread Basket<br>Ere's Italian Restaurant<br>Fayette Co. Community Theatre<br>HT Fitness<br>Jay-Dee'z<br>Judy's Attic<br>La Grange Print Co.<br>Latte Cafe<br>Le Petite Gourmet<br>Loosen Up Massage | Round Top<br>The Garden Company<br>Humble Donkey<br><b>Schulenburg</b><br>Audio Video Plus<br>Country Chiropractic<br>Country Oak Boutique<br>The Flower Box<br>Jack & Mary's<br>Jimbo's Italian Ice<br>Oakridge Smokehouse<br>Piper Jo & Co.<br>Tillie's Cafe |

# Habitat Seeks Volunteers for Fundraising Committee

Fayette County Habitat for Humanity is inviting community members to join our Fundraising Committee, a volunteer team that plays a crucial role in making our mission possible. This group not only helps raise the funds we need to build and repair homes across Fayette County, but also fosters lasting relationships with the donors, businesses, and volunteers who support our work.

The Fundraising Committee leads and supports a wide range of event and initiatives throughout the year, including our high-energy Casino Night and our presence at community favorites like the Schulenburg Sausage Festival, Schutzenfest, and Schmeckfest. These efforts bring people together, raise awareness for Habitat's mission, and generate the financial support necessary to continue building strength, stability, and self-reliance through shelter.

In addition to helping plan and staff fundraising events, committee members also take the lead in recognizing and thanking donors and volunteers, writing personal notes, preparing acknowledgement materials, and celebrating those who give their time and resources. Volunteers on the committee also help with data entry tasks related to donations and event tracking, keeping records accurate, and ensuring smooth communication with our supporters.

"Fundraising fuels our mission," said Committee Chair, Meg Keilbach. "Every dollar raised by this committee helps to build and repair homes for families in our community. The impact of their work is visible in every finished house and every grateful family."

If you're passionate about affordable housing, enjoy planning events, have an eye for detail, or simply want to support your neighbors in a hands-on way, this is a meaningful opportunity to get involved. No prior fundraising experience is necessary, just a heart for service and a willingness to learn.

To learn more or to sign up, visit [FayetteCountyHabitat.org](http://FayetteCountyHabitat.org) or call our office at (210)816-0942. Join us in building homes, hope, and community; one fundraiser at a time.



Fayette County Habitat for Humanity  
helps individuals and families achieve  
strength, stability and  
self-reliance through shelter.

As active participants in building a better future for themselves  
and their families, **qualified Habitat homebuyers are...**

#### in need of better housing

Potential homebuyers might be dealing with poorly made, unhealthy or inadequate housing; unaffordable rent; homes inaccessible for their disabilities or damaged by natural disasters; or have other shelter needs.



#### willing to partner with Habitat

Habitat homebuyers put in hundreds of hours of "sweat equity" helping build their own home and the homes of others in the program. This might also include classes in personal finances, home maintenance and other homeownership topics.

#### able to pay an affordable mortgage

Habitat offers homebuyers an affordable mortgage. Their mortgage payments cycle back into the community to help build more affordable houses.





# Partner Spotlight: Rotary Club of La Grange



Fayette County Habitat is proud to shine this quarter's Partner Spotlight on the Rotary Club of La Grange, a long-standing pillar of service in our community. In keeping with their mission of "Service Above Self," the La Grange Rotarians recently awarded a generous donation to Habitat that covered the full cost of the kitchen and laundry appliances for the Wright family's new home.

Thanks to their support, the Wrights moved into a home that was not only safe and energy efficient but also fully equipped for everyday life; complete with a refrigerator, stove, washer, and dryer. These everyday essentials make a tremendous difference for families starting fresh, and we are deeply grateful to Rotary for making it possible.

The Rotary Club of La Grange is known for its deep commitment to community improvement through a variety of local and international initiatives. From scholarships to pancake suppers to hands-on service projects they consistently step in where help is needed most. Their partnership with Habitat is a powerful example of how like-minded organizations can come together to build stronger futures.

We thank every member of the La Grange Rotary for their investment; not just in bricks and appliances, but in the families and futures that make our community whole.

We sat down with Rotary Club of La Grange President, Josh Vandever to learn more about this amazing organization.

#### What is the mission of the Rotary Club of La Grange?

The Rotary Club's mission is to serve others, promote high ethical standards, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace



From L to R: Rotarian and Habitat Board President Kyle Hartmann, Rotarian Josh Vandever, Rotarian and Habitat Executive Director Kenny Couch, Rotarians Mike Coppinger, Heather Barthelme, Ashleigh Parks, Randy Albers, and Rob Muil.

through its fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.

#### What inspired the club to support Habitat this year?

Rotary seeks to make an impact not only internationally but within our community as well. We, as a club, enjoy making tangible positive impacts on people's lives and what better way to do so than to help provide one of life's very basic needs... shelter.

#### How did members respond when the idea of supporting the Wright home appliances was presented?

Committing funds to a charity is a rewarding but at times difficult process. Unfortunately the funds are limited and we can't provide financial support to everyone. The decision to support the appliance purchase and install for the Wright home was a no-brainer. It was met with almost immediate consensus. The decision was "let's do it, we'll find the money."

#### What does "Service Above Self" mean to your club members in practice?

In our club, our service projects are the number one draw (in my opinion). I think the strongest recruiting tool that we have aside from being an enjoyable group of

people from all generations, is that we actually make a tangible difference in our community and in our world. Whether it's hanging up lights at Monument Hill, raising money for scholarships, or packing meals for people in third-world countries, it simply feels good to use your own two hands to serve others.

#### Can you share some of the other ways your club has supported local families in the past?

We have funded essential repairs to woefully substandard housing to assist individuals that could otherwise not afford it. We have provided financial support to the Child Welfare Board, including the purchase of Christmas presents every year for children who may otherwise go without. We also annually provide thousands of dollars in scholarships to local youths in order to assist them in pursuing their education.

#### Why is affordable housing important to the well-being of La Grange and Fayette County?

As stated earlier, "shelter" is one of life's very basic needs. For one to have any quality of life they need first to have shelter. Maybe less obvious is the need for affordable housing to exist as a manner by which economic development can

happen. Positive economic growth cannot happen within our community if there are not houses for the people that need to work in the businesses investing in our area. Growth is inevitable, good growth can only happen with good, affordable housing options. Without, I'm afraid that the growth that awaits us is not positive at all.

#### What do you think makes Habitat for Humanity a good partner for Rotary?

I think the fact that Fayette County Habitat for Humanity here has a leadership team that is actively engaged in the community is a huge thing for the Rotary Club of La Grange. It isn't a nameless, faceless organization. It's a community lead, community focused group that has done a fantastic job responding to local needs.

#### What advice would you give to someone looking to get more involved with Rotary?

The number one thing I would tell them is that you aren't too old or too young to join. I think our youngest member is 25 or so and out of kindness I'll not say who or how old our oldest member is. It's a great group of people that has a ton of fun when we get together and learn about things going on in our community. I'd like to invite anyone to our meeting every Wednesday at noon at the Czech Heritage and Cultural Center in La Grange (at the fairgrounds).

#### What up coming projects or fundraisers is the Rotary Club of La Grange excited about?

Up next is our hamburger booth at the Fayette County Fair! Please come out and contribute to a good cause, whether it be with Rotary Club membership or just by coming out and supporting us at one of our fundraising events. You're always invited and you're always welcome!



# Treasure hunter?

Explore our eclectic and unique items!



**ReStore®**

Shop.  
Donate.  
Repeat.



**Habitat  
for Humanity®**

**ReStore®**

**Open for shopping and donations Fridays & Saturdays from 9am-1pm**

- Antique / Vintage items
- Appliances in working condition
- Cabinets (complete units only)
- Countertops
- Doors (in good condition)

*We DO Not accept used hollow core doors*

- Electrical items
- Electronics
- Fans
- Farm & Ranch Equipment
- Flooring Materials

*Vinyl, tile, and hardwoods are accepted. No carpeting or carpet pads. We do not accept used laminate. Unopened boxes only.*

- Furniture
- We DO NOT accept upholstered couches or recliners.*
- Hardware
- Home Décor
- Lawn & Garden

**We DO NOT** take mattresses, broken or soiled furniture, upholstered furniture, electronics over 5 years old, baby furniture, clothing, shoes, car seats, strollers, hazardous chemicals, oil-based paints, toilets, bathtubs, unframed glass, food, non-working appliances or tools, waterbeds, sofa beds, used tires, or batteries.

**825 N. Main St. in Schulenburg**

**Fayette County  
Habitat for Humanity®**

# Habitat Home Supply To Become a Habitat ReStore as We Celebrate 3 Years!

Something big is happening at 825 N. Main Street in Schulenburg and we want you to be a part of it. Fayette County Habitat for Humanity is proud to announce that our beloved resale shop, *Habitat Home Supply*, is officially in the process of rebranding as a Habitat ReStore. This change marks an exciting new chapter for our organization and community, aligning us more closely with Habitat for Humanity's national identity while honoring the incredible local support that has brought us to this point.

This transformation comes at a milestone moment, it's been three years since our doors first opened in June 2022. In that time, our shop has grown from a small fundraising initiative into a vital part of Fayette County Habitat's operations. We've welcomed thousands of shoppers, processed tons of donations, and with the help of generous donors, tireless volunteers, and savvy shoppers we have raised more than \$100,000 to support affordable home construction in our community. That funding most recently helped build the Wright family's new home in La Grange and continues to fuel our efforts in Fayette County.

While our name is changing, our mission remains the same; to bring people together to build homes, communities, and hope. The Habitat ReStore model is designed to do just that. Habitat ReStores are nonprofit home improvement stores and donation centers operated by local Habitat affiliates. They sell new and gently used furniture, appliances,

building materials, home décor, tools, and more at prices far below retail. Every purchase and every donation at the ReStore helps fund Habitat's work in Fayette County; providing safe, affordable homes for local families.

But the benefits go far beyond housing. The ReStore is also a place where sustainability meets community impact. By keeping usable goods out of the landfill, ReStores promote environmental responsibility while giving community members access to affordable materials for their own home projects. Whether you're a first-time homeowner, a longtime DIYer, a landlord, a craftsman, or someone on a tight budget; there's something for you at the ReStore. You might find a like-new kitchen sink for your remodel, a gently used washer and dryer at an unbeatable price, or a piece of vintage furniture just waiting for a second life.

To better serve our community and make it easier to donate and shop, we're also extending our store hours. Beginning this month (July), the Fayette County Habitat ReStore will be open every Friday and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at our same location in Schulenburg: 825 N. Main St. We've got great deals, new items every week, and friendly faces ready to help you find your next treasure, all while supporting a cause that builds a better future for families in need.

If you're interested in donating, we

accept a wide range of gently used or new household items, building supplies, non-upholstered furniture, tools, and appliances. Every donation supports affordable housing in Fayette County and is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Volunteers are the heart of our ReStore, and we're always looking for friendly, reliable folks to join us! Whether you have a few hours a week or just want to help out occasionally, there's a place for you; no retail experience necessary. Volunteers help with everything from sorting donations and setting up displays to assisting customers and keeping the store organized. It's a fun, hand-on way to support Habitat's mission and connect with others in your community. If you're looking for a meaningful way to give back, we'd love to have you on our team!

We're deeply grateful for the community's support over the last three years. The rebranding of Habitat Home Supply into a Habitat ReStore is not just a name change, it's a reflection of the strong foundation we've built together and a bold step forward into the future. With your continued support, we know the next three years, and beyond, will bring an even greater impact.



## Fayette County Habitat for Humanity & The Wright Family Would Like to Extend a Special Thanks to...

Adamcik Electric  
American Shield Roofing  
Cernoch Plumbing  
City of La Grange  
Cutright & Prihoda, Inc.  
Doug Elliott  
Ed Janeka - CAHFC  
EEA Consulting Engineers  
Fayette County  
Fayette Savings Bank  
Gessner Engineering  
Greater Fayette Community Foundation  
Insulation Services  
Jill Stueber  
Joe Rogers Dozer Service  
Jose Benitez Tile  
Kainer Pest Control  
La Grange EDC

Lathan Staal  
Kim Hanna - Lowe's  
Mary Behal  
McCourt Equipment  
Norman Wied  
Randy Schneider  
Reeder's A/C & Heating  
Rotary Club of La Grange  
Round Top State Bank  
Shaun Raborn  
Steve Hardin  
Sutherland's  
Terri Wright  
Texas Women's League  
TMR Construction  
TSO Portable Toilets  
Vega Landscape  
& Many other donors and supporters...

## Support Habitat's Mission in Fayette County

Whether you choose to make a one-time payment or become a recurring donor, your support directly fuels Habitat for Humanity's work right here in Fayette County. Every dollar helps us purchase building materials, keep construction moving forward, and support hardworking local families on their journey to homeownership. Your donation isn't going into a national fund; it stays local, supporting projects like the recently completed Wright family home in La Grange and the homes we'll build next. With your help, we can continue building strength, stability, and self-reliance through shelter; one family, one home, and one donation at a time.

**Make Checks Payable To:**  
Fayette County Habitat for Humanity  
PO Box 1127  
La Grange, TX 78945

**Online Donations:**  
[FayetteCountyHabitat.org/donate](http://FayetteCountyHabitat.org/donate)



Make a One Time  
Donation



Make a Recurring  
Donation