

## Memphis Habitat Announces Aging in Place Initiative

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Memphis recently announced that an ambitious new initiative – an Aging in Place Program in partnership with Service Over Self (SOS) and Memphis, Light, Gas & Water – will launch in March 2015.

Funded by a \$3.98 million grant from The Plough Foundation, the Aging in Place Program will serve 500 low-income Shelby County seniors over the next two years. The program is focused on critical home repairs; mobility and accessibility modifications; and weatherization that would be considered crucial to seniors' ability to remain in their homes as they age.

Habitat will be the lead partner in the effort, screening applicants and managing construction projects and home repairs. SOS will serve up to 15 percent of proposed units in its target ZIP codes in Binghampton, Orange Mound and Highland Heights and will focus on minor repairs and roof replacement. MLGW will provide weatherization, wheelchair ramps and home energy conservation education.

“Through our previous critical repair work in Uptown, we have seen that there’s a great need to help seniors ‘age in place.’ With this program, we aim to improve safety for seniors and increase their ability to live independently longer,” said Dwayne Spencer, Memphis Habitat’s executive director. “In some cases wheelchair ramps will be needed. In others, doorways and hallways will be widened, lighting upgraded and other safety features installed. The homes will be more reliable and utility costs will be lower.”

Habitat’s grant is part of an unprecedented series of grants from Plough, amounting to nearly \$12 million to address various needs of vulnerable Shelby County senior citizens. In addition to the seniors served by Habitat’s program, Plough’s overall initiative will provide a million meals to seniors and build a continuum of care for elderly victims of abuse through a coordinated community response, among other projects.

Updates and application dates for the Aging in Place Program will be shared on [MemphisHabitat.com](http://MemphisHabitat.com) and via our hotline at 901-322-3500.

### PROGRAM CRITERIA:

- Applicants must live in Shelby County, Tenn., and have one person living in the home full-time who is 60 years of age or older.
  - The senior citizen must have a qualifying need for accessibility modifications, weatherization or home repairs.
  - The owner of the home must live in the home full-time.
  - The owner of the home must be current on city and county property taxes.
  - The owner of the home must be current on the mortgage, if there is one.
  - The household must meet income guidelines based on family size. (Income ranges are the same as those for Habitat’s homebuying program and are available at [memphishabitat.com](http://memphishabitat.com).)
  - Those selected for the program must be willing to participate in energy efficiency training and follow-up surveys with Habitat.
- \* Rental properties ARE NOT eligible to receive assistance through the Aging in Place program. Cosmetic work also is not a part of the program.

### YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

The Plough grant is unprecedented in our history and will allow us to serve 500 senior citizens. However, an estimated 7,900 seniors are in need in Shelby County. You can help us serve more seniors by donating to our Aging in Place initiative today! Volunteers are also needed for the application process. Contact Amy Paul at [apaul@memphishabitat.com](mailto:apaul@memphishabitat.com) or 901-322-3517 for more information.

# A BOLD LEAP THIS NEW YEAR



Dear friends,

I hope this newsletter finds you all well. At the end of December, I blogged – my first blog post! – about what we accomplished together in 2014. That post featured a short list of highlights, including the announcement of our Aging in Place initiative, perhaps the most exciting endeavor in our history. Memphis Habitat will, in partnership with SOS and MLGW, serve 500 Shelby County seniors over the next two years. This is an exciting time at Memphis Habitat, and I am so thrilled to share the journey with you.

Your continued support has given us the freedom to explore new opportunities to serve the community. Your support has given us the courage to reach beyond the simple definition of our mission and get to the heart of what we do at Habitat. Our program is about homeownership that's sustainable, not just for first-time homebuyers but also for homeowners who've spent their lives in this community and want to remain a part of it. Thanks to The Plough Foundation, we'll be able to help 500 seniors stay in their homes longer.

Because of you, our donors and friends, we at Memphis Habitat can dare to be bold. Thank you for inspiring us to continue to find ways to improve the lives of those in need.

In service,

Dwayne Spencer  
Executive Director

P.S. WMC-Action News 5 did a wonderful story about the announcement of the Aging in Place Program. The piece featured a face that's familiar to newsletter readers – Oliver Rollins – whose story we featured in the last issue. Mr. Rollins was served by our Uptown critical repair program and is a great example of what the Aging in Place Program will mean for 500 Shelby County seniors over the next two years. Visit [www.memphishabitat.com/habitatnews](http://www.memphishabitat.com/habitatnews) to read my Dec. 31 blog post and watch this incredible segment.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### YOUTH UNITED YARD SALE

Saturday, March 28, 7 a.m. - Noon

ReStore Parking Lot

Help Youth United raise funds for the 2015 Youth Build at their annual Yard Sale! We're in need of items for the sale – gently used clothing, small furniture, house wares, etc. – as well as shoppers! More details will be shared on [MemphisHabitat.com](http://MemphisHabitat.com) and on Memphis Youth United's Facebook page.



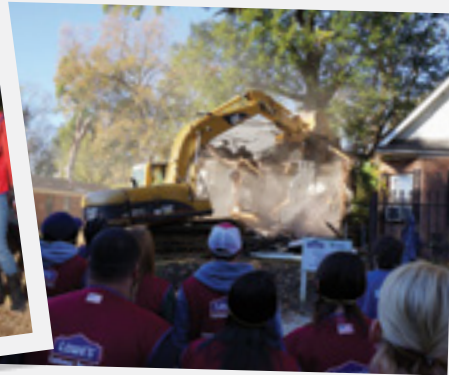
### BLUFF CITY 10K

Saturday, May 9, 2015, 8 a.m.

Overton Square

Join us for a run through Overton Square and a kids' dash/fun run to help raise funds for Habitat. Afterward, stick around for great food, music, awards and more! Sponsorship opportunities are still available. Visit [bluffcity10K.racesonline.com](http://bluffcity10K.racesonline.com) or contact Shanda Wicker at 901-322-3504 for more information.

## LOWE'S HELPS REVITALIZE UPTOWN



Early on a sunny November Friday, more than 50 Lowe's employees, Habitat staff, future Habitat homeowners and Uptown residents gathered to do something Habitat rarely gets to do – tear down a house! In a matter of moments, a vacant, condemned property was demolished, and then Lowe's Heroes employee volunteers set out to lend a hand to five Uptown families, providing landscaping and beautification.

The project was part of a \$70,000 Lowe's grant awarded to Memphis Habitat to support work in the Uptown neighborhood. In addition to funding beautification and the acquisition and demolition of the home in November, funds were also used to construct new homes and provide a hands-on clinic as part of the Fall 2014 Build Kickoff Celebration.

"Identifying dollars for beautification and to bring down dilapidated structures is not easy to do, and we were thrilled Lowe's wanted to support our Uptown revitalization effort in this way," said Dwayne Spencer, Memphis Habitat's executive director. "Our Uptown work is now truly holistic – new home construction; critical home repairs on homes and businesses; beautification; and now, addressing vacant properties. We are so grateful to Lowe's for their support. It was an incredible day!"

The Uptown homeowners helped that day were so grateful for the landscaping and yard cleanup, and the entire community was excited to see a once-vacant home torn down. Thanks to Lowe's, that lot will no longer attract blight but will, hopefully, be home to a new structure in the future.

Visit Memphis Habitat's Facebook page to view photos from that exciting day!

## 'TOOL BOX BASH RAISES' \$55,000!

Habitat supporters and partygoers gathered at The Great Hall in Germantown Friday, Dec. 5 for the 13th Annual Valero Memphis Refinery Tool Box Bash.

Party Planet provided the entertainment as guests bid on items during the silent auction and enjoyed food from Heart & Soul Catering and The Creamery Memphis and beverages from The Stellar Cellar, Eagle Distributing Memphis and Coca-Cola. Attendees also had the opportunity to sample a variety of whiskeys provided by The Stellar Cellar. Beloved radio host Stan Bell presided over the festivities and even treated the crowd to one of his famous roll calls!

A total of \$55,000 was raised during the event – the most in Tool Box Bash history. Those funds included \$16,000 from the Fund-A-Need auction, sponsored by First Tennessee Bank, to purchase a new truck for our construction department.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Tool Box Bash and to our sponsors and donors. Your support helped make this the best Bash yet!





## 13 FAMILIES SERVED DURING FALL 2014 SEASON



We had an amazing fall building season filled with sun, rain, mud, dust, cold, heat and, most importantly, with volunteers who were dedicated to making first-time homeownership possible for local families. Thanks to the support of generous longtime sponsors

and new partners, 13 more families own Habitat homes. Here are a few photos from the build, but visit our Facebook page for photo galleries from each day!

## RESTORE NEWS



### SERVICEMASTER CLEAN, SERVICEMASTER RESTORE DONATE TOOLBOXES

*ServiceMaster Clean and ServiceMaster Restore recently donated toolboxes and small tools to Memphis Habitat and the ReStore. Items donated include ServiceMaster Clean toolboxes; ServiceMaster Restore small hammers and levels; and picture-hanging kits. These toolkits will be given to new Habitat homeowners, and the items are also being sold in the Memphis ReStore. Thank you ServiceMaster Clean and ServiceMaster Restore!*

### RESTOCK THE RESTORE A SUCCESS!

*The Nov. 22 "Go North ReStock the ReStore" donation drive, sponsored by northAmerican Van Lines, Cord Moving & Storage Company and Memphis Area Association of REALTORS® was a big success. Not only did we receive a number of donations on that day, we've also had additional donation pickups as a result. And, we saw more than \$10,000 in sales that day!*



# THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS, HOUSE-BUILDING PARTNERS AND DONORS FROM THE SECOND HALF OF 2014!

*The below list contains donors and sponsors from July through December 2014.*

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*You're invited!*

## STATE OF THE ORGANIZATION

Thursday, March 5, 2015, 5:30-7:30 p.m.  
Memphis Habitat, 7136 Winchester

Habitat supporters are invited to attend this meeting to learn more about what's ahead for our organization. You'll hear from our executive director, board leadership, staff and homeowners, as we recap 2014 and move forward with our exciting work in 2015. RSVP to Bart Harris at [bharris@memphishabitat.com](mailto:bharris@memphishabitat.com) or 901-322-3513.



New Habitat Homeowner Jen Walker and Her Daughter Jaden