



**Habitat  
for Humanity<sup>®</sup>**  
of Greater Baton Rouge



**2022-2023**

# Annual Report

*BUILDING HOUSES, BUILDING HOPE*



## MESSAGE FROM HABITAT BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of Habitat,

Our affiliate has thrived for the past 20 years under the incredible leadership of Executive Director Lynn Clark. She has overseen more than 300 Habitat homes sold to local qualified families and 82 homes repaired belonging to low-income families in need. Lynn has had a lasting impact on hundreds of families in the Greater Baton Rouge area that will be felt for decades to come.

Lynn will retire in Spring 2024, after 20 years of service. We are extremely appreciative that she will stay on until March to help with the transition. Habitat has an amazing group of dedicated team members, partners, and board members, which are a direct reflection of Lynn's passion for the work and our mission.



**Matt Zagotti, Board President, on the build site with Liz Spedale, Board Secretary.**

We are in the process of identifying a strong candidate while maintaining stability and continuity within our organization. Through this leadership transition and beyond we will continue to work to provide affordable homeownership opportunities for the many individuals in our community struggling to keep up with the increased cost of daily necessities. The race between inflation and salary increases, as well as the ever-increasing cost of home insurance, has been a challenge for most individuals. In other words, economic prosperity and homeownership are still a struggle for many.

In the Greater Baton Rouge area, too many families cannot afford the basic cost of their household necessities despite living above the federal poverty threshold, which is the Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) population. In total, 52% of our neighbors are ALICE or below, which is a population of 330,000. Just based on this staggering fact alone, Habitat's mission and work remains critically important.

At the end of each fiscal year, Habitat evaluates the successes of our Baton Rouge affiliate. While financials are important (the ability to build houses and pay our dedicated team members), there are other metrics that are critically important to our mission in the region. In this report you'll see Habitat's impact in our community.

Habitat continues to be blessed with an amazing group of volunteers and regional partners. On pages 7-8 you will see our valued partners who helped us build homes and hope during this fiscal year. We are also grateful to the almost 40 Habitat team members who work tirelessly to achieve the successes of the organization.

There are many ways to support Habitat's work. Consider swinging a hammer or wielding a paintbrush with us on the build site this year. If you haven't been to a Habitat ReStore, stop by our Perkins or Airline locations to shop, or donate gently used or new furniture and housewares. If you forgot to donate during the annual 225Gives campaign, consider making a tax-deductible donation. Or if you want to get more involved, but don't know where to start, simply reach out!

On behalf of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Baton Rouge and our Board of Directors, I want to thank you for your continued trust in Habitat. The support from our donors, volunteers, partners, and the community at large enables our talented team to serve and make a lasting impact.

Sincerely,  
*Matt Zagotti, Habitat Board President*

## 2022-2023 Board of Directors

### President

Matt Zagotti  
Ryan, LLC

### Vice President

Tim McGregor  
EPC Project Services

### Treasurer

Brandon Lagarde  
EisnerAmper

### Secretary

Elizabeth Dyer Spedale  
Tipton Associates

### Legal Counsel

Jim Ellis  
Taylor, Porter, Brooks & Phillips

### Members

Andrée Cullens  
Walters, Papillion, Thomas & Cullens

Barbara Anne Eaton  
Coldwell Banker ONE

Angel Hanchett  
Goodwood Realty

Bridgette Hardy  
Dept. Culture, Recreation & Tourism

Parker Kilgore  
Jones Walker

Trey Monsour  
CSRS Inc.

Bryant Moore  
Cadence Bank

Louise Hines Myers  
Judge, 19th Judicial District Court

Nedra Payne  
Park Medical Academy

Kizzy Payton  
Baton Rouge Community College

Robert Shadoin  
Red River Bank

Calvert Stone  
Commerce Title

Ashley Wellons  
Hannis T Bourgeois

*Habitat for Humanity of Greater Baton Rouge is an ecumenical ministry that builds and renovates houses in partnership with the community. We provide opportunities for families in need to purchase their own homes, build community and improve their lives.*

## PURPOSE

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Baton Rouge works in partnership with low-income families and the community to eliminate poverty housing. Habitat is not a handout, but a "hand up." Homes are sold to partner families at no profit and financed by Habitat with affordable no-interest loans. The incomes of those selected fall within the range of 27% to 80% of median family income for the parish where they live.

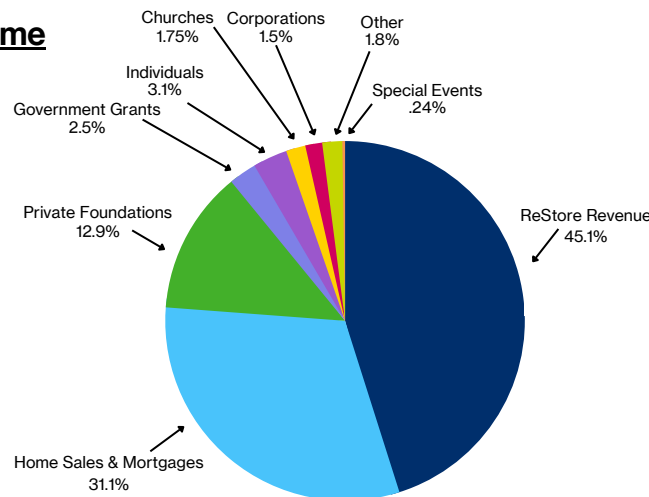
## CRITERIA FOR HOMEOWNERSHIP

Criteria is based on housing need, ability to repay the cost of the home, and willingness to partner with Habitat for Humanity. An important aspect of the Habitat partnership is the requirement that all partner families put in 255 hours of "sweat equity" helping to build their homes. Since 1989, over 130,000 volunteers have worked alongside our homeowner partners and their families and friends. Homeowners are also required to attend homeowner education courses and pay closing costs.

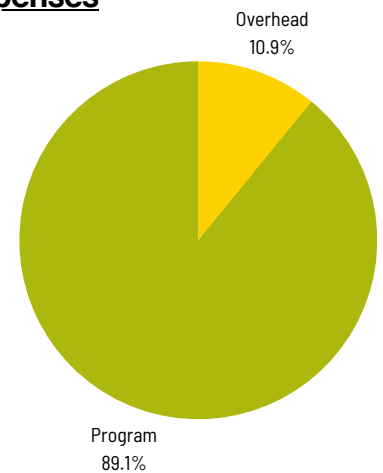
## HISTORY

Since 1989, Habitat has renovated or built and SOLD safe, affordable homes to 407 families, and completed critical home repairs for 82 families. Habitat for Humanity of Greater Baton Rouge serves a four parish area including Ascension, East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge and Iberville.

### Income



### Expenses



### Operational Expenses FY 2022-2023

Total Support Services	\$371,123
Total Adjusted Audited Expenses	÷ \$3,414,509
Overhead as a percentage of Total Adjusted Expenses at June 30, 2023	10.9%

Through conservative spending, sound accounting, and incredible volunteer support, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Baton Rouge spent **10.9%** of its budget last year on overhead. This means that **.89 cents of every \$1 directly helps local families, allowing us to build more homes with qualified homeowner-partners.**

# Congrats to the Habitat homeowners who purchased their new homes in 2022-2023!



**#399**

"Having a home of my own where I can relax and take care of my father means everything to me."

**Tonita**

**Sponsor:** Fund for Humanity

**Closed on Mortgage:** Sept. 21, 2022



**#400**

"I've learned how to put my all into something and now there's nothing in the world I can't do because I'm strong."

**Doneshia**

**Sponsor:** LSU Sororities & Fraternities

**Closed on Mortgage:** Nov. 18, 2022



**#401**

"Buying a home is intimidating and exciting, but I know Habitat has prepared me for this journey."

**Tyra**

**Sponsor:** LSU Sororities & Fraternities

**Closed on Mortgage:** Nov. 18, 2022



**#402**

"It's finally time to relax. I'm home now."

**Leslie**

**Sponsor:** Catholic Church Coalition

**Closed on Mortgage:** November 30, 2022



**#403**

"Habitat changed my life by giving me the opportunity to raise my children in a real home."

**Barbara**

**Sponsor:** Fund for Humanity & DuPont

**Closed on Mortgage:** Dec. 21, 2022



**#404**

"I'm thankful that Habitat helped me learn how to do things for myself. I can maintain my house and manage my finances on my own."

**Orithor**

**Sponsor:** Fund for Humanity

**Closed on Mortgage:** April 20, 2023



**#405**

"I'm so grateful to everyone who helped me build my house. I'm a homeowner thanks to your generosity!"

**Terrance**

**Sponsor:** Albemarle Foundation

**Closed on Mortgage:** April 20, 2023



**#406**

"Partnering with Habitat isn't about having a place to live, but about creating a sanctuary where memories are made and dreams are realized."

**Sophia**

**Sponsor:** Women Build 2022 Sponsors

**Closed on Mortgage:** April 27, 2023



**#407**

"The Habitat program challenged me and boosted my confidence."

**Chemekia**

**Sponsor:** United Methodist Churches

**Closed on Mortgage:** May 11, 2023



# Homeowner Spotlight

## Judy Maechling

Women Build 2021

Only a few years ago, homeownership seemed impossible for Judy Maechling. She spent most of her adult life struggling with addiction which led to homelessness and time in prison. She finally decided to make a change and in 2016 she was accepted into Connections for Life, a Baton Rouge outreach that helps women adjust and succeed after they leave prison. She eventually managed the Connections for Life thrift store.

Judy never thought she could own a home. She says she burst into tears when she heard she was accepted into the Habitat homeownership program. She was selected as the homeowner-partner for our affiliate's 16th Women Build in 2021. The Women Build brings women together to empower one another and build a stronger and safer community.

The Women Build was the perfect fit for Judy, who spent over 5 years at Connections for Life encouraging and supporting women who were trying to change the direction of their life just like she did. To have hundreds of women come together to help build her home and permanently change her life was the ultimate blessing.



*This is the ultimate right here. It's the best years of my life now. I have security. I have my own home. I have a really great job. I have a lot of support. I couldn't ask for anything else. I really couldn't.*



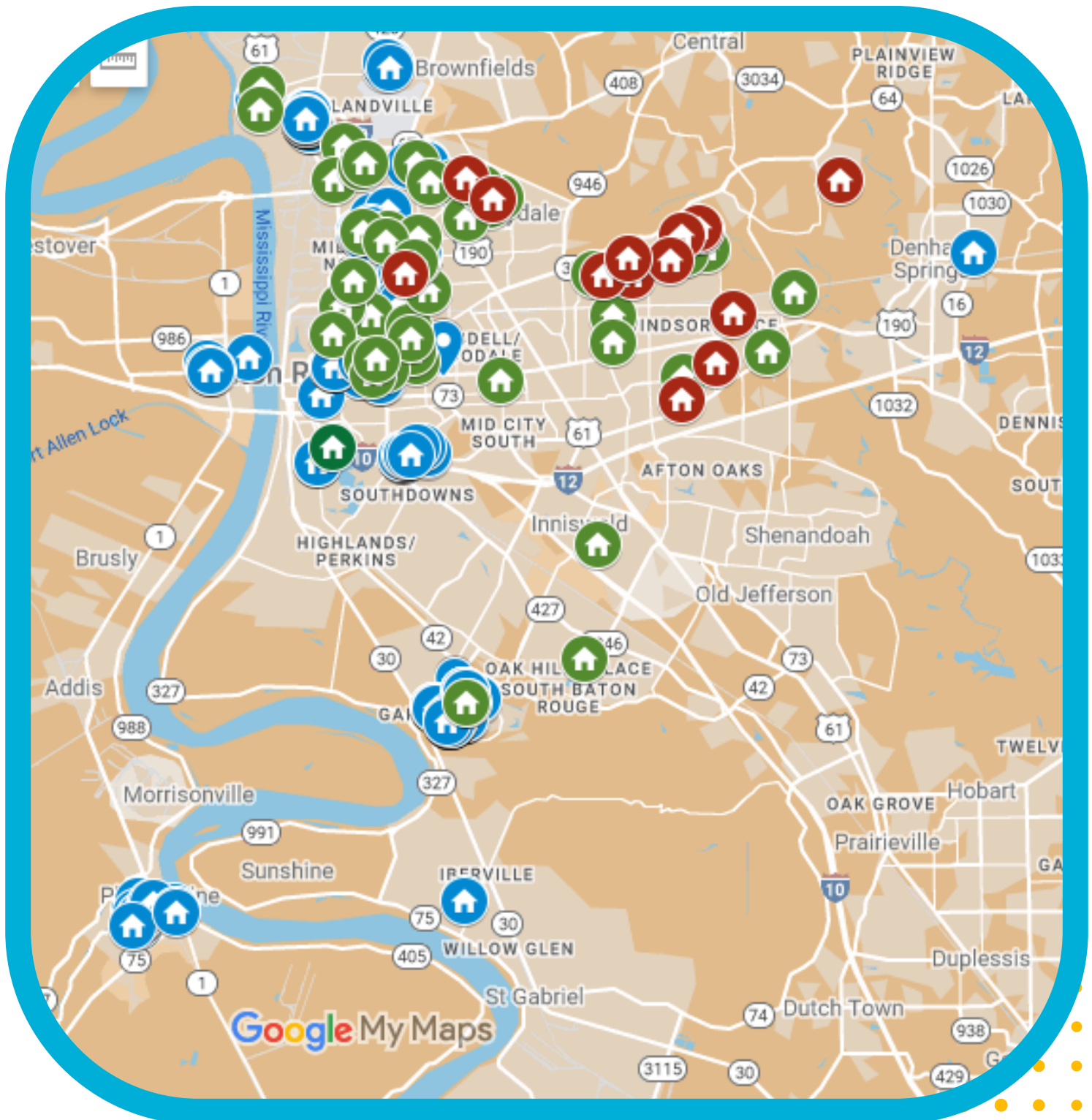
Judy Maechling, Habitat Homeowner



Judy says that owning her own home and paying an affordable mortgage eases her mind. She has security now and lives in a safe, quiet neighborhood. When Connections for Life closed its thrift store in 2022, Judy was grateful to already be in her new home. The stability of homeownership contributed to her quickly finding new employment. She recently enrolled in her employer's retirement plan and is excited about the future. After surviving day to day for so many years, it's a blessing to be able to truly thrive now that she's a Habitat homeowner.

407 Habitat Homes - 61 Critical Home Repairs - 21 Flood Rebuilds

**Map Key**    Habitat House    Critical Home Repair    Flood Rebuild



**407**

**Homes sold since 1989** helping local families build strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter.

**125**

**Habitat homeowners have paid off their mortgage!**

**16**

**Habitat partners** currently working towards homeownership.

**\$1.9M**

**ReStore gross sales** in support of our mission = **1282 TONS** of material saved from the landfill.

**9**

**Homebuyers closed on their new home** this fiscal year.

**12**

**Critical Home Repairs completed** this fiscal year.

**37**

**Families served** by Habitat programs this fiscal year.

**\$241K**

**Saved in labor costs** thanks to **2,516 volunteers** this fiscal year.

## Dream Builders



**RED RIVER BANK**  
A Louisiana Community Bank • Member FDIC

Home **HB** Bank

## Home Builders



### Catholic Church Coalition

- Most Blessed Sacrament
- Our Lady of Mercy
- St. Aloysius
- St. Alphonsus
- St. George
- St. Jean Vianney
- St. Patrick



William Edwin Montan Trust



Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Lovell

## Foundation Builders



Novelis

Lozick Family Foundation



**ExxonMobil**



## Women Build Team Sponsors

### Community Sponsors



### Family Sponsors



## Topgolf for Habitat Sponsors

### Eagle Sponsor



### Birdie Sponsors



# Volunteer Spotlight

**2,516**  
volunteers  
FY22-23



**15,096**  
hours of service  
FY22-23



**\$241K**  
value of  
volunteer  
hours

## Roland Volk - Over 30 Years of Giving Back

Volunteers are the heart of Habitat. Since 1989, over 130,000 folks have generously given their time and talents to make homeownership possible for 407 local families. Roland Volk is one of the dedicated individuals who has volunteered with Habitat since our beginnings over 30 years ago.

Roland moved to Baton Rouge in 1983 to work for Georgia Gulf and later heard about Habitat from his oldest son who was a freshman at Kalamazoo College in Michigan. "He volunteered with the student Habitat chapter and suggested that I would enjoy it. I liked the fact that Habitat is a 'hand up' not a 'hand out' and it was also clear to me that Baton Rouge lacked affordable housing."

Roland remembers that at that time, Habitat only rehabbed existing homes. He worked on some of the first homes which were donated to the affiliate by ExxonMobil. "We made repairs and upgraded them as needed. I learned a lot and it was harder than new construction but was a lot of fun."

Roland is a member of the Super Crew, which is a group of construction volunteers whose skill and knowledge of our building practices make them invaluable to Habitat's mission. For many years, Roland has worked as a crew leader on the LSU Greek Week Build. He provides direction for the inexperienced volunteers, and says he really enjoys working with the eager and energetic students during the week-long blitz build.

Roland has spent over 30 years building with Habitat because "I have been blessed and I have a responsibility to give back," he says.



*Roland cares so much about Habitat's mission and has done a tremendous amount for our affiliate. He's always looking for ways to improve our processes and is talented in multiple areas of construction, while also being a warm and caring person.*

*Jack Connor, Construction Director*



Habitat ReStores are nonprofit retail centers that sell new and gently used home furnishings and building materials at discounted prices. The ReStores help fund the construction of Habitat houses within our community while also benefiting the environment by rechanneling good, usable materials into use.

# \$1,972,885

**gross revenue raised to fund the Habitat mission in FY 2022-2023**

<b>ReStore North</b>	<b>ReStore Southeast</b>
4301 Airline Hwy.	10300 Perkins Rd.
225-355-1895	225-408-0021




**donors**  
give their furniture, appliances, building materials, excess business stock and more!

**volunteers**  
contribute their time, talents, and hard and hard work to the Habitat ReStore.

**shoppers**  
find great deals on awesome stuff, with all proceeds from sales going to fund Habitat's work.

**Habitat**  
uses the proceeds from the ReStore to help local families build and repair their homes.

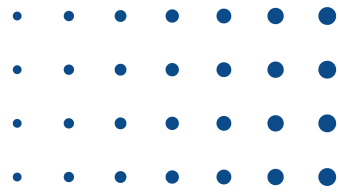
**families**  
work with Habitat to build or improve a safe, affordable home, creating better lives in your community!



Donating to a Habitat ReStore also saves thousands of tons of reusable materials from landfills!



# Habitat for Humanity® of Greater Baton Rouge



+225-927-6651



[www.habitatbrla.org](http://www.habitatbrla.org)



@batonrougehabitat  
@batonrougerestore



@HabitatGBR  
@ReStoreGBR

## **Habitat Office**

5500 Florida Blvd., Ste. 200  
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

## **ReStore North**

4301 Airline Hwy.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70805  
225-355-1895

## **ReStore Southeast**

10300 Perkins Road  
Baton Rouge, LA 70810  
225-408-0021

