



Habitat
for Humanity®
of Lafayette

Celebrating


our **300th** home!



Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities, and hope.

“From Needed to Necessary”

Habitat for Humanity of Lafayette is Celebrating the build of its 300th Home!

There comes a moment in the life of an organization that its impact and mission take it to a new level of consequence.

Habitat for Humanity of Lafayette President and CEO Doug Taylor says, “As a valued ministry serving in the Greater Lafayette area of Indiana, we must move from the perception of **being needed** to a conviction of **being necessary**.”

To the individual and/or family who cannot find a way to afford a home and faces a perpetual cycle of renting, moving and uncertainty - Habitat for Humanity of Lafayette offers the genuine hope and joy of affordable homeownership and stability. **In this challenge to develop and build affordable homeownership, HFHL is not only needed, but necessary.**

To a specific neighborhood that faces numerous challenges, yet desires an improved quality of life and enhanced neighborhood cohesion, Habitat for Humanity of Lafayette joins with residents, community organizations and partners (applying its “Quality of Life Framework”) to implement projects that contribute to sector goals/outcomes. **As a crucial partner and catalyst in Neighborhood Revitalization, HFHL is not only needed, but necessary.**

To a city, and/or a rural community, when solutions to specific housing and/or community needs are difficult to find, Habitat for Humanity of Lafayette is always ready for a constructive discussion and willing to bring its perspective as a valued partner. **HFHL is a proven and credible force in making a difference in the lives of individuals/families, communities and the Greater Lafayette area as a whole. Again, HFHL is not only needed, but necessary.**

420 South 1st St. Lafayette, IN 47905

(765) 423-4590

www.lafayettehabitat.org

Published by the Corporate Communications Department of Habitat for Humanity of Lafayette

INTERVIEW

with Doug Taylor

David Bates sat down with HFHL President & CEO Doug Taylor for a one-on-one interview.

“In my 34 years at Habitat for Humanity of Lafayette, I have come to realize that we never have too much, but we always have enough!”



Q: Doug, in light of reaching the milestone of HFHL building its 300th Home, for you, where did it all begin?

A: When I was in college I took a summer job as a homebuilder. It was the worst job of my life. I was the only unskilled guy. No one wanted to work with me because I would screw up their work. One day at lunchtime I asked a pastor for some perspective. He replied, “God will use this experience in your life one day.”

Not long after that, I discovered the concept of Habitat for Humanity - a holistic approach to ministering to people in need of affordable housing. Was it possible that God would call me to a construction ministry like Habitat? He did.

In 1985, HFHL was ready to build its first house. When I arrived at the build site, only 3 people showed up. There were lines on the ground and shovels with a note that said “dig between the lines.” That day, as we were digging, I wondered how with so few would we be able to eliminate substandard housing.

I spent my evenings cold-calling on the phone marketing Habitat and recruiting volunteers (I made phone calls for 2 hours every night). When we finally finished the first house, I told someone, “I don’t think Lafayette is meant for Habitat for Humanity.”

Q: From those early days, how many houses did you think you might build in Lafayette?

A: One day we drove all over Lafayette and identified 90 substandard houses. We dared to believe that if we could build 90 houses, we would make a real difference.

Q: Considering where Habitat for Humanity of Lafayette has come from, what is the significance of the 300th Home?

A: God’s grace and faithfulness - not only providing for each family but also to the Greater Lafayette community. It is a reflection of how God uses our weaknesses and limitations for His purpose and glory.

The 300th Home represents how God has repeatedly used Habitat for Humanity of Lafayette to bring people together. **Indeed we build walls, but we also break down walls.** Churches who might not fellowship together or have opportunity to work together - come together to help build a Habitat house. Union and non-union volunteers will work together on a Habitat build. Partnering with HFHL, people forget their differences and focus together on the common goal of making a difference.

Habitat’s 300th Home in the Greater Lafayette area has tremendous significance and meaning.

300 houses translate into 750,000 volunteer hours.

300 houses translate into over 45,000 people.

Q: I have heard that you reserve the right to do the final power wash on each house when the construction is done. Why Doug Taylor, President and CEO, doing the final power wash?

A: I find that when I do the final power wash on a house, it is a great time for reflection. It is the last task on a build. Whether it was the first house or the 300th house, it is my time to consider all that God has done, all that so many people have done in order for the miracle of a house to be built. Resources given, sweat equity by the homeowner, volunteer labor and support, diligent staff who did all they could, etc... and from it all a beautiful house emerges - ready to become a home.

Q: What does a Habitat house mean for the homeowner?

A: Habitat for Humanity of Lafayette builds a house into which a family will move and make their home. Affordable homeownership through Habitat means stability; it means children can stay in the same schools with their friends (from 1st grade through High School); it means a capacity for a family to create wealth and save more of their income (typical Habitat homeowners reduce their monthly rent, housing payment from 50% or more of their income to a monthly mortgage payment that is 22% of their income).

Q: Habitat for Humanity of Lafayette will celebrate its 300th home, and many more will follow. Where do we go from here?

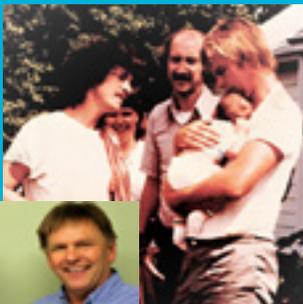
A: Unfortunately the income gap is increasing. A recent report on the City of Lafayette website revealed that over 10,000 households are paying more than 50% of their income on housing. This is a community issue that must be addressed. HFHL is going to have to find a way to build more, become a better advocate, and develop a more comprehensive approach (more than just building houses). HFHL will need to consider areas such as Vocational Training, Financial Literacy, Neighborhood Revitalization. Somehow, we are going to have to go beyond just building affordable housing. We will have to strategize not only beyond certainty, but beyond uncertainty. As a ministry of faith, with God’s favor and blessing, we can and we will find a way. **This is a crucial part of HFHL moving from a public perception of being needed to being absolutely necessary.**



Habitat for Humanity of Lafayette held its first HOUSE BLESSING SERVICE at 10:00 AM on November 16, 1985. The Service of Blessing Program sheet stated at the top:

**-THE HOME OF THE GETCHELS-
Janie, Tom, Lon, and Randy**

Some of those who participated in that first Program remain familiar names and faces today. Doug and Cindy Taylor, Sue Young, Kathy Beach, John Pomery, Doug Howe...



2018



1985

Doug Howe and Doug Taylor

For 34 years, individuals, families, churches, businesses, foundations, civic groups, ...so many have joined together with Habitat and have given of themselves with a passion and generosity to build homes, communities and hope across Greater Lafayette, Indiana. God has been at the very center of every success and He has blessed, He has ordered our steps, He has given the increase.

Now, in 2018, Habitat for Humanity of Lafayette will break ground and build its 300th Home. This is a remarkable achievement, a milestone in the life of this incredible ministry.

“Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.”

Psalm 127:1

A Mother's Heart

Michelle McGhee HOMEOWNER Habitat for Humanity of Lafayette 300th Home!

Michelle indicates that for her family, life has been an ongoing journey of enduring, surviving and moving – “I just tried to keep going for the sake of my family.” A mother's heart finds a way when there seems to be no way. A mother's heart has to strengthen itself when she can't be sure how things will turn out. “None of the responsibilities of loving and providing for my kids were ever a burden,” says Michelle, “they were things you simply carry because you are Mom and family is family.”

Michelle's daughter has grown up with a seizure disorder that has made life a day-to-day challenge. Because of the side effects of medication (tremendous fatigue), and the uncertainty of knowing when the next seizure might occur, Michelle has given much care to protect and support her daughter. Not only has Michelle watched over her precious daughter – but also her three grandsons. Michelle is the mother of two (a daughter and son), and is also a very active grandmother. “My daughter is a wonderful Mom, but because of her health, she needs Mom to be Grandmother a bit more than most.”

When asked what a Habitat home means to her, Michelle replied, “In the previous places that we lived, I never totally unpacked. This time I will not only unpack every box, but I am throwing the boxes away. This home will be MY home, all mine. This home means that my daughter will always have a home base. She may ultimately move to her own place with the right support and love, but if that is not possible – she and her sons will always have the option of a home with me. My son has lived with us to help support the family financially. Because my house payments will actually be lower than what my rent has been, he can now move on to his own place and we will be fine.”



Michelle wants to remind everyone, “It hasn't been easy. Habitat doesn't just give you a house. If you want to be a homeowner, you have to work for it. You have to earn it. Hundreds of hours of sweat equity, financial management and homeownership classes have to be successfully completed. There is a lot of work throughout the Habitat process. But the staff are so supportive and they walk through the process with you. I never expected to be part of an extended family like Habitat. We have come to know each other - staff, other partner families, volunteers and others who are helping to build our home. This encourages me as a first-time homeowner. I am not alone.”

Michelle described the scope of her feelings: “excitement, pride, no longer paying rent, feeling settled and secure. This house will change my life and the lives of my kids completely...” Michelle continued, “I just don't think anyone can imagine how overwhelmingly thankful I am.”

This Mom's heart is full of a new sense of life and gratitude to God for the opportunity of a home for her family. “I never saw it coming, but God knew and God provided. Every Sunday, I walk into church and tell Him thank you.”

Michelle McGhee and her family will be the proud owners of the 300th Home of Habitat for Humanity of Lafayette. Construction is set to begin on this milestone early this spring.



420 South 1st Street, Lafayette, IN 47905

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LAFAYETTE, IN
PERMIT NO.146



Give Online 
LafayetteHabitat.org

As we continue to do more every year,
our limiting resource is finances.

With additional support, we will be able to
help more families & neighborhoods.

Come See 
Our Vision For Yourself

Let us give you a tour of our neighborhood
or have lunch with you to tell you more.

Contact Cindy Taylor to set a time and place.
cindy@lafayettehabitat.org (765) 423-4590 x102

Habitat for Humanity of Lafayette
420 South 1st Street
Lafayette, IN 47905
(765) 423-4590

Since 1984
lafayettehabitat.org
info@lafayettehabitat.org
facebook.com/lafayettehabitat

ReStore
3815 Fortune Dr
Lafayette, IN 47905
Tues - Fri 10am - 6pm Sat 10am - 4pm

lafayettehabitat.org/lafayette-restore
Donations: (765) 426-7204
Store: (765) 423-2585
@LafHabitat