

HOME.

Issue 2 • 2016



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Building Today for Tomorrow

I'm frequently asked, "How many homes will Tulsa Habitat for Humanity build this year?" I typically answer, "As many as we can!" THFH has consistently built 14-20 homes per year for the last decade, and there is much to celebrate in that achievement, but now our partners, community and donors are asking us to do more...much more! The need for quality, affordable homes in Tulsa exists year-round. So, to meet that need, THFH will shift from building for three months in the spring and three months in the fall, to building year-round. This approach will help to achieve an ambitious goal: building 40-50 homes per year, and allowing more families to realize the dream of homeownership.

As you can imagine, the financial burden of meeting this new reality is great. Now more than ever, we want to assure you that there is no such thing as an insignificant gift. Every donation, regardless of the amount, makes a huge difference. This is why I want you to take a moment to learn more about the Carpenters Club. Through the Carpenters Club everyone now has the opportunity to create a lasting impact in our community. I hope that you will consider partnering with us through a recurring monthly gift and join the growing ranks of THFH's Carpenters Club. You can learn more about the benefits in this issue.

Sincerely,

Cameron Walker
Executive Director



Sign up at www.tulsa Habitat.org/carpentersclub to become a member and enjoy:

- Hassle-free monthly donations
- Behind-the-scenes updates
- Exclusive deals at the ReStore
- Vehicle decal
- Invitations to home dedications and events
- Year-end statements for tax purposes



Donate

Your generosity makes the work of Tulsa Habitat for Humanity possible. You are the key to opening doors and improving lives of more families in our community. To make a donation or learn more, visit tulсахabitat.org.



Volunteer

Volunteers are the heart and soul of Tulsa Habitat for Humanity. Whether you're an individual, corporate team, community/faith-based group or just a group of friends, there are many different ways for you to volunteer. Please visit tulсахabitat.org/volunteer.



Advocate

Tell your friends, family and coworkers about our collective vision for a world where everyone has a quality, affordable place to live. If you'd like to schedule a speaker to talk to a group, contact Cheryl at ckane@tulсахabitat.org.

Happening At Habitat



❄ Save The Date ❄

Saturday, April 8, 2017

Cox Business Center

Join us at Steel Toes and Stilettos, benefiting Tulsa Habitat for Humanity, an evening of dinner and drinks, live and silent auctions, and celebration. This annual event is a critical funding source for Tulsa Habitat for Humanity and allows us to continue building homes, communities and hope in Tulsa.

Route 66 Marathon

Saturday - Sunday, November 19-20, 2016

Want to run one of the Route 66 marathon weekend races for free and help support Tulsa Habitat for Humanity at the same time? Join our Tulsa Habitat team for the Charity Challenge! Team members have the opportunity to fundraise for Tulsa Habitat and receive a FREE guaranteed race entry once they hit their fundraising goal. Fundraising goal minimums for free registration:

5K - \$100, Half marathon- \$250, Marathon- \$500, Marathon relay- \$1,000

For more information, visit route66marathon.com and click on Charity Challenge.



Every house that Tulsa Habitat for Humanity builds is a community affair, from the financial donors, the volunteers who work on the “build,” to the homeowner who completes Homeowner College. In September 2016, THFH participated in a challenging twist on the more traditional build method: building a home from the ground up in 24 hours.



All in the Family : Setting a New Record

When the Tulsa Home Builders Association of Greater Tulsa (HBA Tulsa) Charitable Foundation sponsored the construction of a Habitat for Humanity home, the group approached Allen Jenkins, President of Silvercrest Homes and past president of the HBA, asking him to lead the build. Jenkins agreed, on one condition: that it be built in 24 hours.

A 3rd generation builder, Allen explains that the idea was conceived years ago. “I had plenty of people tell me it wasn’t possible, but I had seen my father and uncles build a home in 42 hours in the ‘80s... When we started talking about building a Tulsa Habitat home, I thought it was the perfect opportunity to give back to the community, and break my Dad’s 42 hour build record.”

Calm Before the Storm

The night before the 24-hour build, Allen only slept about 3 hours, so the next morning he downed a couple cups of coffee to get the day started. That may not seem odd to most of us, but it definitely was for Allen. Why? He doesn’t drink coffee! Arriving at the job site at 4:30 a.m., Allen and Peter Grant, President of the HBA Charitable Foundation, chatted and waited. “It was the calm before the storm,” Jenkins joked. “There we were, both of us ready, but we had told everyone else we would start at 6:00 a.m. As soon as it hit 6:00, we started digging!”

(Above) Workers and onlookers alike watch as the build gets underway. (Bottom) Peter Grant and Allen Jenkins take in the “calm before the storm.”

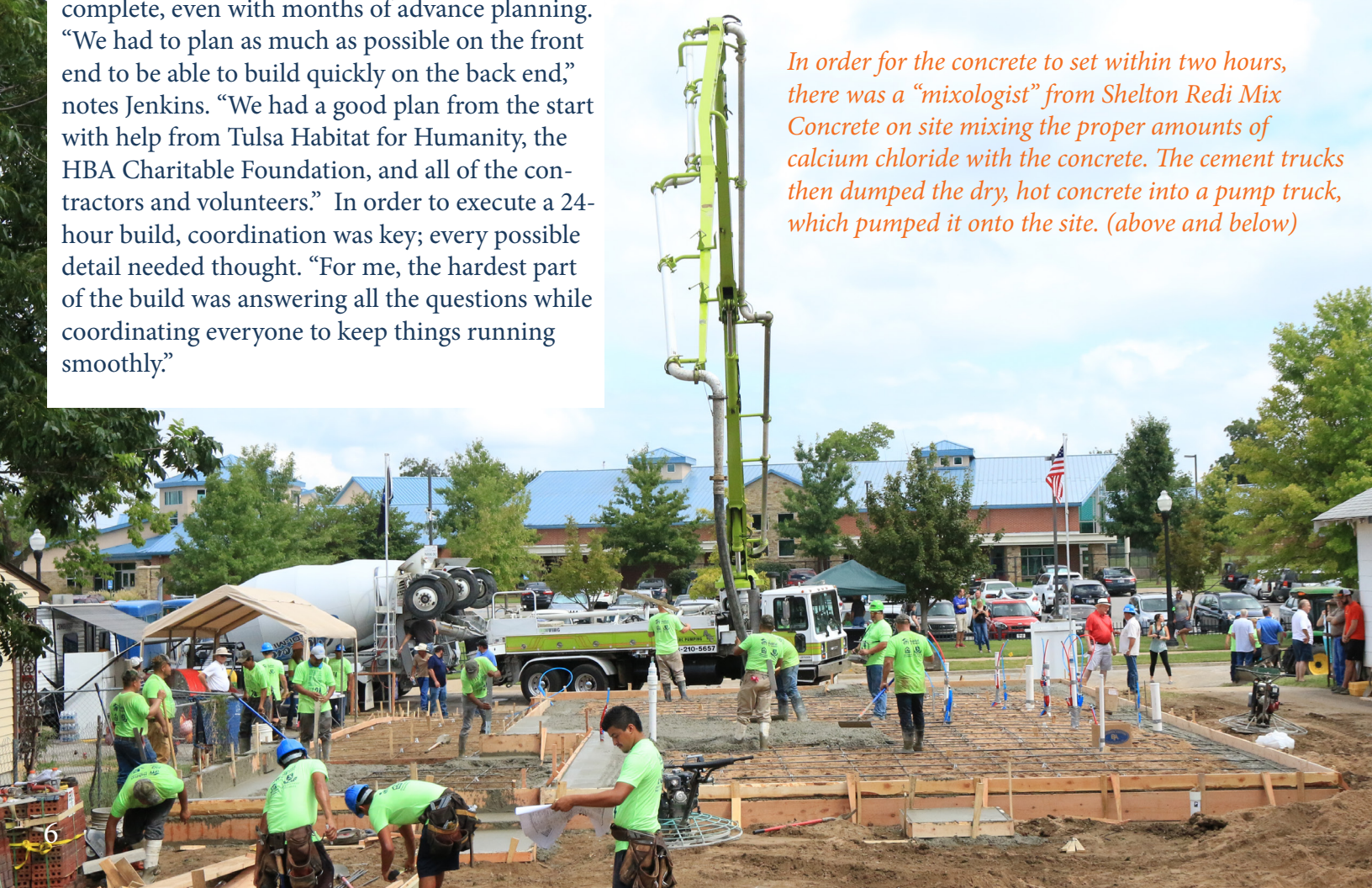




24 (ish) Hours

In reality, the 24-hour build took 26.5 hours to complete, even with months of advance planning. “We had to plan as much as possible on the front end to be able to build quickly on the back end,” notes Jenkins. “We had a good plan from the start with help from Tulsa Habitat for Humanity, the HBA Charitable Foundation, and all of the contractors and volunteers.” In order to execute a 24-hour build, coordination was key; every possible detail needed thought. “For me, the hardest part of the build was answering all the questions while coordinating everyone to keep things running smoothly.”

In order for the concrete to set within two hours, there was a “mixologist” from Shelton Redi Mix Concrete on site mixing the proper amounts of calcium chloride with the concrete. The cement trucks then dumped the dry, hot concrete into a pump truck, which pumped it onto the site. (above and below)



Mishaps and Miracles

Although the overall build went smoothly by 24-hour standards, there were challenges. Humidity affected drying time for the mud on the walls, the sprayed texture, and paint. “We did have some miracles happen,” says Jenkins. “Paul and Allen Bemies of Cambridge Construction Clean Up saved our bacon. We had not scheduled a clean up company because we were planning to do it all ourselves. We were so tired from working around the clock, we called Cambridge around 7:00 pm and asked if they could help us out. It was a long shot. They could have easily said, ‘no.’ Instead, their cleanup crew, already working late, showed up to help. That was a lifesaver. If we had to do it, it would have added another 4 to 5 hours.” Allen added, “Those guys are probably the hardest workers I have ever seen on a job in all my years of construction. It was amazing, especially considering they had already been working all day.”

Allen is quick to point out that everyone who worked on the project made the build go as well as it did. From the City of Tulsa, the utility companies who worked mostly after hours, to all of the contractors and volunteers, it was teamwork. Even Allen’s family members, who he was trying to beat with a new build record, supported the effort. “My dad and uncles were a part of every step. It wasn’t just me; it was ‘we’ as a family and a team. They were out there working just as hard as I was.”



“Since housing affects all aspects of people’s lives, the HBA Charitable Foundation was privileged to have partnered with Silvercrest Homes in the construction of a new prototype home that is a model for quality design and disaster resistance, and that serves to build strong communities through home ownership. We value our long partnership with THFH and look forward to more years of making our community a better place! Thanks for all you do!”

-Peter Grant - President, Grant Homes - President, HBA Charitable Foundation



Giving Spirit

Beyond Allen and his family, there were many companies enthusiastic about the build and excited to donate time and materials. “For example, Sam Wall from Quality Drywall told me as his team was working, that they were doing it for free! We had a lot of people who, when I called to pay them for their work, said, ‘oh no, this was a gift from us.’ These people stepped up and donated because they wanted to give back to the Tulsa community.”

When reflecting on his favorite part of the build, Allen said, “We delivered the same quality product on this home that we deliver on the homes we get paid to build. Seeing the finished product and knowing this home, built by highly skilled professionals, was helping to build up the Kendall-Whittier community and was going to someone who really needs a home was the most satisfying part of this build. It was a lot of hard work, but we had a lot of fun doing it. It was exciting.”

When the work was done, a usually gregarious, but now exhausted Allen Jenkins stood quietly with one of his two sons, admiring the home that was not there the day before. His son, a current high school student who plans on being a 4th generation Jenkins home builder, looked at his father, “Well, looks like I’m going to have to build one in 21 hours.” Allen smiled at the thought of his son breaking the new family record he just set, and replied, “I hope you do.”



The finished home (top) 26.5 hours after it was started. The spacious galley kitchen (above left) with custom cabinets made by hand by the Tuesday Morning Miracle workers. Dining room (left) and master bedroom (bottom) all staged by Leslie Story Design and 918 Interiors.*

**Cabinets are available for public purchase at the Tulsa ReStore. Proceeds help Fund THFH's mission. Visit tulsarestore.org for details.*



For more pictures of the build please visit www.tulsa Habitat.org/openthedoorin24. You can see the “24-hour” Habitat for Humanity home at 2522 E. 5th Pl., Tulsa, OK. Interested in helping to make one of these homes a reality? Tulsa Habitat for Humanity accepts financial gifts of any amount to help fund the building of affordable houses. For more information about donating, volunteering, or being an advocate for affordable housing, visit tulsa Habitat.org or contact Cheryl Kane, Director of Marketing and Development, (918) 592-4224 x215 or ckane@tulsa Habitat.org



New To The Neighborhood

Home Work

Before Ms. Cowan walked through the 24-Hour home across the street from Kendall-Whittier Elementary, she had no idea home ownership was within reach. “Owning a home seemed so distant. I’m a teacher, we don’t make a lot of money. It is very sad to say that I’m doing what I love, I got a college degree, I worked really hard, and I can’t afford a home,” says Cowan. The 27 year old, living in Sand Springs with her parents, adds, “When I found out that Habitat offers a 0% interest loan, and I qualified for the program, I was so excited! I immediately said, ‘Where do I sign up?’ With Oklahoma’s teacher compensation among the lowest in the nation, Habitat offers educators an affordable, quality home. Independence and decorating are exciting aspects of home ownership, but for Cowan there’s more. “In Kendall-Whittier we have such a great community. We love the kids and they love us... We have a great administration and a great team. I’m proud of my school and my community.” Before Ms. Cowan becomes a homeowner, she will be both teacher and student; her ‘home work’ includes 300 hours of sweat equity, building homes, woodshop, working in the ReStore, and attending homeowner college class.



Ms. Cowan with her second grade class at Kendall-Whittier Elementary (top and bottom right), and with U.S. Senator James Lankford as he toured her Habitat home (bottom left).



Corporate Sponsors: Helping Habitat Change Lives



Thank you to Matrix Service Company and Enovation Controls for sponsoring the Suan Mung family build. After fleeing their native Burma (now Myanmar) in search of a better life, they arrived in America full of hope. Catholic Charities introduced them to Tulsa Habitat for Humanity, and through hard work and perseverance, combined with sponsor generosity, the Mung family now owns a home. “We came to the United States for a chance at a better life. This home, our home, close to our school and church is such a blessing. Thank you to all who helped.”

-Lian Suan Mung, Habitat Homeowner

Humans of Habitat

SPOTLIGHT

1 Pity the Tools

Volunteers are the backbone of Tulsa Habitat for Humanity. They are one of the reasons we have been able to place over 300 families into their own homes. Some volunteers go above and beyond expectations. When Josh Bryan, a Tulsa Habitat site supervisor, was told to call “his A-TEAM,” for a difficult build, he had never heard the nickname before but he knew exactly who it referred to. It was not the TV version with Hannibal, Face, Murdock and B.A., but rather Toni Barton, Albert Kahl, Kristin Henry and John Moran. “We started noticing that there were a few of



(L-R) Toni Barton, Albert Kahl, Josh Bryan, Kristen Henry, John Moran

us showing up on every build. We just started asking each other ‘are you going to be at the next build?’ says Kristin Henry, a Graphic Artist. This A-TEAM with self diagnosed “Habit-itis” met on Tulsa Habitat build sites three years ago, but watching them together you would think they have known each other their entire lives. “They are valuable because I can tell them what needs to be done and not worry about it after that.” explains Bryan. Kristen loves being able to see how she helps in a very tangible way. “I wanted to volunteer somewhere I felt like I was doing something. I also appreciate that the men out here don’t treat you like a frail little female.” While the group loves helping homeowners achieve their dreams, they also return each weekend because they enjoy each other, and meeting new volunteers, “I like to meet different people,” says Toni with a grin, “Hearing their stories, that’s really enjoyable for me.” Albert adds “I love getting together with this group. We all have the same mind set, and the same heart set.” We are so glad to have you on our side, A-TEAM, thank you! Without friends like you, we couldn’t do what we do!



The discount home improvement and more store.

New and used items including paint supplies, tools, furniture, appliances and more.

Shop • Donate • Volunteer

100% of the profits from the ReStore go towards building homes, communities and hope in the Tulsa area

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A supporting organization of Tulsa Community Foundation

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