



# Meet Ruby

future homeowners

At the Golden Crescent Habitat for Humanity, we strive to help "families and individuals break the poverty cycle by providing them with a hand up, not a handout." The most rewarding outcome of our program is the stories we are blessed to share with you today. It is because of the involvement and dedication from the community that we can showcase the immense impact acts of kindness have on the lives of others.

Ruby is a single mother of three beautiful kids currently residing in an older four-bedroom home with one shower. Recently, Ruby was introduced to Habitat by a co-worker who encouraged her to apply for the New Homeowner Program. Once Ruby was accepted, she was filled with joy and excitement. For her, this is an ample opportunity for her kids to feel comfortable in a long-lasting home. She mentioned that "the opportunity to have a new home is empowering."

"As a single mom, it's sometimes tough to juggle three kids, a full-time job, and a house to keep up with. You think you can't find time for these extra things like building a house!" Ruby is driven to cross the finish line so the kids can "paint their rooms," making them feel welcomed in the new home.

Ruby's story is a heart-touching one, but her journey is not over quite yet. She continues to push through the Habitat program requirements and works hard to build a new family home. By December, her dreams for the kids will finally become a reality when it's time to move in.

**THE TEXAS TENORS** in *Deep in the Heart of Christmas*

Golden Crescent Habitat for Humanity

Golden Crescent Habitat for Humanity®

## ReStore

4103 N. Navarro St. Victoria, Texas

**we pickup**  
361-570-4700  
Tues - Fri: 9am-5:30pm  
Sat: 9am-3pm

Golden Crescent Habitat for Humanity®

4103 N. Navarro St.  
Victoria, Texas 77904

**November 13 at 7:00pm**  
**Victoria Fine Arts Center**

Thanks To Our Sponsors

**4TH ANNUAL**

# Backyard BOIL

**SATURDAY APRIL 15**  
CLUB WESTERNER  
DOORS OPEN AT 5PM

BENEFITTING  
Golden Crescent Habitat for Humanity

FEATURING MUSIC FROM  
**Scott Taylor AND Honeybrowne**

## Sponsor a stud for \$100

**It's easy...**  
take your stud home  
decorate it  
return it to us

[www.goldencrescenthabitat.org/stud-sponsors](http://www.goldencrescenthabitat.org/stud-sponsors)

## Hope Builders

Become a Hope Builder and join this special group of individuals and organizations who regularly support our efforts - monthly, quarterly, annually - you decide how often!

[goldencrescenthabitat.org/hopebuilders](http://goldencrescenthabitat.org/hopebuilders)



FALL 2022 Newsletter  
**Golden Crescent Habitat for Humanity Welcomes New Executive Director**

In April, the Golden Crescent Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors named Brian McClane as the new Executive Director after Cynthia Staley announced her intent to retire last year.

The hiring committee interviewed several qualified candidates, but Brian distinguished himself as the clear candidate because of his education, experience, and extensive community involvement and leadership experience.



In our community over 30% of households are renting. Of those households, over 50% of low-income households and 20% of middle-income households are cost-burdened meaning they spend more than 30% of their income on rent.

In the counties we serve, up to 27% of children are living in poverty.



Brian and his wife, Amy, moved to Victoria in April from Plano, Texas where they served as lead pastors of Northpointe Church for the past 17 years. They have three daughters and five grandchildren.

Brian has a master's in business administration from Texas A&M, a master's in theological studies from Southern Methodist, a bachelor's from Southwestern Assemblies of God and a certificate in nonprofit management from the University of Texas at Austin.

After 35 years as a pastor, Brian felt the Lord calling him to a new path. He felt Habitat was the right opportunity as the organization's mission is ecumenical and provides services like his previous church offered.

In Plano, Brian worked with the city to implement the Love Where You Live program, similar to Habitat's Brush Up program providing exterior repairs such as house painting, soffit and siding repairs, fence repairs, tree trimming and landscaping.

As a pastor, Brian focused on helping people get to their next level by providing a hand up not just a handout. He said he was pleasantly surprised to learn that Habitat used the same philosophy.

"People think of Habitat as a home builder, but we really are a hope builder. We build homes for those who may not have the opportunity to become homeowners if not for our mission," McClane said.

Brian said what drew him to Victoria was that the community reminded him of where he and Amy grew up in Wichita Falls, Texas. He said he likes that Victoria has a warm hometown feel.

"In the short time I've been in Victoria, I've already seen the generosity of the people here with the different ways the community comes together to support the homeowners and the mission of Habitat," said McClane. "I look forward to meeting more people and working together to build homes, community, and hope. Because the need is so great, we must acquire more land and raise more funds."

In Victoria you have to earn **\$22.69 an hour** to afford a modest 2-bedroom unit at Fair Market Rent. (National Low-Income Housing Coalition)



Minimum Wage is \$7.25  
 Average Pay In Our Community For A LVN - \$20.00  
 Cashier - \$12.00  
 Administrative Assistant - \$17

\*National Low Income Housing Coalition, Payscale.com

**The Strength of a Nation Lies in the Homes of Its People**

Since the dawn of time people have sought to create a sense of place, a home. Around the world the look of homes vary, from high rise condos to thatched-roof huts, castles to modest farm houses, but they all achieve the same goal - a feeling of security, a respite from the outside world.

In our great country, homeownership is the defining measure of the American dream - the idea that an individual can work hard and save a little money and with pride and self-determination put a safe, stable roof over their head.

Unfortunately, at this time in our country, we are experiencing an affordable home crisis most of us haven't experienced in our lifetime. Building prices are up almost 40% in the last two years and builder confidence is down. In Victoria, the average sale price for a house rose from \$198,735 in 2020 to \$223,606 in 2021. A 13% increase in just a year's time. This means that the working middle class, the backbone of our society, can no longer afford shelter.

A crisis in affordable housing presents a devastating long-term threat to our communities and the American dream. Abraham Lincoln recognized this more than 150 years ago, saying "The strength of a nation lies in the homes of its people." When citizens cannot afford safe homes, you risk undermining their financial security, the community's stability and the nation's economy.

Thankfully, Habitat for Humanity's programs building and repairing decent affordable homes offers an obtainable, measurable solution. By utilizing volunteer labor and charging no interest, Habitat is able to keep homes affordable even in the face of all rising costs. This community-driven solution is able to offer the hope of a brighter tomorrow, the hope that has been the bedrock of our communities since the founding of our country.

At a time in history when the bad news of the day can seem insurmountable and it seems no one can agree on solutions, Habitat for Humanity's mission offers a straight-forward, timeless solution - neighbors coming together to help other hardworking neighbors build a fresh start. The importance of affordable homeownership is virtually immeasurable - it strengthens families, encourages civic responsibility and provides a solid foundation for communities.

Now, more than ever, we need your support to continue this vital community-driven mission.



Prosperity Bank hosts 23rd annual fishing tournament - Prosperity Bank associates and customers raised \$24,755 for Golden Crescent Habitat at the annual Brag'n Rights Fishing Tournament.



This event, held in Port O'Connor, has **more than \$425,000** for Habitat over the past 23 years.

**BRUSH UP**  
 Golden Crescent



Brush Up Golden Crescent - Sixty volunteer youth and adults from SS Cyril Methodius Catholic Church and Shiner High School Fellowship of Christian Athletes partnered with Golden Crescent Habitat for Humanity to complete 4 projects. These projects consisted of new ramps and porches for homes in the surrounding areas. This program was funded by a grant. Thank you to Laura Kaspar and Sharon Patek for spearheading this wonderful project each year.