Dear friends, since March 14 this verse on the left has summarized my heart's cry. With the announcement of the COVID-19 pandemic in February, followed by the mandatory quarantine in March, I daily turned my eyes heavenward, praying for strength, wisdom and courage.

Here at Habitat, most of us began working from home, while maintaining a minimal staff presence in the office for those families who needed our help more than ever. We shut down our building sites to volunteers. As an essential business, we kept the ReStore open for those needing construction supplies, adhering to best practices with regard to employee and customer safety. In late May, when the state began reopening, we breathed a sigh of relief—we had made it through without any COVID intrusion into our Habitat family.

In Times of Crisis

Even with the constraints of quarantine, physical distancing, and mask-wearing, the Lord proved gracious.

We completed four houses in Hope Meadows, another eight homes in Refugio, and four Hurricane Harvey rehabs.

We put together bird houses and bench projects for parents looking for things to do with their children home from school.

We completed two new construction houses on Myra Lane in Victoria.

The ReStore sourced multiple DIY materials for the Victoria area.

We launched Building Hope for Heroes to thank the front-line workers in the Victoria Community.

Most recently, the Board of Directors welcomed another class of directors in July.

Just like the rest of South Texas, we endured a second wave of COVID-19. However, this time around, we were more aware of the importance of our services—how many families need shelter assistance, and the increased vulnerability of those without a safe place to call home. I found myself fearful and overwhelmed at the impact COVID-19 had on our families and on the accomplishment of our mission. But we took a deep breath and re-centered ourselves on the Lord, whose word encourages us to be strong, to let our heart take courage, to hope.

The beginning of our mission states “Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat brings people together...” Habitat, as a ministry, depends on this “together-ness”—on the Lord to sustain us, on people (just like you) to financially support us, to help build houses and to help lead our board and committees.

As we continue to answer the call to serve the most vulnerable among us, as we keep the faith and build and hope, we invite you to join us. We cannot do it without you, for it is in times of crisis that we need our community the most.

With deep affection,

Cynthia J. Staley
President
Golden Crescent
Habitat for Humanity
When you think of home, do you imagine a place of refuge, safety and security for your family? Or do you worry about mold, infestations, overcrowded rooms and more? During the COVID-19 pandemic, everyone is spending more time at home. Guidance from health professionals to stay home as much as possible is clear – this can save lives. But it begs the question: What if the home you are using as a refuge from disease is actually making you sicker?

Victoria has a 17.5% poverty rate and an incredible lack of affordable housing. For many families, “home” is overcrowded, unsafe or unaffordable – often all three. It is not the refuge one might imagine for their family.

Golden Crescent Habitat has a solution.

Habitat’s work of building and repairing homes for low-income families addresses the fundamental need of empowering these families to access safe, affordable houses and build them into homes.

And when families have a safe, affordable home, every aspect of their lives and our community improves.

While everyone understandably is worried about current events, now is when low-income families – people already struggling to survive – are most vulnerable. It is in times like these when our actions can make the biggest difference.

Be part of the prescription by:

- Donating money
- Donating and shopping at the Habitat ReStore
- Participating in Habitat fundraising events
- Advocating for affordable housing with our local and state officials
- Picking up a hammer and volunteering. Habitat is offering limited, socially-distanced volunteer opportunities

In all we served 22 restaurants, 26 essential businesses and 350 employees.

Meet Cherry

Cherry is building her family’s home this fall in Victoria. She went through the Restoration House Ministries program and has lived in one of their homes for the past three years. She is excited to build a home for her and her children: Angel (18), Juan (16), Rodolfo (14), Kevin (10) and Jordan (8). Cherry is the assistant manager at Restoration House Ministries Gleaning Resale Shop.

Building Blocks

Editor
Cynthia J. Staley
Senior Writers
Holly Pickering
Katy Walterscheidt
Layout & Design
carilaza designs

Golden Crescent Habitat for Humanity
4103 N. Navarro St. Victoria, TX 77901
P.O. Box 1357
Victoria, TX 77902
361-573-2511
goldencrescenthabitat.org

2020 – 2021 Board of Directors
Chair
Ben Streiff
Past Chair
Nora Kucera
Secretary
Amy Mundy
Treasurer
Chad Kerr

Meet Cherry

Cherry is building her family’s home this fall in Victoria. She went through the Restoration House Ministries program and has lived in one of their homes for the past three years. She is excited to build a home for her and her children: Angel (18), Juan (16), Rodolfo (14), Kevin (10) and Jordan (8). Cherry is the assistant manager at Restoration House Ministries Gleaning Resale Shop.

Building Blocks

Editor
Cynthia J. Staley
Senior Writers
Holly Pickering
Katy Walterscheidt
Layout & Design
carilaza designs

Golden Crescent Habitat for Humanity
4103 N. Navarro St. Victoria, TX 77901
P.O. Box 1357
Victoria, TX 77902
361-573-2511
goldencrescenthabitat.org

2020 – 2021 Board of Directors
Chair
Ben Streiff
Past Chair
Nora Kucera
Secretary
Amy Mundy
Treasurer
Chad Kerr

Meet Cherry

Cherry is building her family’s home this fall in Victoria. She went through the Restoration House Ministries program and has lived in one of their homes for the past three years. She is excited to build a home for her and her children: Angel (18), Juan (16), Rodolfo (14), Kevin (10) and Jordan (8). Cherry is the assistant manager at Restoration House Ministries Gleaning Resale Shop.
True to its name, the Hope Meadows project is building hope where once there was devastation reaped by Hurricane Harvey. The program, a partnership between Golden Crescent Habitat and Center for Disaster Philanthropy, will construct 10 homes in Bloomington by the end of the year. Houses are being constructed for low-income families whose homes were damaged beyond repair by storm.

Did You Know? In addition to spending 300 hours of sweat equity building their home and their neighbor’s homes, Habitat homeowners now also have to volunteer 20 hours with another local nonprofit before beginning construction on their own house. This gives the homeowner the opportunity to become invested in their community by giving to others in need.

Refugio County: Habitat’s Work Nearly Complete with Hurricane Harvey Rebuilds

Well into their second year, the Habitat ReBuilds efforts in Refugio County have constructed 33 new homes with seven more planned for completion by the end of the year. This special project, taking place outside of Golden Crescent Habitat’s normal service area, is made possible through partnerships with the Rebuild Texas Fund, the American Red Cross, Samaritan’s Purse, USAA Foundation and Qatar Harvey Fund.

The project partners with low-income homeowners to replace homes damaged beyond repair by Hurricane Harvey. In addition to helping with the rebuilding process, the homeowners participate in the Faith and Finance class offered by STCH Ministries. More than 5,900 volunteer hours, including many provided by out-of-state volunteer groups, have contributed to this herculean effort.

The House that Tom Followwill Built

Cherry’s house is sponsored by Prosperity Bank, Myra and Clayton Johnson, and the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. The house is being built in memory of Tom Followwill, son of Habitat supporters Jerry and Kim Followwill.

Did You Know?

In addition to spending 300 hours of sweat equity building their home and their neighbor’s homes, Habitat homeowners now also have to volunteer 20 hours with another local nonprofit before beginning construction on their own house. This gives the homeowner the opportunity to become invested in their community by giving to others in need.
Golden Crescent Habitat gathered a group of local DIYers who were ready to show off their skills and compete against each other, while they raised money for Habitat in the third annual ReStore ReVamp. The event was virtual for the first time because of COVID-19, but that didn’t stop the fun. Before the Facebook Live event, auction items were available for viewing in the ReStore, where people could vote for their favorite.

Robyn Cox had the most votes and won a ReStore Gift Certificate.

Thank you to the DIY participants:

- Robyn Cox
- Cassie Garcia
- Lee Aug
- Fe Vela
- Sammy Jo White

Thank you to the sponsors of the ReStore ReVamp. Your support during these difficult times means so much to Habitat and the families in need of safe, affordable housing.

4103 N. Navarro St.
Victoria, Texas 77904
361-570-4700
www.restorevictoria.com

Tue – Fri: 9 am – 6 pm, Sat: 9 am – 3 pm

Golden Crescent Habitat for Humanity
ReStore
4103 N. Navarro St.
Victoria, Texas 77904

Seaside Serenity
by Robyn Cox
ReStore ReVamp 2020 Winner

50% off
one gently used item*

*50% off one item of $100 or less or $50 off one item over $100. Expires December 31, 2020.

One coupon per transaction, per household. Must present coupon at the register to receive discount. Not valid on scratch and dent appliances and new items. Cannot be combined with other offers.

All proceeds help build Habitat homes.

www.restorevictoria.com

The home you are using as a refuge from disease is actually making you sicker?