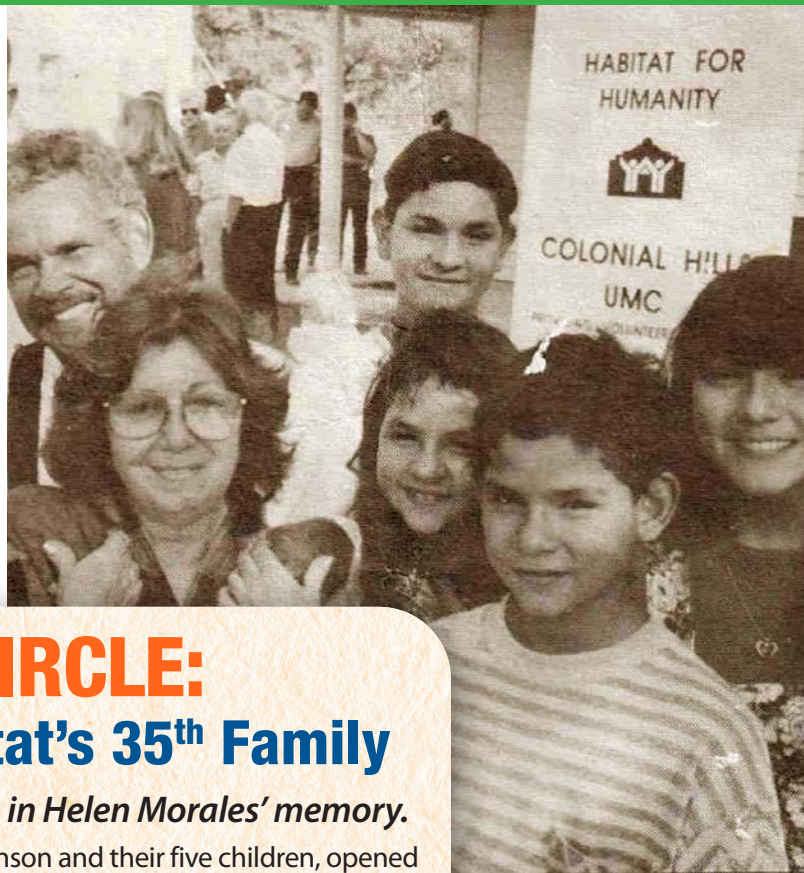


# Habitat Matters

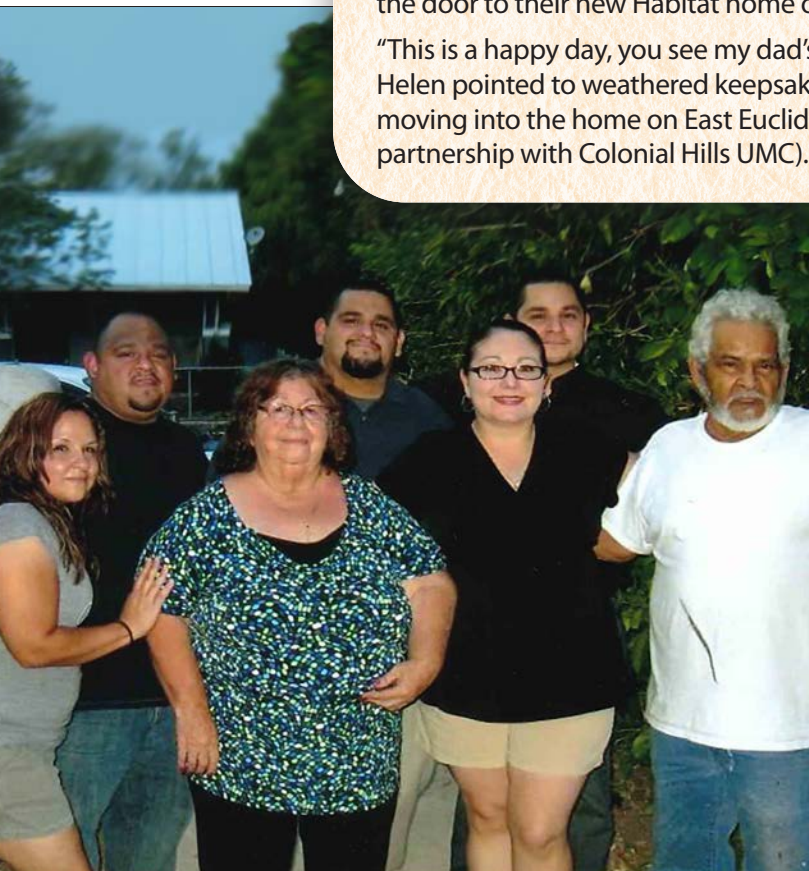


## **FULL CIRCLE:** **The Story of Habitat's 35<sup>th</sup> Family**

*The smell of fresh paint dwells in Helen Morales' memory.*

Helen's parents, Ismael and Hilaria Johnson and their five children, opened the door to their new Habitat home on a fall day in 1991.

"This is a happy day, you see my dad's big smile and my mom, all of us..." Helen pointed to weathered keepsakes from the day they celebrated moving into the home on East Euclid (the 35th Habitat home built in partnership with Colonial Hills UMC). *(continued on page 2)*



# FINDING A MIRACLE

(continued from page 1)

The Johnson's journey to Habitat started when they saw a TV news segment and a San Antonio Express-News article about the 1990 Habitat Miracle Build. Ismael and Hilaria Johnson wondered if they might qualify and give their children a better life. The family applied and eventually purchased their "dream home" for \$27,000 (paying off their zero percent interest mortgage in 2011).

Ismael and Hilaria Johnson passed away in 2019 and 2021 respectively. The devastating loss—a clear reflection of the size and scale of their love and legacy. Helen sifted through newsletters and news clippings hidden in a dusty Habitat toolbox as she prepared to say goodbye to the family home (it sold in 2021).

## DREAMS COME TRUE

The freshly painted house on Euclid opened Helen's eyes to the generosity and power of community. The "hand-up" her family received continues to carry her family forward. She owns her own home and her kids won't ever know poverty. Helen believes her parent's love and the kindness of donors and volunteers paved the way for her life today.

**"You're making someone's dream come true! You're impacting the whole family and their future, their path, their perception, their way of thinking,"** Helen said.

Paint fades but the family's future is brighter because of supporters like you. Helen's story is a reminder that at Habitat—it's a long game—we're framing homes not just for the families in our program today but for the generations to come.

# SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT: Colonial Hills UMC

The little yellow house on Euclid Street made an impression on Colonial Hills United Methodist Church volunteers. "Building that house in 1991 was a driving force in our participation [with Habitat] over the years," Larry Barnes, a church volunteer, told us.

Building a decent, affordable home for the Johnsons took five months and allowed the family to move out of what Barnes described as "very substandard". Hearing about the family's gratitude all these years later brings the impact of building a Habitat home into sharp focus. "It helps validate a primary reason [why] we do it. It's to help lift [families] and neighborhoods to give them a better quality of life for themselves and their children," Larry said.



- **Colonial Hills UMC was the first congregation to sponsor a full house (The first of many!)**
- **The Johnson's home was built during Habitat's 15th Anniversary Year**
- **Colonial Hills built with the Methodist Cluster (1996 - 2004) and Ecumenical Genesis (2005-Present)**



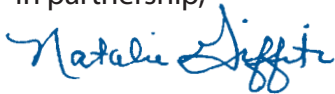
Larry Barnes (pictured in blue) at the 2020 Ecumenical Genesis House Build. Barnes started volunteering in 1991.

# President's Corner:

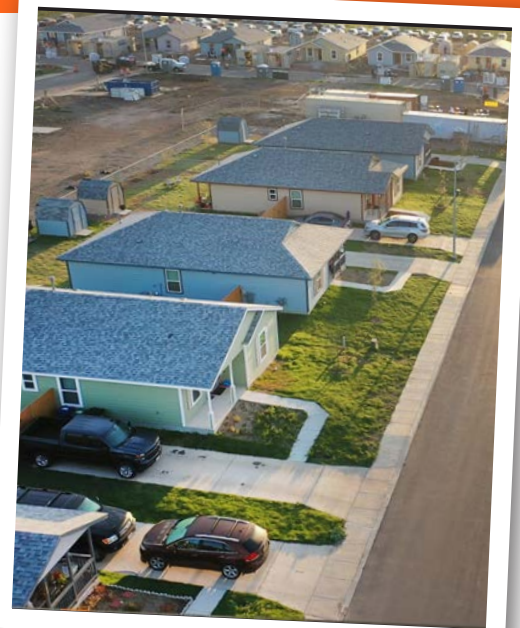
## Land Acquisition

The need for affordable homeownership continues to grow in our service area. We are actively looking for land or lots so that we may continue building affordable homes for families in need. If you, or someone you know, has land or a lot in Bexar County or Guadalupe County that you/they wish to sell (or even donate) please contact us. The first step for those interested is to fill out the contact form on our website at [www.HabitatSA.org/We-Buy-Land](http://www.HabitatSA.org/We-Buy-Land). The need for affordable homeownership isn't going anywhere anytime soon.

In partnership,



Natalie Griffith, President & CEO



## HABITAT HOME CENTER

**MAY** is National Home Improvement Month! Here are five DIY projects you can easily tackle this spring (using only items found in our stores).

- Add a fresh coat of paint to a dingy space.
- Replace a deteriorating front door.
- Add curb appeal with new flower planters.
- Brighten up a kitchen or bath by replacing old cabinets or vanity.
- Add a pop of color to your living room with a new area rug.

### IT'S BACK!

Don't miss our annual **Memorial Day Sale** Saturday, May 28th and Monday, May 30th. Sign up for our weekly emails by texting the word HFHSAGV to the number 22828 or follow us on social media to stay up to date on all of our sales.

 /HabitatHomeCenter  /habitat\_home\_center\_

### AREA RUGS

Add style and sophistication to any room. Stop by any one of our stores to browse the wide selection of affordable area rugs today (sizes 5' x 8' and up).

### "Phill" The Box

311 Probandt St.  
5482 Walzem Rd.  
8125 Meadow Leaf Dr.  
256 W. Court St.

Donate your gently used clothing, shoes, purses, belts and more to help raise money for Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio / Guadalupe Valley.

GOAL  
**WEIGHT**  
**25,000 LBS**

Clothing must be boxed or bagged and in wearable condition, with no holes, stains, or dampness.

### OUR "PHILL THE BOX" CLOTHING DRIVE CONTINUES!

Drop off your gently used clothing, shoes, belts, purses and more at any of our four store locations. Your donation will help Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio & Guadalupe Valley continue to build homes for families in need.

## Thank you house sponsors!

VALERO

ST. LUKE CATHOLIC CHURCH

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

# HABITAT HAPPENINGS - UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**MAY**  
**Hab-i-tour Bus Tour**  
 May 20, 2022 at Noon  
 311 Probandt  
 RSVP to  
 Marketing@HabitatSA.org

**JUN**  
**Volunteer Orientation**  
 June 7, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.  
 Zoom Meeting  
 RSVP to  
 Volunteer@HabitatSA.org

**JUN**  
**Hab-i-tour Breakfast**  
 June 10, 2022 at 8:30 a.m.  
 311 Probandt  
 RSVP to  
 Marketing@HabitatSA.org

**JUN**  
**Volunteer Orientation**  
 June 16, 2022 at Noon  
 Zoom Meeting  
 RSVP to  
 Volunteer@HabitatSA.org

**JUN**  
**House Dedication**  
 June 25, 2022  
 at 10:00 a.m.  
 Rancho Carlota  
 13801 Watson Rd.

**JUL**  
**Volunteer Orientation**  
 July 5, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.  
 Zoom Meeting  
 RSVP to  
 Volunteer@HabitatSA.org

**JUL**  
**Volunteer Orientation**  
 July 21, 2022 at Noon  
 Zoom Meeting  
 RSVP to  
 Volunteer@HabitatSA.org

**AUG**  
**House Dedication**  
 Friday, August 5, 2022 at  
 10:00 a.m.  
 Rancho Carlota  
 13801 Watson Rd.



For more information on scheduled events, call us at: (210) 223-5203, or go to [www.HabitatSA.org/events/](http://www.HabitatSA.org/events/)



311 Probandt  
 San Antonio, TX 78204

**Thank you for your support!**

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**HABITAT HOME CENTER**  
 311 Probandt St.  
 5482 Walzem Rd.  
 8125 Meadow Leaf Dr.  
 Mon-Fri 8am-6pm  
 Sat 9am-5pm

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**GV HABITAT RESTORE**  
 256 W. Court St.  
 Tue-Sat 10am-5:30pm

**SHOP • DONATE • VOLUNTEER**

(FullName)  
 (Addr1)  
 (Addr2)  
 (City), (State) (ZIP)-(Plus4)



## Help Us - Build for Better!

There are lots of great ways to give:

- Donate in honor of a friend or loved one.
- Make a donation of stock or list Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio in your will.
- Give through our website at [HabitatSA.org](http://HabitatSA.org) or mail a check in the enclosed envelope.
- Give a convenient monthly donation through our website: [HabitatSA.org](http://HabitatSA.org)

**100% of your donation helps build homes for families right here in San Antonio!**

**HABITAT MATTERS** is a newsletter of Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio  
 210-223-5203 | 210-223-5536 (fax)  
[www.HabitatSA.org](http://www.HabitatSA.org)  
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 Writers: Habitat Staff

**Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio** is an ecumenical Christian organization working in partnership with God's people in need to build modest, decent and affordable homes without interest or profit, thereby witnessing God's love in action.

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