

## RePurposed for a Reason



Ashe Habitat's popular fundraiser, **RePurposed for a Reason**, is coming up soon. Funds raised through this event help us continue to build affordable homes in Ashe County.

Local artists and crafters are invited to "RePurpose" free merchandise from the Habitat ReStore (up to \$50 value) to make beautiful pieces of furniture, home decor, home goods or whatever inspires them! They will then donate the finished work back to Ashe Habitat for our silent auction. This is open not just to artists but to the many talented individuals in our community!

Participants can register or get more information by emailing [repurposed@ashehabitat.org](mailto:repurposed@ashehabitat.org) or stopping by the ReStore on Beaver Creek School Road in West Jefferson.

- The deadline for artist registration is May 4th
- Works should be submitted by May 25th
- Bidding will take place during ReStore hours May 31st through June 8th
- Final bidding and closing event on June 8th

Winning bidders do not need to be present at the final event. Mark your calendars now to submit an inspired, repurposed original piece and/or be ready to bid on one of them yourself!

## **APEX Students**



We recently welcomed students from St. Joseph's University's The Appalachian Experience (APEX) program; this was their 10th year of service in Ashe County. The students worked hard on house number 11 and at the ReStore, as well as at several other local ministries. We were blessed by their work and also by their enthusiasm for making the world a better place. Thank you to all the area churches that provided delicious meals for them. We can't wait to host them again next year! Read on to hear from an APEX student about her experience in Ashe County. If you would like to see additional photos from their week, you can find them at the bottom of this newsletter!

## **APEX Student Katie Shares About Her Week in Ashe County**



My name is Katie, and I am a sophomore biology major at Saint Joseph's University (SJU), born and raised in the Philadelphia area. I have always had a passion for service throughout my life, and I feel this passion especially through APEX. APEX stands for The Appalachian Experience, and it is a spring break service immersion program organized by Saint Joseph's University that has taken place

for 30+ years. While on APEX, students and adult facilitators journey to Appalachia to learn about and serve with and for the community.

Since I was about 11 years old, I have heard about the love of APEX and the beauty of Appalachia. My sister, who had gone on APEX four years in a row, told me stories about the amazing things she experienced and the wonderful people she met through her APEX trips at SJU. I remember saying to her that I wanted to go to Saint Joe's so that I could experience the life-changing experience as she described APEX.

The week in Ashe County was nothing short of life changing. The service we participated in included working at Habitat for Humanity build sites, the Ashe Habitat ReStore, the Ashe Arts Council, Ashe Food Pantry, Holy Trinity Church, and The NEST Alliance. Every night of the week we ate at/with a different church of the area. Open arms welcomed us eagerly to Ashe County, and I have never experienced such kindness and hospitality as I have in this loving community. I delved into cooking and delicious recipes with Christine Franklin, and I heard about her dedication to the Habitat families and to her career in social work. I listened to Cece from The NEST Alliance share her passion for service as she made us hot chocolate. I worked alongside JB as he worked tirelessly to clear the trees at the Habitat build site. I saw Mae's pride as the freshly painted walls in the ReStore came together. I heard stories from Jeannie and Gerry Tygielski about their life and how they met. I listened to Greg Schuster talk about his love for his children and his family. I saw how all of the Schusters love the community so deeply and genuinely. I listened to Sheriff Phil's dedication to improving the community through events and programs. I ate sweet treats with Gerry and laughed until my stomach hurt. In every way, I felt this special community wrapped around me with loving arms, as Tracy-Lynn Schuster often said to us.

There were many people throughout this week who applauded my group for dedicating our spring break or thanked us for our willingness to serve. In reality, West Jefferson and the people of Ashe County gave more to me than I could have ever given to them, and I will be forever thankful for the fulfillment, hope, and kindness that I experienced there. It's true what they say—the people make the place, and the people I had the privilege of encountering love deeply and care wholeheartedly; they made this experience and Ashe County something I will forever cherish. See you soon, West Jeff!

## **Home Number 11 Is Underway**

The cold winter days have not slowed down our progress on Ashe Habitat House 11! Our amazing volunteers have cleared the lot and poured footings and are currently working on basement walls to get us ready for spring building workdays! We work on Wednesdays and Saturdays each week. Over the next three months, we will install the ICFs, rebar, and concrete wall pours, followed by installation of joists and plywood sub flooring. We could use your help -- if you want more information, please email [JB Byrch](#), our Construction Supervisor.



## Volunteers Needed

Did you know that the vast majority of work done for Ashe Habitat is done by our dedicated volunteers? Our volunteers are making a difference in the lives of Ashe County neighbors and are making our community a better place! We need YOU to help us -- you don't need any special skills or knowledge -- we are happy to teach you and guide you. You can work a regular schedule or on a flexible basis -- we will work with you!



Volunteers are needed

- At the ReStore to greet customers and assist them, clean and price merchandise, and stage the store
- At the home sites to build the homes that our families will purchase (must be 18 to work at the construction site)
- Behind-the-scenes doing administrative tasks, serving on the board or a committee, fundraising, etc.
- To provide lunch for our volunteers at the store and/or construction site



If you have a desire to help make home a reality for a deserving family, we have a place for you! Email us [HERE](#) or check our website for more information!

## Donations

We depend on donations from our community for all the work we are doing! Here are a few ways that you can donate to us (in addition to donating your time as a volunteer, of course).

- **ReStore Donations** -- Please donate any household items that you no longer need to the ReStore. We accept gently used furniture, clean and working appliances, kitchen items, surplus building supplies and more! You can find the list of what we do (and don't) accept on our website! We can arrange pickups for large items or you can drop your donations on Thursdays from 10-2 and Fridays and Saturdays from 10-4.
- **Financial Donations** -- We promise that every dollar we receive is used wisely to help provide housing for deserving families. Please consider making a donation. Even better, consider setting up a recurring, monthly donation! You can donate using the button below, on our website [HERE](#), or you can mail checks to PO Box 392, West Jefferson, NC 28694.
- **Donor Advised Funds** -- Did you know that you can donate to us through your Donor Advised Fund? It's easy! Look for Ashe County Habitat for Humanity (**EIN 26-3107328**) on your funds website or contact our director, Beth Sorrell, at 336-902-8611 for more information.
- **Donate A Car** -- Reach out to us by email [HERE](#) or look for more information soon in our social media and other communications.a few ways

## DONATE

## Social Media--Please Follow Us!

Do you follow Ashe Habitat on social media? Your interactions with our posts make a HUGE difference in getting more views of our posts.

- If you don't follow us, please do that now -- we are @ashehabitat on both Facebook and Instagram.
- Once you are following, please LIKE our posts and leave comments as well.
- If a posts seems especially important, we would appreciate it if you would share them so your friends can see the great work Habitat is doing in Ashe County.



## Thank You to Our Lunch Sponsors

Did you know that many Ashe County businesses provide lunch for our hungry volunteers on workdays? We appreciate their support so much...and our volunteers appreciate the yummy food! These businesses are making a difference in providing affordable housing in Ashe County!

### First Quarter 2024 Lunch Sponsors

Backstreet Subs

Bojangles

Havana Cafe

Little Caesar's

Monte D Rey

New River Brewing

Slice WJ

# Ashe Habitat Voted Best of the Best



Ashe Habitat was voted Best of the Best Nonprofit Organization in 2023 by readers of the Ashe Post and Times. We are honored that Ashe County recognizes the great work we are doing to provide affordable housing, and we thank everyone who voted for us!

## APEX 2024 Photo Gallery



APEX student leader Michaela arrives to volunteer at the Ashe Food Pantry



SJU students James and Christian help store and organize food at the Ashe Food Pantry



Members from Restoration Church treat APEX students to dinner at Winners Circle



Pastor Roy Putnam and church members enjoy conversation with the students



Cailynn and Gabriella tackle painting the restroom in the Habitat ReStore



Christian and Katie freshen up the Habitat ReStore with a fresh coat of paint

## Let's Keep In Touch

### ReStore Address and Phone Number

127 Beaver Creek School Road  
West Jefferson, NC 28694

### Habitat Office/ReStore Phone

336-846-2525

### Mailing Address

PO Box 392  
West Jefferson, NC 28694

### On the Web

[ashehabitat.org](http://ashehabitat.org)

### On Social Media

Facebook and Instagram @ashehabitat