

Modular Home In Progress!

We have had such an exciting quarter, and one of our favorite parts was watching a giant crane lift our first-ever modular home into place. We had the foundation ready to go (thanks to our amazing volunteers); the house arrived in two sections, which were joined together by our crews once they had been set in place. Scroll down to read more construction updates.



Crane in place and ready to lift the house



First section almost in place



Both sections in place and ready to be joined

APEX Students in West Jefferson



Students from St. Joseph University in Philadelphia spent their spring break serving in Ashe County as part of the **APEX** (Appalachian Experience) program. This is the 12th year that APEX students have worked in our community, and we appreciated their energy and enthusiasm as they worked at Ashe Habitat and the ReStore, Ashe Food Pantry, Ashe Outreach,

and local churches. We are so thankful for these young people who are working to make the world a better place. The photo above shows the whole group; following is a reflection from one of the participants, Katie Geateans, pictured below hard at work in our community.

Katie's Reflection

Hi, everyone! My name is Katie Geatens, and I'm a senior Health Science major with a psychology minor at Saint Joseph's University (SJU). After graduation in May, I will begin a one-year accelerated BSN program at Thomas Jefferson University to pursue a career in nursing. In March, I participated in my fourth APEX through Saint Joe's. APEX stands for The Appalachian Experience, and it is a spring break service-immersion program in which SJU students journey to a variety of different states and areas throughout the Appalachian region to learn more about the historic and systemic injustices that have impacted Appalachia and to serve alongside the community in solidarity. I signed up for APEX my freshman year unsure of how my experience would be, and I have come back to the program every single year, serving as a student leader during both my junior and senior years. The fact that so many students return year-after-year speaks to how special this program is and how incredible the communities we encounter are. I have been to Apple Ridge Farm, VA; Alleghany Highlands, VA; and Ashe County, NC twice! Returning to Ashe County for my final APEX was the greatest privilege and joy.



I returned a much different person than I was two years ago, but I found that the wonderful community and love that make this place so special have not changed one bit. Each night of the week, a different church or local organization generously hosted us for a community dinner, where we had the opportunity to ask questions, hear stories, and get to know members of the community and what makes it such a special place. Throughout the week, we served primarily with Ashe County Habitat for Humanity, as well as Ashe Outreach, Ashe Food Pantry, and local churches, including St. Francis of Assisi and Holy Trinity. At Habitat, we worked on House 12 In Buffalo Meadows daily and got to play a small part in helping some of the final steps in this house come together. We were lucky enough to learn from Jerry, Jim, Peter, Jeff, Greg, Bob, and JB, throughout the week at the build site.

To say this was a special week for me would be a massive understatement. Every person we encountered during APEX week welcomed us with open arms and such kindness. I will always hold the cherished memories of this week tightly in my heart: the friendships we built at Ashe Outreach with Dave and Steve, the painting tips we received from Peter at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, the beautiful frescoes we admired at Holy Trinity, the hike we

enjoyed with Tracy Lynn, Greg and Diesel...and the list goes on. Thank you to every single person who played a part in making this one of the best weeks in my entire life. Your compassion, generosity, and joy, were never unnoticed and will never be forgotten.

A special thank you to Ashe Habitat for making this week possible and welcoming us with such love and kindness

RePurposed for a Reason 2026-- Calling Local Artists and Crafters!

Calling Local Artists and Crafters

Schedule

5/8-Registration Deadline
6/19-Sumissions Due to ReStore
6/29-7/10-Auction

RePurposed for a Reason

-An Arts and Crafts Showcase Benefiting Ashe Habitat-

To Join the Fun
Choose an item from the ReStore
Repurpose/Redesign the item
Return item to ReStore for an in-store auction



AFTER

*Show off your creativity and raise funds for affordable housing
Register at the ReStore or online*

All submissions become the property of Ashe Habitat. All proceeds from the auction will benefit Ashe Habitat.

Local artists/crafters/DIYers are invited to display their creativity at RePurposed for a Reason, an arts and crafts showcase and benefit for Ashe Habitat. Participants will select an item from the ReStore and creatively redesign/repurpose it into something new and wonderful. Items will be sold in the ReStore through a silent auction, and all funds raised will help us build affordable homes in Ashe County. This has been a very popular event in the past, and we are excited to offer it again for 2026. Registration form and more information can be found [HERE](#), and you can also register at the ReStore.

Be sure to visit the ReStore between June 29 and July 10 and bid on the newly repurposed items in our silent auction.

Home 12 Dedication



Celebrating with family



House 12 ready for its new owner

THIS is why we do what we do! An Ashe County family has a safe affordable new home, and there is nothing we like better than celebrating these moments. We dedicated the home on April 19 with the family and lots of volunteers present for the occasion. Our volunteers have worked hard over many months to get this home ready for its new owners, and we know the family will be glad to get moved in and start making happy memories!

(Photo credits: Laurel Rumph Photography)

SPRING Event Save-the-Date

**HAMMERTIME
FAMILY PICNIC**

**SPRING EVENT WITH DIY DEMONSTRATIONS
AND FUN FOR ALL AGES**

**LIVE
MUSIC**

**ACTIVITIES
FOR
KIDS**

FOOD

**May 31, 2026 from 12-3
Ashe Park**

Ashe Habitat invites you to join us on Sunday, May 31 for an afternoon at Ashe Park. We will be set up at the large pavilion and will

serve hog dogs for lunch. There will be live music, do-it-yourself demonstrations (come learn some new skills), activities for kids, and more! We are still working out final details, but please put this event on your calendars, and join us for a fun afternoon!

Construction Updates and Celebrations

House 13--First Modular Home

The modular home is well underway. A major advantage in this construction method is that we can get families in homes much quicker; the home is about 80% complete once placed on the foundation. Major tasks remaining include putting on siding, installing flooring, and building decks. We anticipate that it will be complete in about four months. We hope to start two more modular foundations this summer and set the homes before fall.



Our first modular home in place and ready to finish!

Critical Repairs

In the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, we are leading three critical repair and rebuilding projects to help local families recover and return home—thanks to three generous \$20,000 grants from North Carolina Habitat for Humanity.

In Jefferson, we've partnered with Friendship Baptist Church to build a new home for a family who lost everything in the flood. With Habitat funds supporting materials, cabinetry, and grading, the home is nearly complete—and the family will move in within weeks.

In Creston, along Roaring Fork Road, we recently completed a major foundation repair on a nearly 100-year-old home after floodwaters caused severe structural damage. We also added a new sidewalk to ensure safe access for the elderly homeowners.

In Lansing, final repairs are underway on a home where floodwaters destroyed the deck and damaged windows. We've rebuilt the stairs and deck, and all windows will be replaced by the end of April.

Two additional critical home repair projects have been approved, and work will begin soon—allowing us to extend our impact to even more families in need. These projects are restoring more than homes—they are restoring safety, dignity, and stability for our neighbors.

We invite you to be part of this work. Whether through volunteering your time, donating resources, or supporting our mission financially, you can help us reach more families still working to recover. We are deeply grateful to North Carolina Habitat for Humanity and our local contractors for making this work possible—and to this community for continuing to stand with us. Together, we build.

ReStore News and Updates

Celebrating One Year at Our New Store -- It's hard to believe how quickly time goes by, but in May, we will celebrate the first anniversary in the new location. We love our new store and are so thankful to be in such a great space!

Now Open 6 Days a Week -- We are so excited to announce that our ReStore is now open Monday through Saturday from 10-4, giving us more hours to serve our community.

Volunteer Needs -- We need volunteers! Could you help us in the afternoons by manning the cash register? We need Saturday volunteers to help receive/clean/price merchandise. Whenever you are available, we need YOU! Sign up or get more information [HERE](#).

New Support Resource at the ReStore: HOPE 4 NC



We are proud to partner with the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services to offer **HOPE 4 NC**, a free resource supporting individuals and families impacted by Hurricane Helene.

Disasters affect everyone differently, and people experience stress in many ways—feeling overwhelmed/alone, physical aches, difficulty sleeping or concentrating, or increased worry about health/safety. These are common responses, and support is available. Community members can connect with trained counselor Lacey Stone, **in person at the ReStore on Tuesdays from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM**, or by calling the HOPE 4 NC Helpline at **1-855-587-3463**. You are not alone—help is here.

Ways You Can Help Ashe Habitat

VOLUNTEER--No Experience Necessary!

At the ReStore -- volunteers clean and price merchandise, stage the store to showcase our inventory, run the cash register, help our customers, and much more! If you would like to help, click [HERE](#).

On our Construction Sites -- the core of what we do is building affordable housing, and our volunteers make it happen! We work on Mondays and Wednesdays. To learn more or to sign up click [HERE](#).

DONATE--Your Donations Make Affordable Housing Possible!

- **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! See the list of what we do (and don't) accept [HERE](#). We can arrange pickups for large items.
- **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** -- 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, Wayne Pitts, by email [HERE](#) for more information.
- **Donate A Car** -- Contact our director, Wayne Pitts, by email [HERE](#) to discuss a vehicle/boat donation.

DONATE

Thanks to Our January - March Lunch Sponsors

Thank you to the volunteers who provided lunch at our construction site in the first quarter--we appreciate the delicious food!

- Cuca Dean
- Patti Miller
- Linda McClintock
- West Jefferson UMC
Outreach/Pam Cope
- Knights of Columbus
- Deb Patterson
- Alberta Swain
- Nancy & Mike
- Denise Stilwell
- Bob & Marge Rogers

Let's Keep In Touch

ReStore and Habitat Office Address and Phone

505 South Jefferson Avenue, West Jefferson, NC 28694
(336) 846-2525

Mailing Address

PO Box 392
West Jefferson, NC 28694

Find Us Online

On the web at www.ashehabitat.org
On Facebook and Instagram @ashehabitat

