



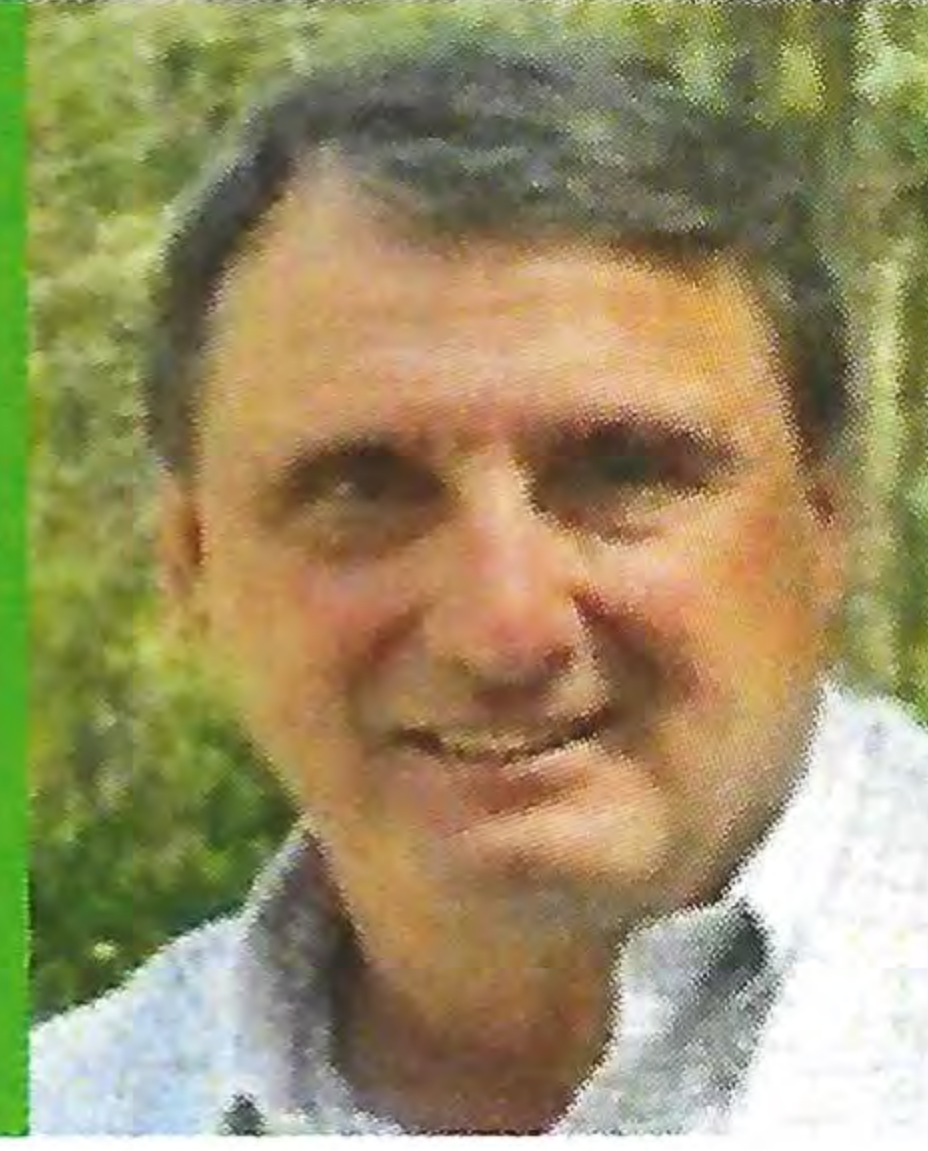
South Carolina
Association of
Habitat
for Humanity
Affiliates

2014/2015
ANNUAL REPORT
SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION FOR
HABITAT AFFILIATES

SCAHA Mission

We are a Christian-based organization whose purpose is to expand the capacity of SC affiliates by increasing access to resources, facilitating communication between affiliates and the community and providing statewide leadership toward the creation of thriving communities that support healthy families.

A letter from our Executive Director



SCAHA Vision

To have all SC affiliates working at their full capacity to improve living conditions and eliminate poverty housing in their own communities and across the state of South Carolina .

*Dear Friends and Supporters,
We have just completed our 2nd full fiscal year. It was a good year and we have accomplished a number of the items on our initial list of priorities. We worked hard on legislation that will exempt Habitat affiliates from state sales tax beginning in 2015 and we conducted numerous training sessions to help Executive Directors and their staffs work through the complexities of new federal laws.*

We are proud of our accomplishments in 2014/15 but there is still much work to be done. There are too many families in South Carolina living in sub standard housing.

I promise that SCAHA will continue to do our best to help all S.C. Habitat affiliates increase their capacity to improve living conditions throughout our state.

This Annual Report is our "year in review". Please enjoy reading highlights from some of our individual affiliate's many accomplishments as well as the work of SCAHA.

Thanks for your continued support.

Greg Thomas
Executive Director

SCAHA's Role in South Carolina

SCAHA was chartered in 2012 to support the growth and activities of all affiliates in our state. We identified key activities to help accomplish our mission and vision.

- o Advocacy
- o Resource Development
- o Communications
- o Technical Assistance (Training)
- o Disaster Response



The Habitat Model

36 Habitat affiliates operate in 33 of the 46 counties in South Carolina. We host thousands of volunteers annually from high schools, colleges, universities, churches and work groups from across the nation. These volunteers, led by dedicated employees and volunteers, construct, repair and refurbish more than 100 homes every year.

Because of our unique model of volunteerism and a generous donor base, we are able to construct modest, affordable homes for families whose incomes are below 80% of the area median income of their communities. The partner families who are selected are required to work 200-500 hours side by side with the volunteers to help construct their homes and homes of their soon to be neighbors. The partner family is then able to **purchase** that home for fair market value from the affiliate and is able to finance the purchase through a 20, 25 or 30-year affordable mortgage provided by the affiliate.

SCAHA's 2014/15 HIGHLIGHTS

SCAHA hosted a total of 6 training days (quarterly meetings) where EDs and staff heard speakers on a variety of topics including federal regulations on mortgage laws and Fair Housing practices plus a variety of speakers who provided information on fund raising, planned giving programs and major donor relations.

SCAHA worked closely with attorneys from Nelson Mullins who were generous with their time and drafted state and federal compliant standard mortgage documents for all affiliates to share.

But our biggest accomplishment was completed in June of 2015 when House Bill #3568 became law. This bill grants a sales tax exemption on the building materials used in Habitat building and repair projects. Our affiliate leaders and their staff and volunteers asked for support from their state legislators and that support was given.



In May we hosted our 2nd annual Legislative Day in Columbia. Habitat staff and volunteers from across the state showed up in full force to meet and greet their legislators.

A reception was held following our day "on the hill" where Representative Garry Smith (Greenville) and Senator Wes Hayes (Rock Hill) were recognized as Legislators of the Year for their support of Habitat for Humanity.



More than 40 affiliate staff and volunteers spent the day in Columbia meeting our legislators and advocating for the sales tax exemption bill.



Homeownership is important in our communities!

(Study conducted by Donald Haurin, Professor of Economics at Ohio State University)

- Homeownership seems to benefit children because the environments in homes – including such things as safety, maintenance and the availability of educational materials – are on average better than those in rental units, the study suggests. In addition, the greater stability of homeowners is good for children's development.
- The research showed that for children living in owned homes rather than rental units, math achievement scores are up to 9 percent higher, reading achievement is up to 7 percent higher and behavioral problems are 1 to 3 percent lower.
- The benefits of homeownership were also shown by the fact that children did better the longer they lived in owned homes. It's a cumulative effect.



Volunteers across the state help families move from this.....



....to this !!



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To:

