

Athens Area Habitat for Humanity

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Athens Habitat celebrates the power of small gifts to do great works

(Athens, GA, 17 January 2017) — Every January, the Athens affiliate of Habitat for Humanity holds a celebration to thank donors and sponsors of their Committee of 1000, a group of local residents and businesses who pool their resources to promote affordable housing in Clarke, Oconee, and Oglethorpe counties. This year's event, starting at 6:30 Thursday night, promises to be especially memorable as it will be held in the newly restored Georgian Hall, an early 20th century ballroom located just behind South Kitchen + Bar on Washington Street downtown.

"The idea behind it is pretty simple," explains Spencer Frye, executive director for Athens Area Habitat. "If just 1000 people give \$70 each, that's enough to build an entire 3 bedroom, 2 bath house for a family. Every gift really does count."

In addition to their most well known housing program, in which home owners volunteer their time during construction and are matched with affordable, no-interest mortgages, Athens Area Habitat also operates programs to rehabilitate abandoned multi-family housing units, provide home repairs, and build access ramps for the disabled.

According to Frye, it's all about serving the greatest number of residents possible. "We've built more than 80 houses in our mission area," says Frye, "but through our ReNew Athens program we are also able to bring entire neighborhoods back to life as we've done on Simmons Street and are currently doing at Magnolia Terrace, and facilitate affordable rents for folks who aren't yet in a position to buy. And through the EHARP and Brush with Kindness programs, we're able to improve the lives of residents with disabilities and improve the quality of life for folks who are unable to do certain home repairs for themselves."

The Committee of 1000 gala is being sponsored by Georgian Hall, South Kitchen + Bar, and Northeast Sales Distributing. Doors open at 6:30 Thursday, and the guest list includes major donors, committee donors, leaders of local government and business, Habitat home owners, and Habitat volunteers and staff.

Donations to the effort are accepted through January 18th via the Athens Habitat website and at their main office at 532 Barber Street. All donors are welcome to the event, which will feature music by local musician Dan Nettles, and lifetime achievement awards for Lee Green and J.P. Watkins, two Athens residents who have given years of service to Habitat for Humanity and the local community.

For more information, or to donate, visit AthensHabitat.com/Programs.