

http://www.thedailytimes.com/community/habitat-for-humanity-of-blount-county-celebrates-milestone/article_7a0e9091-61ed-59fb-875e-af3081a1f30d.html

Habitat for Humanity of Blount County celebrates milestone

By Melanie Tucker melt@thedailytimes.com Nov 2, 2016



Chastity Harris (center, white shirt) stands between Kathy Johnson (left) and John Clark (right) as they break ground on Habitat for Humanity house that will be the 150th built in Blount County.

Joy Kimbrough | The Daily Times

As Chastity Harris stood with shovel in hand Monday morning, she couldn't help but picture the lot on West Howe Street six months from now.

Thank you for signing in! We hope that you continue to enjoy our free content.

The piece of land there in Alcoa was the gathering place Monday for Habitat for Humanity representatives and sponsors, as their next project is set to move forward on that lot. Harris will be the proud owner of the 150th Habitat for Humanity house built in Blount County.

One man in the crowd has done this more than a few times. Herb Meyer, one of the founders of the local affiliation, spoke to the people gathered and shared memories of Habitat's beginning in Blount County.



"We started our first house in October 1992," Meyer said. "Here we are today beginning our 25th year. God has been truly good."

Meyer, who has cancer, said he was grateful to be part of yet another Habitat home going up. "I hope to be here for the dedication of this one."

Harris took a shovel and plunged into the soil as Habitat board members and others took photos. At one point, they all grabbed shovels and joined her.

This mother of three who currently resides in Alcoa said she has been working in Habitat's program for two years. This home will represent a lifelong dream.

After the official groundbreaking, Meyer recalled that very first Habitat for Humanity home, built behind what is now the Blount County Health Department. The woman who got that first home just retired from Blount Memorial Hospital. She has paid off her mortgage, Meyer said.

Thank you for signing in! We hope that you continue to enjoy our free content.



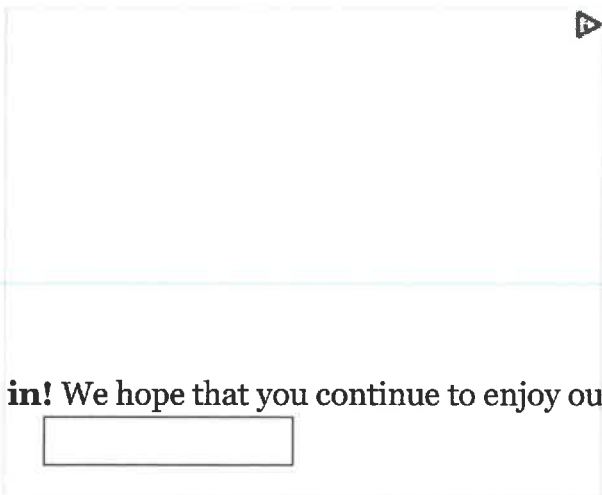
It was Maryville First Baptist Church that got the ball rolling to get a Habitat for Humanity organization off the ground here. Meetings were held, and Meyer attended them. He was the first president.

The program was given six lots by the city of Maryville, and thus work began.

Kathy Jackson is the executive director of Habitat here. She said the success rate in Blount County has been excellent, with most Habitat home recipients keeping up with mortgage payments. Very few have defaulted.

Meyer sees many of the homeowners he and Habitat have worked for over the years. They are very grateful and make sure Meyer knows it.

Hugs. That's how he knows.



3 remaining of 5



Thank you for signing in! We hope that you continue to enjoy our free content.

3 remaining of 5



Thank you for signing in! We hope that you continue to enjoy our free content.