



Jimmy Carter
Work Project
2007 Los Angeles

Partner family profiles





Welcome

Welcome to the Jimmy Carter Work Project 2007! This year, Jimmy Carter Work Project volunteers are building and rehabilitating homes in partnership with 100 families in the Greater Los Angeles area. You will get to know many of the families on the following pages as you build together throughout the week. We hope their stories will inspire, motivate and encourage you in your efforts this week and long after you return home.

Thank you for helping Habitat build a greater Los Angeles—and a brighter future for families here and around the world!

www.habitat.org and www.habitatla.org



Meet the Harborside Terrace partner families

Mar'Lyn Bland and Aaron Atlas and family

Mar'Lyn and Aaron live in a three-bedroom, one-bath house with their six children and five other individuals. Because of cramped conditions, the Bland-Atlas family keeps their belongings in plastic bags against the wall or under the bed. When asked about her willingness to partner with Habitat, Mar'Lyn wrote, "Anything worth having in life doesn't come without hard work and dedication. I've realized that the more energy, time and effort I put into a task the more fulfilling it is."



Andre Bell and Esmeralda Guerrero and family

With four children and an infant grandson, this family currently lives in a two-bedroom house in Los Angeles. Despite their current living situation, the family exudes dignity and strength. They have been described as, "A family that gains respect and admiration from all that meet them." This hardworking family is willing to do what it takes to improve their situation.



Deisy Mancía and family

A single mom and her two children live in a part of Long Beach that is riddled with drug dealing and gang activity. So this mother does not allow her children to go outside unsupervised and, even when an adult goes with them, there is no place to play. Because of recent shootings in the area, her boys worry when she makes



local trips to the laundromat by herself. Electrical wiring in the home is in dangerous disrepair: One of the boys was recently shocked by an extension cord. “Thank the Lord for all those who make this program work,” she said. “This is a dream which we know soon will be a reality. We will participate with pleasure.”



Julissa Mojica and family

This family of four lives in a home in Los Angeles that is infested with mildew. The family has faced many hardships in the past few years, but they look forward to having their ultimate dream come true. Having the opportunity to buy a home through Habitat for Humanity is unbelievably exciting. Julissa believes, “When you work hard to get something, you learn not only to love it, but appreciate it as well. When it (comes) time to (write) the check to pay my mortgage, it will be with a smile on my face.”



Edgar and Carolina Ruano and family

This family of four has lived in their one-bedroom home in Bellflower for four years. The old building has a deteriorating plumbing system that has caused water damage and mildew in the bathroom and kitchen. Even after the floor in the bathroom was replaced, a leak that was never fixed continues to seep under the floor. Anxious to make a better life for his family, the father explained in the application he submitted to Habitat, “I will do whatever it takes to help not only physically but from my heart also. I would like to continue to volunteer even after the building process is finished to stay working with my neighbors and maintain home and relations with them.”

Pedro and Norma Ruiz and family

This family of six lives in a two-bedroom home in Bell Gardens. Along with many other challenges, the parents battle the mold and mildew that permeates throughout their home. The children, however, don't let this environment get in the way of their successes. The oldest daughter earned a scholarship to take part in a summer program offered by the Center for Talented Youth at Johns Hopkins University Center. Both girls are in a gifted program and look forward to their school's science fair every year. The Ruiz family is excited to partner with Habitat for Humanity in building their new home.



Martin and Mercedes Sanchez and family

The Sanchez family lives in a non-insulated, one-bedroom converted garage in Long Beach. They are an extremely close-knit family that reaches out to their community. Since daughter Maricruz underwent major heart surgery several years ago, she and her family are active supporters of the American Heart Association. Martin and his daughter raise funds and participate in walk-a-thons for other children going through heart surgery. They are so excited to be working with Habitat for Humanity to build their dream home.



Jose and Ana Sixtos and family

This family of five lives in a converted garage in Long Beach. They have no kitchen. The mother cooks all the family's meals on a portable stove powered by propane and then washes the dishes outside in a bucket. Electricity consists of twisting the bare light bulb on and off. When it comes time for homework, the boys go outside to the same table where the mother typically washes the dishes. This family says they are





willing to do what it takes to have their American dream come true.



Natali, Hirma and Yolanda Suarez and family

The Suarez family of nine lives in extremely cramped conditions in a two-bedroom apartment. Yolanda, the second oldest of nine children, plays a key role in the family by providing financial support as well as leadership and guidance to her younger siblings. The family emphasizes the importance of education even though studying is often difficult due to the limited space and lack of privacy. The Suarez family is a close-knit, loving, faithful family that maintains high spirits and a positive attitude in spite of their living conditions.



Cassandra Torres and family

Cassandra and her four children live in a dangerous, crime-infested neighborhood in Pasadena, where gang violence, prostitution and drug dealing are prevalent. Their home is in deplorable condition. Cassandra says, "I would gladly use my vacation time, holidays, weekends and weeknights so that I can put in the 'sweet equity' hours and be able to help build my home and my neighbors' home."



Pablo Trujillo and Salud Becerra and family

This family of three lives in a tiny one-bedroom home. Their young daughter dreams of one day having her very own bedroom. Their current home is surrounded by drug and gang activity, has inadequate plumbing and is plagued by other deteriorating conditions. Habitat gives this family faith they will have a decent place to live in the near future.

Hector and Teresa Valdez and family

A one-bedroom apartment is home to this family of five. Despite a lack of space to do homework, children Annette and Steve take turns and both excel in school. Annette wants to pursue a career in a medical field and Steve has decided on pharmacology as his major once he enters college. Anthony was born with cerebral palsy and a cerebral hemorrhage, but today is a gregarious, loving little boy, who is blossoming by leaps and bounds. The Valdez family is anxious to start an exciting new chapter in their lives.



Rosa and Rosiel Vega and family

This family of three currently lives in a converted garage in Wilmington. The family, originally from Mexico, made their way to the United States after Rosa was widowed and worked very hard toward earning citizenship for her family. The conditions in which they live are unbearable especially for the children because they are still old enough to remember a time when they lived as a family in their own beautiful house. Rosa and her two children are excited about being able to work together alongside their new neighbors to build their new homes.



Richard and Rosa Vicencio and family

Sharing a two-bedroom home in Long Beach are three children, two parents and one grandmother. The neighborhood they live in is surrounded by gang violence, so the children are never left unattended. The windows of their current home are nailed shut which makes extensive mildew worse. The family is extremely anxious to move out of this home and partner with Habitat for Humanity on their new home.





Barbara Wallace and family

This single mother with two children currently lives in Los Angeles. She sees partnering with Habitat for Humanity as her way out of the deplorable conditions in which her family currently lives. "I will value my house as well as my community. You see it rise before your eyes and that's priceless. This gives you more respect for yourself and then in turn helps to make a great community."



Gary Wolf and Lynette Robb

Gary and Lynette have been living in a converted single-car garage without insulation, or a conventional stove or oven for eight years. The most striking thing about this family is not just that they rise above their space limitations and keep an amazingly clean and orderly home, but rather that they are dedicated to improving the lives of others by donating not just their money to worthy causes, but also their time.

"We hope to spend all our free time over at the house, rain or shine," Lynette said. "We are anxious to see the progression of our home."



Meet the Vermont Village partner families

Salvador and Sara Arevalo and family

This family of five has lived in their Los Angeles home for the last nine years. Even though Mr. Arevalo has made many repairs, including cleaning and painting over the extensive mold, replacing cabinet doors and even tiling the kitchen, their house still has major problems—cracks too large to cover with just putty, cabinets that are falling apart and a sinking bathroom floor. Although the living conditions of this family are bad they consider themselves blessed because many other families live in worse conditions.



Evelyn Cabrera and family

This family of three—a single mom and two children—lives in one cramped bedroom in a house in a very dangerous neighborhood in Inglewood. Violence and police activity are commonplace. They must share one bathroom with the rest of their household. It's in complete disrepair. Despite their surroundings, the two little girls are wonderfully bright and happy. The family looks forward to a fresh start.



Elsa Sosa, Samuel and Eric Contreras and family

A one-bedroom apartment in Los Angeles is home to this family of four. The electrical supply to the apartment is dangerous and the flooring appears not to have been replaced or repaired in the 24 years the family has lived there. The bathroom is unsanitary



because of water damage and mold from the shower leaking behind a wall. The neighborhood is full of drug and gang activity. This family works hard and is not brought down by their situation. The young men in the family have great optimism and are wonderful to their parents.



Celeste Flores and family

A single mom and four children have lived in a two-bedroom house in Los Angeles for 17 years. The family of five has had to deal with managing their asthma and allergies since mold permeates the entire home. Plumbing in the kitchen and bathroom is completely substandard. This mom has a great attitude toward whatever comes her way and she sees the Jimmy Carter Work Project as her opportunity to “become a great family partner and help to build my home and my neighbor’s home.”



Efrain and Lucia Funes and family

This couple and their four children live in a two-bedroom apartment in an unsafe neighborhood in Compton. The family works to maintain their home by keeping it clean and neat; nonetheless it is still plagued by constant mold and mildew. The family’s utmost desire is to have a home in a community where the family can enjoy their neighbors and their children can feel free to make friends and play outside.



Angie Garrido and family

A single mom, her mother and two children currently live in a two-bedroom home in the city of Gardena. Extensive mold is found throughout the apartment. Paint is peeling in large pieces. The pipes leak so severely that the water damage under the sink has

made the cabinets useless. The carpet is completely worn out so that in some areas you can see the floor beneath. This close and loving family sees past these hardships and is positive and hopeful that one day they too will have a safe and decent place to live. This mom works hard at her full-time job but also finds the energy and determination to attend school full time.

Ruben and Alice Gonzalez and family

This fun-loving family of seven lives in a Los Angeles home where the floors are so worn that in many of the areas you can see the plywood subfloor. The whole structure and foundation of the home seems to be falling apart and the electricity is unreliable. The parents are active and involved volunteers at their children's school as well as at their local Boys and Girls Club. Mom plays the drums for their church choir.



Traci Hammons and family

This single mom and her 9-year-old son currently live in a home in Compton that they share with three other people. The house is in deplorable condition: broken windows, holes in the walls, exposed electrical wiring, damaged flooring, peeling paint and no heat. Traci desperately wants to get her son out of their current living conditions and into a home of their own. She wants her son to have his own room away from any negative influences.



Irma and Manuel Hernandez and family

The close-knit, hard-working family of six lives in a two-bedroom home in Los Angeles. The foundation of the house is sinking so much that it affects everything else, including the plumbing which is unreliable and unsanitary. Mother Irma is a rock for the family



who works hard and gives the children a solid foundation for their own lives. Their father is a helpful, sensitive and respected man who plays guitar and sings in their church choir and is often the one that family, friends and neighbors go to for emotional support. The two children work and attend college full time.



Lino Laolagi and family

This family of eight has lived in their Carson home for over 10 years. The outside of their home looks decent, but inside is a different story with substandard plumbing, faulty electrical wiring and vermin. Despite efforts at repair, these conditions continue to worsen. The family is involved in helping the community by helping feed the homeless and being mentors to the neglected children in their neighborhood.



Chevonne Lenard and family

A single mother and her three sons live in a tiny duplex in an unsafe neighborhood in Los Angeles. Chevonne has set up a neighborhood watch program in her neighborhood and also provides information on the various city services available in the community. She supports her two oldest sons as they go through college and guides her youngest son through high school. The entire family is eager to participate in building their Habitat home. Their mother believes that, “A family that works together stands strong together.”



Agustin and Esmeralda Martinez and family

This family of five has lived in an overcrowded apartment for the last 12 years in Los Angeles. Not only are the sleeping arrangements tough but the children use the kitchen and bathroom to do their homework and study for their school exams. Because there is abso-

lutely no privacy, Jose, the oldest boy, now spends as much time as possible at his friends' homes so that he doesn't have to compete for space with his two brothers. These parents look forward to living together in a peaceful and stable home where their children will thrive and succeed.

Jaime and Carmen Ramirez and family

For the last nine years, this charming family of five has lived in Los Angeles in their current apartment in very unsanitary and dangerous conditions. Excessive mold has settled in the bedroom where the brother and oldest sister sleep on bunk beds. The parents sleep in a double bed and the baby sleeps in a crib between the two. The bathroom also has severe mold and never completely dries. Walls are water damaged. Cabinets are falling apart. The fixtures are rusted. Paint is peeling everywhere. The family looks forward to being able to work together with their neighbors to help build their home.



Zoila and Guadalupe Ramirez and family

Zoila and Guadalupe have lived with their three sons in the same one-bedroom apartment in Los Angeles for 29 years. The three boys sleep in the only bedroom while Zoila and Guadalupe sleep on the floor in the living room. The hardwood floor is covered by rugs so the family does not get splinters in their feet. When it rains, the rugs become wet which disrupts Zoila and Guadalupe's sleeping arrangements. The father is constantly making repairs and painting the apartment, but despite his vigilance the home is still in disrepair. The parents are great advocates for special needs children and often travel to speak on their behalf.





Meet A Brush With Kindness homeowners

Editor's Note: Profiles of some A Brush With Kindness families were not available at press time.

Ayrestine Bogan

Ayrestine Bogan was born in Little Rock, Ark., and moved to Los Angeles in the 1950s to help an ailing aunt. In 1973, she bought a home in the city and now lives a quiet life in a neighborhood she loves. An active churchgoer, knee problems have kept her from venturing out lately, although nothing stops her from reading the Bible at home. Ayrestine lives alone and currently has only Habitat for Humanity to help with house repairs. She is excited about anything the volunteers can do to help, but a new coat of exterior paint is at the top of her list.

Helen Bonnon

Helen Bonnon, originally from Louisiana, has lived in her Los Angeles home since 1966. While working full time in a Head Start center, she earned a degree in child development from Los Angeles Southwest College. She later worked for Children's Institute International, a 24-hour care shelter for abused and neglected children.

"Over the years I've had a lot of work done [on the house], but now that I'm retired and sick, I cannot do it," she said.

"I like my neighborhood, and I have some really nice neighbors." She understands what it means to give of one's time, and she appreciates each and every volunteer that will help repair her basement.

Geneva Clay

Originally from Chicago, 68-year-old Geneva Clay moved to Los Angeles in 1966. After arriving in Los Angeles, she trained and worked in the nursing field until she retired. Currently she spends most of her time volunteering in the classroom at Normandy Christian School and as a foster grandparent through a pro-

gram founded by Pepperdine University. However, her greatest joy is being able to care for her two grandchildren. Although she struggles with multiple health issues, she never lets her health slow her down. Geneva has three friends who are planning to work with the Habitat volunteers and she plans to help as well.

Delores Mary Cole

Through family connections, Delores Mary Cole moved from New York to Los Angeles in the 50s. She bought her current house at the urging of her landlord, who was selling his rental property in 1964. "From the New York tenements to a home of my own!" she said. As a 43-year resident of the neighborhood, Delores is a fountain of local information. She lives alone and likes it that way after raising five children and several grandchildren. Now she has time to get involved in activities that interest her including block club meetings, volunteering at a local school and singing in her church choir. She looks forward to meeting the people who are giving their time and energy to help put a fresh coat of paint on her home.

Simone Condley

Simone Condley, a neighborhood block captain, has established an emergency preparedness plan for her community. Born in San Pedro, she returned to the city 14 years ago. She attends warm water classes to relieve her fibromyalgia, and stresses the power of positive thinking. "The more you talk about health, the more good health you bring in your life," she said.

When A Brush With Kindness came along, she had been praying to have her house painted. Volunteers will paint the house and make other exterior repairs.

Diane Evans

Diane Evans has lived in her Los Angeles home for 20 years, and has been an advocate for mental health patients and for foster and adoptive parents. She also serves with several civic groups and volunteers at schools. A son and a 1-year-old granddaughter live with her. The little girl has serious hearing problems that require her to attend a special school nearby.

Volunteers will paint, roof and repair screens at the house. Diane has worried over the condition of her house and is glad for the help. "Getting it painted is a blessing," she says. "I am very thankful, very thankful."



Frank Garcia

Frank Garcia lives across the street from the San Pedro build site for the Jimmy Carter Work Project. Garcia has watched with binoculars to make sure that no one intruded on the construction site on North Palos Verdes Street. After living in his home for 20 years, everyone knows that he is the neighborhood watch. He started work on construction sites himself at 14 and worked as a steam fitter laying pipe throughout Los Angeles. He relies on his wife Cynthia and daughter Irene after a back injury in 1999 left him disabled. His faith and family have helped him to keep fighting constant back pain. After the many months of construction across the street, a fresh coat of paint will be appreciated by the entire family.

Isabel Gonzales

Isabel Gonzales has lived in her San Pedro home for 35 years and works every day to keep up her home. She volunteers at a local hospital where she has spent many days for the last 15 years. As a retired inspector for OSHA, she will keep a close watch on volunteers to make sure repairs are done correctly. Isabel wants to stay in her home for as long as possible because she loves it and loves to garden. The extra hands available through the A Brush With Kindness program will work on repairs, and gardening that she has begun on her own but needs help to complete.

Eileen Hammonds

Eileen Hammonds, who has lived in her home for 27 years, looks forward to her birthday present on Oct. 29, 2007, when Habitat for Humanity volunteers will come to paint her home.

“I appreciate the fact that there are volunteers out there willing to help me,” Hammonds said. “While there are things physically I cannot do, I will sure give them a warm welcome.”

Hammonds spends time each day getting her granddaughter to school, and has taken an active role volunteering in the classroom. She’s also looking forward to assisting on her home repairs in any way possible. “It is a blessing that the volunteers are out there,” she said.

Betty Hudson

Betty Hudson’s family moved from Mississippi to California in the late 60s. She currently lives in the house that belonged to her mother who passed away in

2002. Her family has lived in the same neighborhood for more than 30 years. Betty has one adult daughter, four granddaughters and one great-granddaughter. Keeping the family together is very important to Betty who is raising her oldest granddaughter and her 2-year-old great-granddaughter. Betty enjoys singing in her church choir, exercising and cycling, and is currently trying her hand at gardening. She looks forward to working with A Brush With Kindness.

Dorothy Hutchins

When volunteers descend upon Dorothy Hutchins' neighborhood to re-paint the faded walls on her South Central Los Angeles house, Hutchins will be prepared.

"I am looking forward to cooking for the volunteers and meeting them, talking to them," she said. "I'm very excited."

She has lived in her home since 1971, almost a decade after she moved to the West Coast from Mississippi. She says she may have grown older with her long-time neighbors, but she is ready to tell the Habitat workers at her house all about her own volunteer activities in the neighborhood and at her church.

Jerrie Johnson

Jerrie Johnson feels lucky to have been able to purchase the house her family has lived in for the past 10 years. Jerrie has two children: 23-year-old Kandee recently graduated from California State University Northridge and 19-year-old Charles works for the United Parcel Service. A hard worker and diligent saver, Jerrie depleted all of her savings to purchase her home "as is" and it still needs many repairs. She and her family are very thankful to A Brush With Kindness for offering to help repair her house.

Ludean Lee

Ludean Lee worked for the Los Angeles County Children Services for 23 years. One of 16 brothers and sisters, she received a master's in social work from USC. After a massive stroke 10 years ago, which left her right side paralyzed and hindered her ability to stand or speak, she continues to fight on! Though she must use her left hand, she works hard to do things on her own. Volunteers will paint and put the finishing touches on a wheelchair ramp that will finally allow her to enter her home with ease. Family members who live across the street will work with volunteers to paint and brighten her house.



Wayne and Bernice Leung

Wayne and Bernice Leung have lived in their Elysian Valley home for over two decades. Sandwiched between an embroidery company and a metal-woodworking factory, the home is in a manufacturing zone.

The Leungs met and married a few years after leaving China for America. While struggling to make ends meet, they managed to buy their home and put two daughters through college.

Now that Mr. Leung is retired, the family lives on a fixed income with not much money for home improvements. “Some basic exterior work can go a long way in a street full of commercial properties,” said Mrs. Leung. Volunteers will help spruce up their house.

Francisco and Ophelia Menses and family

Francisco Meneses, who came from Mexico 27 years ago, has spent 16 years in his home in South Central. He enjoys the peace and quiet of his current neighborhood, attends his local church and watches television. He lives with his wife and four children who will be working alongside volunteers to help paint the house. He is grateful to volunteers from Habitat who are helping because his house hasn't been painted in more than 10 years.

Mabelle Roberta Pittman

Habitat for Humanity volunteers will help roof Mabelle Roberta Pittman's home in her Magnolia Square neighborhood during A Brush With Kindness. Pittman has lived there since 1972 and she's thankful the repairs will help her to keep living there.

“It's just a little house, but I raised six children here,” she said. The most recent is her 18-year-old foster child who Pittman has raised since the child was 2 years old.

Pittman, who graduated from Los Angeles' Fremont High School in 1957, is currently working with 10 other women to plan Fremont's 50-year class reunion.

“God has blessed us to be here this long,” she said.

Jose Portillo

Jose Portillo was born in El Salvador and moved to California in search of better opportunities. Jose's parents live with him in a home in South Central Los Angeles located directly behind the Vermont build site. As preparations for the Jimmy Carter

Work Project have progressed, Jose and his family have graciously shared the alley and their driveway with the many delivery trucks and construction vehicles coming and going from the Vermont site. During the build week, through the A Brush With Kindness program, Jose and his father and brothers will work with volunteers to repaint the stucco on his home and install a wood fence. He looks forward to meeting new people and learning how to do some repairs thanks to the program.

Linda Preston

Linda Preston, “looking for a better quality of life” for herself and two daughters, moved to Los Angeles from Belize over 25 years ago. She lives in a “quiet and safe” community where her two daughters can visit every month. For 15 years, she was a senior office assistant for the Los Angeles Unified School District. However, she was forced to retire after being diagnosed with a serious medical condition. Now, living on a fixed income and faced with a disabling medical condition, she can no longer maintain her home as she would like.

A Brush With Kindness will work on safety concerns and minor repairs around her house. She said she is, “very excited and grateful to the volunteers and Habitat for Humanity for their generosity.”

Jearlean Scott

Jearlean Scott has lived in her home in the Crenshaw District of Los Angeles for more than 30 years. She moved to the area from Texas with her brother and completed trade school after arriving. Jearlean likes the diversity of her community and enjoys talking to her neighbors. She is an active member of her church and does whatever she can to help the people in her community including feeding the homeless. She shares her house with three of her four grown children. Jearlean appreciates the A Brush With Kindness volunteers who will give her home a new coat of exterior paint and help with landscaping.

Dorothy Mae Sharp

Dorothy Mae Sharp, the grandma of her neighborhood, heard about A Brush With Kindness at her church. After 35 years in her house, she is excited about repairs to her driveway so she doesn’t stumble when she makes her way to her backyard. Volunteers also plan to replace a roof over her washer and dryer to give her shelter to do her laundry. In her Arkansas Lake Village, she “gets along



with anybody and everybody.” After serving as a respiratory therapist, she now is home very often and wants to improve it. Although she deals with rheumatoid arthritis, when people are around she is happy. She has grandchildren and great-grandchildren who keep her busy.

Shirley Sloan-McNeil

Shirley Sloan-McNeil was born in Jacksonville, Texas, but moved to California with her family as a child. She and her family moved to the Athens area of Los Angeles, where she attended 118th Street School, Samuel Gompers Jr. High, and later graduated from Alain Locke High School—all located between Main and Avalon.

After graduation, she married and had two children, which she says, “have been the loves of my life.” While raising her children, she completed the Urban League Training Center’s word processing program. She worked for Northrop Grumman for over 10 years. Later she upgraded her skills and became a computer operation specialist. An aneurysm forced her to retire. In 1998, she became a foster parent.

“I have never been so happy. I guess God was leading me in this direction. I opened my heart to some of the most precious little ones. I fell in love with a little boy and he told me that he wanted to be adopted; and by this time, I had received his little sister straight from the hospital. I adopted the two and have never regretted it. The children are my job and my hope for a better life—for all the children that come into my home.”

Bernice Stoner

Bernice Stoner rented her house in Canterbury Knolls for four years before she saved enough to buy it in 1970. She values the area’s peacefulness, and she and her neighbors have worked together to rid their neighborhood of a drug house. “It’s quiet here and we all know each other, look out for each other,” Bernice says.

She remains involved as a Sunday school teacher, civic club treasurer and election poll worker. Her youngest son lives with her and she also cares for her 16-year-old granddaughter. Both of Stoner’s daughters died of cancer. Three of her sons and two daughters-in-law will help with exterior repairs and landscaping scheduled for her home during A Brush With Kindness.

The Vera family

The Vera family has lived in Elysian Valley for more than 35 years. The four generations who make up the Vera household are very familiar with community organizing. For the past eight years they have lived across the street from a community center that has helped neighborhood residents to tackle issues together and bring more arts to the area. Now every year their street hosts the Frog Town Art Walk.

The Vera home's elder, Tony, worked for the sanitation department for 48 years, and is now retired. He shares the house with his son, Tony, and daughter-in-law, Vanessa, as well as their six grandchildren and one great-grandchild Jonathan.

Gladys Williams

Gladys Williams, 75, was born in Texas and moved to California when she was about 14. After graduating from Garfield High School, she worked in the school cafeteria for the Los Angeles Unified School District.

While still raising two young children 30 years ago, Williams became disabled. Today, with loving support and help from her daughter, she continues to live in her home. However, because her only income is Supplemental Security Income (SSI), she has tried to juggle repairs on her house with her credit cards, which far surpass her minimum fixed income. The help of Habitat for Humanity volunteers will greatly reduce her stress level.

Special instructions: Absolutely no smoking in or near the home.

Andrea Wyatt

Andrea Wyatt has lived in her home for only five years, but in that short time she and her family have grown to love the neighborhood. This is the first home she has owned. She works for the Department of Transportation and on weekends is very busy with activities with her three children: Jalen, 8; Tiffany, 13; and Whitney, 16. In addition to raising a family, she has started a monthly book club and is active in her church. She sees such great potential for her yard, but has not had the time or money to landscape. In her yard, she wants to have more family gatherings and just sit and relax with her kids after work. Wyatt is excited to work with volunteers to make her yard beautiful.



Alternates

William and Lena Lair

William and Lena Lair have lived in their neighborhood for 40 years. Born in Alexandria, La., they moved to Los Angeles many years ago. Lena spends most weekdays at the Travelers Rest Church, helping distribute canned goods from the food pantry. The highlight of the couple's week is Sunday dinner at their home which is usually filled with family, including some of their 18 grandchildren. Lena used to be involved in the block club when they moved to the neighborhood over 40 years ago, but now just keeps a watch out for the neighbors they know. The Lairs are inspired by spiritual music and are excited and ready to work with the volunteers for the Jimmy Carter Work Project 2007.



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