



A group of Hanesbrands volunteers in the Trent Hill community.

HBI Photos

International helpers work on Habitat homes

Hanesbrands employees volunteer their time

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Volunteers who hail from countries around the world pitched in to help build local Habitat for Humanity houses last week.

The volunteers are employees of Winston-Salem-based Hanesbrands Inc. (HBI) who were in town for a leadership meeting. Company representatives from 68 Hanesbrands manufacturing facilities in 13 different countries, including China, Costa Rica, Honduras and Thailand were on hand for the last week's gathering. Most of the 183 international employees who attended the business meeting decided to stay in town an extra day to work on Habitat sites in Trent Hill, a neighborhood of mostly new homes near the intersection of Indiana Avenue and N. Cherry Street.

Rene Villarreal, vice president of operations in El Salvador, spent last Thursday digging holes for fence posts and cleaning the construction site.

"It felt good; I was very excited," said the 15-year HBI employee. "... And we certainly have a lot of motivation to do the same (kind of work) in our countries."

There are 9,600 HBI employees in El Salvador who produce a variety of clothing. Off the clock, Villarreal says the workers in his country produce even more, giving thousands of volunteer hours to projects that help local students and refurbish schools. After his experience last week, Villarreal now wants to add Habitat — an international organization — to the list of employee volunteer initiatives.

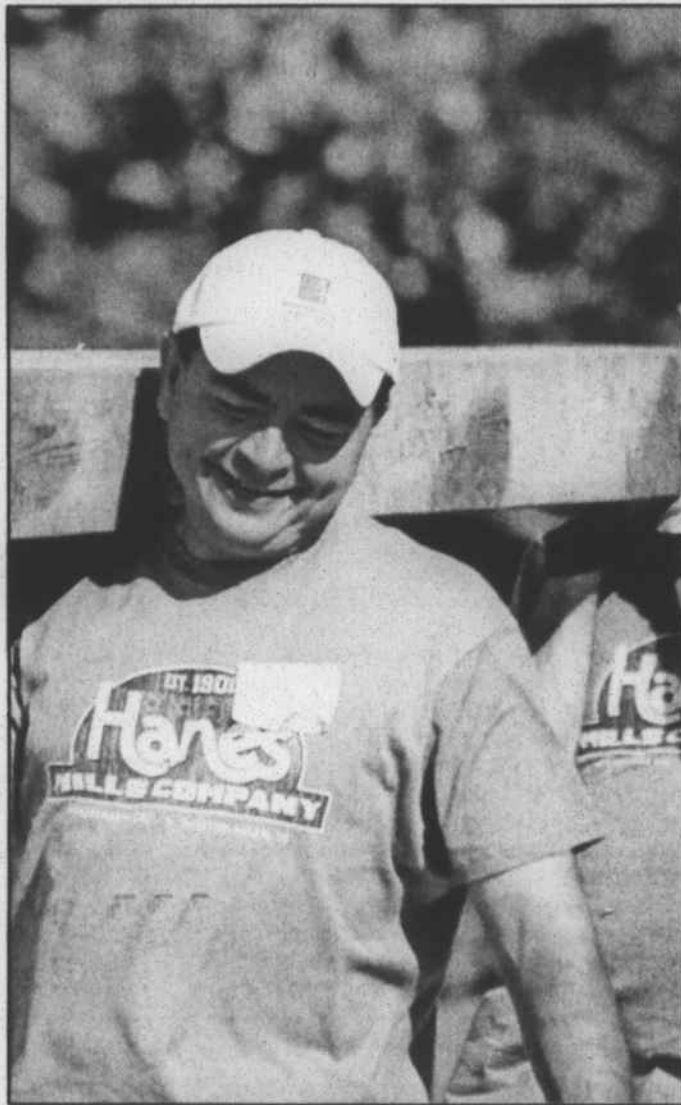
Cheryl Lindsay, director of human resources and inclusion/diversity, said HBI's El Salvador operations is not unique. Employees at Hanesbrands facilities around the globe give their time willingly to worthy causes.

"It's basically the basis of what we do, which is bringing everyone together with many different perspectives and skills and experiences to get a great result," said Lindsay.

Other HBI employees also made connections with Habitat that will hopefully result in future collaborations in other countries, said Mike Faircloth, HBI's chief supply chain officer, who organized the build. Faircloth said HBI likes the idea of incorporating a local community service project into its leadership conferences.

"It was tremendous to see the reaction of the folks who came in from out of town, to know that this goes on here in our community," said Faircloth, a 14-year HBI employee. "They're just really pumped up about it and really, really excited."

The volunteers worked on about eight houses. Some



Rene Villarreal, an executive for Hanesbrands who lives in El Salvador, works at the construction site.



Mike Faircloth, HBI chief supply chain officer, carries a wall for a new house.

of them were all but finished and just needed landscaping work; others still had walls that needed to be erected.

Habitat for Humanity of Forsyth County Executive Director Sylvia Oberle said the HBI volunteers got a lot of work done on what has become a massive project in Trent Hill.

"They were hard workers. They did any task we asked them too. They did any task from sweeping the streets to putting up walls to building walls," she said. "Everybody had on the same t-shirt so it was a sea of blue t-shirts out there, all of them said Hanesbrands on them"

Using a federal grant, Habitat Forsyth bought lots that were in foreclosure in both Trent Hill and Smith Farm, a development off Kernersville Road. Both neighborhoods were started by a private contractor who filed for bankruptcy. Habitat will build a total of 15 homes in Trent Hill, 12 of which are already in various stages of completion. Trent Hill is expected to be totally finished by late summer.

Faircloth said that HBI plans to continue to help that effort by sponsoring a home in Trent Hill next year and supplying 40 volunteers a week to work on it until it is finished. Faircloth also said that a day of service benefiting the community will now be a regular part of the annual global supply chain leadership meeting.

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NEWS CLIPS

Compiled from staff wire and submitted reports

Clemmons supports Dog Park

The Village of Clemmons Council has voted unanimously to provide funding of up to \$9,296 to pay for water line and plumbing at the Dog Park at Tanglewood. The water line will provide drinking water for visitors to the dog park and their pets. The Council also passed a Resolution of Support for the Dog Park project.

The funding from the Village of Clemmons increases the total raised for the project to nearly \$75,000. The construction of the park is projected to cost \$150,000 and must be completed by the end of 2012.

"The support of Mayor John Bost and the Village of Clemmons Council for the Dog Park at Tanglewood is hugely important and pushes the dog park to the fundraising halfway mark," said Chuck Houska of the Dog Park Committee Member. "The funds by the Village Council demonstrate that this project is truly a community effort."

The Dog Park at Tanglewood will be built near the Tanglewood Park campground on the site of the former soccer fields. It will have a total of 2.3 acres of fenced areas with a separate area for large and small dogs. The park will include drinking fountains for dogs, benches, shade trees and dog valet stations as well as a parking lot.

Hagan praises black farmers settlement

United States Senator Kay R. Hagan is praising the U.S. District Court's

approval of the settlement between the Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the African American Farmers who filed the Pigford II lawsuit.

"Justice has at last prevailed for the African American farmers who were discriminated against and denied compensation for decades," said Hagan. "Since coming to the Senate, I have worked to right this wrong for 4,000 African American farmers in North Carolina and 75,000 nationwide. With this ruling, our farmers are finally receiving the justice and relief they deserve."

U.S. District Court's approval of the Pigford II settlement is an acknowledgement of the injustice and discrimination the African American farmers suffered when they were applying for loans and other USDA programs.

Since coming to the Senate, Hagan has worked closely with Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA) to ensure 4,000 African-American farmers in North Carolina and 75,000 nationwide can receive settlements following decades of discrimination by the Department of Agriculture.

In December of 2010, the President signed the House and Senate passed Claims Resolution Act to fund the \$1.15 billion settlement, a bill that Hagan introduced with Senate Agriculture Chairman Blanche Lincoln (D-AR) and Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA) in February of that year. Hagan fought for the legislation all along the way. She led rallies and marches on Capitol Hill and hosted a roundtable discussion on the Pigford settlement with John Boyd, president of the National Black Farmers Association and African-American farmers in North Carolina.

Library receives books

The Forsyth County Public Library has received

a gift of 100 new children's books ranging from pre-kindergarten through early readers titles. These books are a donation from the Brownstone Book Fund, a private foundation in New York City interested in fostering early reading, a love of books and encouraging parents and children to read together.

Trust gives grant to Salvation Army

The Salvation Army is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a three-year, \$605,579 grant by the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust of Winston-Salem.

The grant will fund The Salvation Army Emergency Assistance Program, which is designed to meet the basic needs of people facing an immediate crisis situation including shelter and paying a life-sustaining utility bill. A majority of the households assisted by this program are living at or below the poverty level and are not equipped to handle emergencies. Without the assistance of The Salvation Army, many of these households, including children and the elderly, would be forced to become homeless or live without the necessities of electricity and running water.

"The Salvation Army continues to see a need for help with rent and utilities," said Major Kent Davis, Area Commander for The Salvation Army of Winston-Salem. "This grant from the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust will allow The Salvation Army to meet the emergency financial needs of the Winston-Salem community during these tough economic times."



Davis

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