

On Monday, the Board of Supervisors recognized April as National Volunteer Month and the 4,800 hours contributed to Habitat-Powhatan from April 1, 2025, through March 30, 2026.

**THANK YOU ALL**, from the dynamic critical home repair duo of Larry Knorr (above in orange) and Lee Chapman, who have showed up on many weekends this unusual spring to perform outdoor projects, to Franny Usher (top left) and Jodi Dalton (top back right) who, along with Beabe Moore and Duane Shaffer, volunteer almost every day that the ReStore is open.

From those who worked on the March 20, 2026, Spring Fling committee, to civic and business groups that help on house builds, you reflect what community is all about and have contributed nearly \$173,472 in "billable" hours. Look for a new Habitat display in the county library come May 1 and find out more about shopping, donating and volunteering at the ReStore with your neighbors in Powhatan!

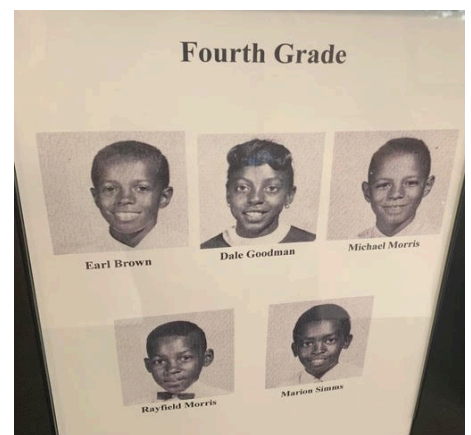
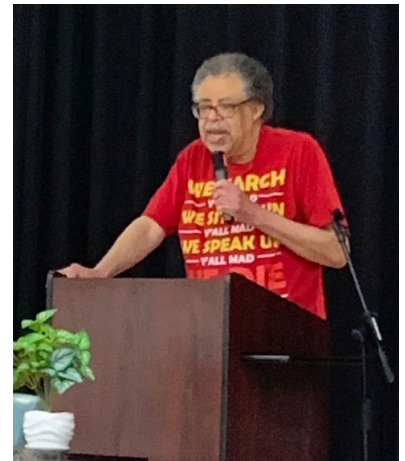
# COMMUNITY BUILDER PASSES

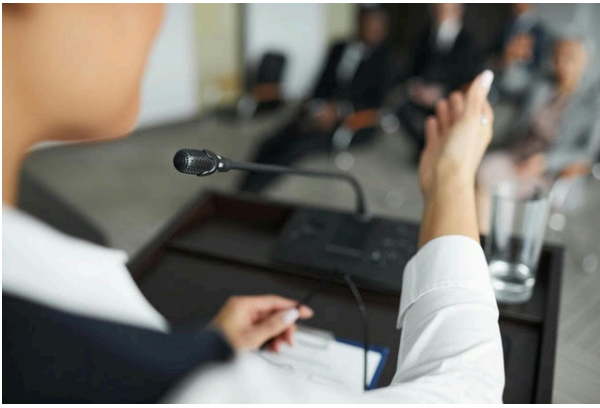
Habitat sends our condolences to Elsie Tokarz, her children, grandchildren and a great grandchild on the late March passing of Tom Tokarz. A beautiful Mass to celebrate his life was held last Friday at St. John Neumann Church. Tom was instrumental in the founding of Habitat-Powhatan in 2001 as well as with a variety of building projects at the church. He also was involved with the church's nearly 30-year support of a daycare center in Quito, Ecuador, The Fundacion Cristo de Miraville Day Care Center. The center provides a Christian education for children of those who work but have very limited incomes. St. John Neumann parishioners donate and sponsor children at the center.



## POWHATAN FIRSTS: BELL VS. POWHATAN SCHOOL BOARD

Founded on civil rights principles, Habitat for Humanity grew out of Koinonia Farm in Georgia, a 1940s interracial community focused on equity and partnership housing. On Saturday, Habitat-Powhatan attended "Powhatan Firsts" at the Powhatan African American Cultural Arts Museum. The museum's program recognized the students who were first to integrate Powhatan schools, including Habitat Board Member Dale Goodman. Goodman (above, far left) was part of a panel, in which each participant recalled what he or she experienced in 1963 and the years following. Goodman, a fourth-grader at the time, and 64 other Black students and their parents were part of the 1962 landmark civil rights lawsuit Edwin Alvin Bell et al. vs. Powhatan County School Board. According to George Mason University's Desegregation of Virginia Education guide (DOVE), the parents claimed that the school system refused to process the necessary student transfer forms, which were properly filed. Transfer forms also were withheld from many Black families. At the time, two schools existed in the county, one with an all white student body, Powhatan School, and the other with a Black student body called Pocahontas. After a Jan. 2, 1963, trial, a judge granted an injunction against the racial segregation in the student admissions. The court also prevented the county from shuttering the public schools as nearby Prince Edward County did. Powhatan also was to develop a desegregation plan within 90 days, and because of that timetable, 62 of the Black students were unable to transfer that school year. The defense filed an appeal. Through the appeal, the court finally ruled that the School Board was perpetuating segregation. The students were admitted to Powhatan School in fall 1963.





## **REPAIR CLIENT UP TO THE PODIUM!**

On April 20, Habitat-Powhatan spoke in front of the board of supervisors about its application for \$35,000 in county funding to be used specifically for physical critical home repairs for those who are income-constrained. Unbeknownst to Habitat, one recent critical home repair client, Kelly Crockett, also came to the podium, explaining how Habitat had assisted her with a roof repair earlier in April and urged the board to support this program funding. Her presence and words brought alive the need. It was brave that she took the time to speak on her own volition at the public hearing. Habitat got word of the approved funding today!



## **SAVE A DATE**

First, a huge thank you to sponsors and attendees of last month's Spring Fling 2026: Let Hope Bloom. Now for a save a date: Habitat's Build Bash: BBQ, Bourbon and Boots will return this fall on Sunday, Oct. 25, 2026. We are expanding the number of barbecue chefs and moving the event to Powhatan's beautiful Fairview Farm. Watch for more details in the months ahead! It will be a beautiful way to cap off Habitat-Powhatan's 25th anniversary year. (Fairview Facebook photo)



### **Our Contact Information=**

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