

Allow us to share more detailed descriptions of our conference sessions to help with recruiting additional staff and/or board members to attend. With each workshop, attendees will select one session to attend (no sign-ups necessary, create your own schedule as you go).

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, WORKSHOP 1 1:30PM-3PM

- **Managing The ReStore Donor Experience** - Store leadership may be hesitant to dedicate more resources to proactive procurement when they are struggling with operational capacity and managing their current donor volume. Take a deep dive into managing the donor experience at every point, including how a donor hears about the Habitat ReStore; calling or scheduling a donation online; how the store handles screening and tactfully declining donations; optimization of routing, zoning and scheduling trucks; managing frustrated donors; whether donors should submit pictures of items; online booking; managing drivers and accountability; and follow-up and effective thank-you practices.
- **Homeowner Services (Custom Workshop)** - This customizable session is a free flowing discussion based on the needs and experiences of Alabama affiliates. Specific topics will be addressed jointly by HFHI presenters and members of Alabama affiliates.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, WORKSHOP 2 3PM-4:30PM

- **Construction Innovation Panel** - U.S. construction staff will coordinate and facilitate a panel discussion with Alabama Habitat leaders to showcase best practices in construction program and project management. Operational topics often include budgeting and scheduling practices and tools, staffing structures, contracting practices and process efficiencies. The course includes a facilitated Q&A session.
- **Homeowner Services (Custom Workshop)** - This customizable session is a free flowing discussion based on the needs and experiences of Alabama affiliates. Specific topics will be addressed jointly by HFHI presenters and members of Alabama affiliates.

WELCOME DINNER, OCTOBER 1

Fireside Chat - This welcome dinner event will feature an open discussion with Carmen Smith, HFHI VP, U.S. Affiliate Services.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, WORKSOP 1 9AM-10:30AM

- **Board Members And Fundraising** - Learn how board members can effectively use their time, talent and treasure to help you establish board fundraising expectations and strengthen your board's ability to engage in fundraising activities. We will discuss how board members can participate in various stages of the fundraising cycle.
- **Smart & Strong: Energy Efficiency And Resilience In Habitat Homes** - Led by AAHA board member Mackenzie Stagg with Auburn University Rural Studio, this session will provide an overview of high-performance homes, with focuses on energy efficiency and resilience. We will look at third-party certifications — particularly the FORTIFIED Home program — and their benefits to affiliates and their homeowner partners. We will examine case studies in which beyond-code measures were pursued in Habitat homes across the Southeast, including information about the team assembled to undertake the project, lessons learned, and key takeaways for future work.
- **Safeguarding Compliance Training** - All affiliated staff, board members and volunteers in leadership positions are invited to join this session to gain training in safeguarding while attending the affiliate support organization conference. This is a live and interactive workshop of the online safeguarding training. This course will be most beneficial for those staff members who facilitate the group safeguarding training at their affiliates and for those staff/board members who need to take safeguarding training. Attendance and participation in this workshop will provide you with the U.S. safeguarding training requirement (Policy 34, "Affiliates must provide regular safeguarding training for all of their board members, staff members, and volunteers in leadership positions.").

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, WORKSHOP 2 10:30AM-12PM

- **Rural Roundtable** - Join us for a review of existing resources available to support Habitat's work in U.S. rural communities and recent affiliate successes and innovations, and engage in a conversation around strategy and continual improvement. We will kick off the session with an overview of current resources available to affiliates in rural areas, including funding opportunities, capacity building, advocacy and HFHI staff positions dedicated to rural support. Recent successes and innovations will bring these resources and opportunities to life and inspire attendees with tangible results. We will conclude with an interactive segment where all attendees will have the opportunity to provide feedback and

advice, identify additional opportunities and areas for improvement, and help co-create our collective path forward.

- **Habitat Capital: Using Debt Capital And The Secondary Market To Scale Production** - This session will provide affiliates with an understanding of how to use debt appropriately and what the appropriate sources of debt are. It will show affiliates how to evaluate opportunities, what the benefits to increasing annual production could be, and how to responsibly manage a financial plan with debt as a key component.
- **Equitable Access To Affordable Housing** - Discussion on the goals and priorities of increasing equitable access as part of HFHI Advancing Black Homeownership initiative.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, WORKSHOP 3 1:30PM-3PM

- **Leadership Strategies For New Affiliate Leaders** - In this newly formed session, join HFHI presenters in a "crash course" for new affiliate leaders covering best practices in management & operations.
- **ReStore Business Decisions With Data** - Store and affiliate leadership involved in decision making for their Habitat ReStores are invited to join this session for an overview of national Habitat ReStore performance and thrift industry trends to help in making data driven decisions. From the data and information presented, attendees will begin to develop strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, or SWOT, analysis specific to their Habitat ReStore and join in focused discussions with peer affiliates on leveraging emerging Habitat ReStore and thrift trends. This is a great opportunity for executive directors and store managers and directors to attend together to strengthen the budget development process.
- **Volunteer Strategies (Stirring the Volunteer Pot & the ABCs of Blitz Building)** - Led by our Banquet Speaker Tom Gerdy, this session we will discuss ways to find new, retain existing, and keep volunteers excited. We will talk in detail about "how to" as well as why blitz building makes sense.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, WORKSHOP 4. 3PM-4:30PM

- **Building Capacity from the Inside Out-** What's working well at your affiliate — and where is there room to grow? This interactive workshop is designed for affiliate leadership across all operating areas who are looking to strengthen organizational capacity and align strategic efforts. Together, we'll explore a practical, team-based approach to identifying strengths and growth opportunities using the self-assessment tool in the U.S. Affiliate Sustainability and Growth Guide. We'll practice interpreting self-assessment data and learn how to connect the results to strategic planning, resource decisions, and long-term goals. You'll hear real examples from the network about how affiliates have used the tool to spark meaningful conversations, build momentum, and take focused action.
- **Habitat Network Portal** - A live demonstration and training in using the soon-to-be released Habitat Network Portal. The portal is a secure, efficient tool that provides an easy way to complete deliverables, fosters collaboration, enables transparency, improves data usage and ultimately supports Habitat's vision and mission. The portal allows the network to interact with, provide information to, and receive direct support from HFHI. This tool serves to improve efficiency for the Habitat network by automating and streamlining processes as well as enabling collaboration in three main functional components: 1) Self-service, including aspects related to collaborative fundraising, 2) Outcome Measurement, 3) Grant Management.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3 9AM

- **Koinonia in the 21st Century** - Led by HFHI VP Natasha Reid Rice, this singular concluding session challenges attendees by asking how do our roots inform how we advance affordable housing in the U.S. today?