

Habitat for Humanity of Orange County  
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## PROFILE

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## CHARLES MULLIS ENGAGES IN HABITAT'S 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WORK

Habitat for Humanity of Orange County has been serving hundreds of residents in Orange County for the past four decades. As the Johnson Service Corps Intern for Habitat for Humanity of Orange County, Charles Mullis is creating materials to celebrate the work Habitat has done in the past 40 years.

Mullis focuses on research about the history of Habitat, ways to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and general event planning. By going through archived newspaper articles and photos, Mullis has found inspiration in Habitat's remarkable growth and evolution over the years. He is eager to share Habitat's growth with the community.



Charles Mullis works on a Habitat build at Weavers Grove on Nov. 9, 2023.

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Mullis got involved with Habitat for Humanity of Orange County through the Johnson Service Corps fellowship program. This is a 10.5-month program for adults, ages 21 to 28, to live together in an intentional community, explore justice work, and engage in spiritual and personal growth in Durham, North Carolina. Mullis is a part of a community of six fellows. Through this program, fellows grow their leadership, compassion, and inner strengths.

Johnson Service Corps fellows are matched with a nonprofit organization in the area and have the opportunity to grow their experiences and work within the community. Mullis was matched with Habitat for Humanity of Orange County and has become very involved and inspired by Habitat's mission and growth.

In addition to his role commemorating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Habitat, Mullis focuses on community engagement work by aiming to engage community members and encourage more involvement within Habitat.

“Doing more community engagement work has opened my eyes to the work Habitat is doing,” Mullis said.

This year, Habitat created the neighborhood engagement team. Mullis has an important role on this team as he works to understand how Habitat can engage neighborhoods and involvement. Mullis has been working in a neighborhood that Habitat built around 10 years ago.

“We have been trying to reengage that community in a very intentional way. Our ultimate goal is to build resident leadership in this neighborhood and other neighborhoods with the idea that they can be self-sustaining. We do not want dependence on Habitat for things that Habitat is not intended to be there for,” Mullis said.

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Mullis' involvement extends beyond simply observing the neighborhood. He actively engages in developing strategies to leverage existing resources within the community. This includes conducting an inventory of the resources that exist in the community. By understanding the community's resources, Mullis aims to maximize their impact.

Additionally, Mullis plays an important role in ensuring Habitat's active participation in community events. There is an upcoming event in the community called Unity in the Community. Mullis will ensure that Habitat has a table and is present at the event. Mullis will help foster meaningful connections with community members through this event and future events.

"We're one player out of many focusing on housing in the area and that's part of the advocacy work we're doing to figure out what Habitat's niche is in the housing market in general," Mullis said, reflecting on Habitat's role within the broader housing landscape. Habitat and Mullis are striving to ensure that everyone in Orange County has a safe and affordable place to call home.

Mullis has witnessed firsthand the incredible impact Habitat makes on the community. Mullis' work within Habitat for Humanity of Orange County helps Habitat to reach its goals toward a more engaged and welcoming community. Mullis is eager to show off the incredible work Habitat for Humanity of Orange County has done over the past 40 years in his efforts to highlight the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Habitat.

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