



Crew Leader Matthias Beatty

Matthias, tell us a little about yourself and what interested you in volunteering for Habitat.

I was adopted from Romania and have lived here in Brentwood since I was three years old. I have an older brother named Alex; a dog named Marley; a guinea pig named Molly; and two fish named Marley and Bob. My hobbies are building, playing golf and soccer, being outside, and hanging out with friends and my church youth group. I love helping people and volunteering. When the May 2010 flood happened, I was looking up volunteering

organizations and reading requirements on how old I had to be to volunteer. On one of the searches, Hands on Nashville came up, and the age to volunteer was fifteen. I was excited and talked with my parents and volunteered for several weekends. It showed me the outcome of what a community can do as a whole to help out others.

I have been volunteering with Habitat Williamson for three years and have loved every minute of my involvement! After the first time volunteering with Habitat, I was hooked. I loved the feeling of accomplishment and wanted to continue working with Habitat. I loved walking onto the property where we were building and being welcomed by Habitat staff and other volunteers. The atmosphere of the build site is very friendly and everyone is excited to work.

After two years, I asked if I could become a crew leader. I took safety courses and shadowed other crew leaders on several builds. My favorite part of being a crew leader is learning more about how to build the house step-by-step and being able to help teach other volunteers how to build a Habitat Home. I was taught that even though I'm a crew leader I look up to the other crew leaders for help and still ask for advice on how to complete projects for the house. I was honored that they trusted me at such a young age with such a major responsibility.

What drove your fundraising efforts? Do you have any advice for someone wanting to fundraise?

My mom was a big help with my fundraising. She helped me write the letter and helped send the FirstGiving link to friends and family. In the letter, I shared my personal interest in Habitat and why it was my passion. I genuinely thanked them for their support and explained how their donation was going to make a difference in the lives of this real family. My advice is to ask everyone you know



Matthias and students from Currey Ingram

and everyone your family knows, including their work place, friends, etc. Contact your church members, family members, teachers, etc. It does not hurt to ask for a small donation.

What will you take with you from working as a volunteer with Habitat?

I will take the pride of helping other families and knowing I have helped make their lives better. I am planning on going to Vincennes University in Indiana this fall. I will be studying Fire Science to become a firefighter. Then after college and a career as a firefighter, I plan to join the Air Force to serve my country.

Do you see yourself being involved in Habitat in the future?

Yes, I do! In Indiana they have a Habitat for Humanity, and I will be volunteering or working with them while I am up there. Vincennes sponsors three builds a year through its construction technology department, and I plan to keep volunteering on those projects.



*Matthias and the 2014 Habitat High Homeowners,
Marc and Lauren Pelfrey*

Anything else you want to share about your time with Habitat Williamson or Habitat High?

I have enjoyed working with David, Wes, Mike, Billy, Bill, and the homeowners. They have helped me to gain the self-confidence to lead others. Seeing the family move into their own home with a backyard for their little boy to play in made me feel proud to have been a part of this project.