

efficiency cottage program

An innovative solution to help families who could not afford to replace their homes after Hurricane Florence.



Turn page to read Cynthia's story



Cape Fear
Habitat
for Humanity®

the future

Though this program is currently restricted to veterans, elderly, and first responders, we have a goal to extend this opportunity to more families in the future. With the ability to rapidly respond, we think this program could serve more families faster in the event of another natural disaster.

The Efficiency Cottages program was made possible by Bank of America, Pender Long Term Recovery Group, and Habitat for Humanity International.

our approach



affordable

The cost of an efficiency cottage is less than our traditional build program because of the smaller square footage (600-800 sq ft) and building on the land the homeowner already owns with existing utility connections.



fast

The build schedule is much faster for these homes allowing hurricane impacted families to move in sooner.



sustainable

These stick-built homes are energy efficient and resilient to future storms.

learn more



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Cynthia's story

Prior to Hurricane Florence, Cynthia and her dog, Winston, lived in an aging mobile home on Honeysuckle Lane in Pender County. She remembers the many times she stepped out of the shower onto a cold floor in a house that just couldn't seem to keep the heat in. Still, she was thankful that at least she had a roof over her head.

After the storm, Cynthia's home became completely unlivable. She joined Cape Fear Habitat's ReBuild program and found her new beginning. She moved into an on-site trailer while working alongside Habitat staff and volunteers to build her new home, which everyone began calling "the Honeysuckle Cottage."

"I've grown to love them," Cynthia said about Habitat volunteers. "They saved me. I don't think I would have made it through another winter in my house. I really, really don't. This will be the first winter in many years I'll have heat," she said. "I'm just grateful to have a safe place to live, a warm place to live."

Today, Cynthia is happily moved into her new home and celebrated with her two daughters and grandson.

the process



Cynthia's home after Florence



On-site trailer during construction



Finished home