

Tulsa Master Gardeners & Habitat for Humanity

“Turning Houses into Homes”

For the past twenty-six years, Tulsa Master Gardeners have enjoyed the opportunity to collaborate with Green Country Habitat for Humanity. <https://greencountryhabitat.org/> As Habitat continues to increase the number of houses they build the Tulsa Master Gardeners have kept pace by planting flowerbeds at each new house. In 2023, the Master Gardeners planted a record 51 houses - a 40% increase compared to the year 2022. Each year, the volunteers develop new strategies to enhance the garden quality and the volunteer experience. We are excited about Habitat's plans to build 80 homes in 2024. There is a tremendous satisfaction in transforming a house into a home by adding beautiful flowerbeds

The planting process starts with Habitat for Humanity providing the Tulsa Master Gardeners with a list of homes currently under construction. A Master Gardener committee monitors the status of the potential homes. When a Habitat home is ready, volunteers are notified, nursery plants are selected, and a planting date is determined. Habitat for Humanity covers the cost of the plants and planting supplies (fertilizer, compost, and mulch), while the expertise and labor are provided by Tulsa Master Gardeners. Tulsa Master Gardeners select the most suitable plants for each specific location. It is amazing to see how an attractively landscaped flower bed transforms an unplanted house into a beautiful home for a deserving family.

But wait. Planting the home is not the end of the process. The objective is not only to enhance the beauty of a home but help increase the appreciation and education of the homeowner. Tulsa Master Gardeners prepare and deliver an educational packet to the new homeowners about the specific plants in their gardens. The information packets also contain pertinent information about home gardening and composting.

In addition, Brian Jervis, OSU's Tulsa County Extension Agent (and Horticulture guru) teaches a gardening class for the new homeowners in conjunction with Green Country Habitat for Humanity.

For more information about the Tulsa Master Gardeners and their Habitat for Humanity activities click on the following link:
<https://www.tulsamastergardeners.org/habitat-for-humanity-1.html>

For more information on Mr. Jervis and his background click on the link:
<https://extension.okstate.edu/county/tulsa/profiles/brian-jervis.html>

Check out the Tulsa Master Gardeners / Habitat for Humanity video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bu9rg8jgC5o>

Photo 1: Before the work begins



Photo 2: Work In Progress



Photo 3: Finished Product



Photo 4: Team photo at another home

