



## Habitat Williamson-Maury Board Member

### Ron Kirsch

Ron Kirsch joined the Board of Directors for the Habitat for Humanity Williamson-Maury in October 2012, chairing the Safety and Nominations Committees. He grew up in a small town near Milwaukee, Wisconsin and moved to Cleveland, Tennessee when he was 12 years old. Ron completed his Bachelor of Science degree at Middle Tennessee State University in 1983. He received his master's and PhD both from LaSalle University.

Ron has known his spouse, Kim Johnson Kirsch, since high school. They started dating while in college at MTSU and married in 1986. They have two sons, Hunter and Matthew, both of whom graduated from Ravenwood High School. Hunter resides in the greater Nashville area, and Matthew is a student at Baylor University. Ron, Kim, and sons have been active members at Brentwood United Methodist Church for over 20 years. Ron has also volunteered for Habitat for Humanity for many years through Brentwood United Methodist Church, The People's Church, and former companies. He led a team of volunteers to restore the Habitat playground at Hobson United Methodist Church in East Nashville and worked with Whirlpool's Building Blocks program builds in Atlanta and Dallas. Ron and his company prepared an online training and safety program that Habitat International adopted for worldwide use to fulfill OSHA requirements. Some of the other boards Ron serves on include the American Society of Safety Engineers, TN Safety & Health Congress, and National Fire Protection Association.

Ron is an experienced business development leader and seasoned occupational health, safety, and risk management professional. He is currently the Vice President of Business Development for Driver's Alert, Inc. Driver's Alert provides an end-to-end driver safety and risk management solutions that combine real-time driver observation and telematics, comprehensive online safety training, and the industry's best data management and risk identification tools. His career has provided extensive travels throughout the United States and to Europe, Korea, Japan, and the Middle East. One of his most interesting experiences involved doing business with a prince of Saudi Arabia, one of King Abdullah's sons. Ron shared his Christian faith with the prince who in turn gave him a Koran.

He likes that Habitat is an organization that provides hand-ups and not handouts. His favorite part of being involved with HFHWM is making differences in the lives of families. Ron explains, "I like the Christian foundation Habitat is built upon. It's similar to my career in occupational safety because it helps people. Families having a home changes their family tree and dynamics for the future. Habitat is a great model—it is faith-based and allows us to put values into action."

- Interview update by Board Member Jennifer Shepard, 9/15