William A. “Billy” Tesh has never met a problem he isn’t willing to tackle. Whether it was a homeless shelter with major pest infestations or a tutoring program with a shortage of volunteers or our affordable housing program needing creative funding; Billy has been at the forefront of solving those issues. As a native of Greensboro, Billy has touched so many nonprofits, professional associations and businesses that the list would fill up this entire nomination, but recognition is not his motivator. His wife, Laurie, summed him up best when she said, “He is passionate about life, he is excited by his work, family and helping other people. Each morning, he bounces out of bed excited about the day.” His boundless energy and innovation helped Habitat and the Greensboro Builders Association fund Raising Roofs, a builders blitz for the past eleven years. Tropical Jersey Night at the Greensboro Grasshoppers was Billy’s brainchild and has been underwritten by his company, Pest Management Systems (PMi) since the beginning in 2003. This event has raised $58,500 for Habitat and raised awareness of our program. To date Raising Roofs has built 50 homes for Habitat families in ten years, in large part due to Billy’s financial, professional and personal support. Billy also donates services from his companies, including free pre-treats for all Habitat homes and drainage and hardscaping for build sites. He is always willing to help out Habitat families and has donated countless hours and over $75,000 in services to Habitat. Billy has also been a connector for Habitat introducing new donors to our organization and sharing his love of our mission with others. He has earned the reputation as someone we can rely on to help us solve problems, make introductions and support our organization. Billy’s impact on Habitat is like a meteor. Upon impact, a meteor scatters across the terrain leaving parts of it across the landscape. Billy is like that meteor making a huge impact through his financial contribution but his involvement and commitment spreads throughout our organization.

The energizer bunny of philanthropy, Billy not only helps organizations through his personal philanthropy but also through his creative thinking and coalition building. Through his thoughtful guidance, he has assisted Habitat with major build site drainage issues and insures safe and healthy homes for all Habitat homeowners. His identification of Tropical Jersey Night as a signature funding event for Raising Roofs created a foundation of funds and a community partnership. He serves on the board of directors of the Greensboro Science Center and built several outdoor exhibits as well as donating the first otter, “Jelly”, to the Science Center. He donated thousands of man hours to Camp Weaver to build nature trails, a skateboard park and the amphitheater, named after him. He has served as a volunteer for Big Brothers/Big Sisters at Faulkner Elementary. He has been a sponsor of UNCG Spartans Basketball program and has funded scholarships for children for Wes Miller’s Basketball Camp. He is a donor for Corks for Kids Path and offers discounted services to Greensboro Hospice. He is a longtime supporter of the Autism Society of North Carolina and has participated in the Raleigh Ribbon Run for autism awareness. He raised funds, along with his daughter, to give 280 new smiles to children in 3rd world countries through Operation Smile. He is a sponsor and supporter of FRIENDS for an earlier test foundation. Each year he encourages all of the women at his company to participate in the Women’s Only 5k, paying for their registrations. He is a supporter of Victory Junction Gang Camp providing discounted professional services to the 90 acres and 60 buildings and program areas. Billy has volunteered through the American Red Cross and Project Blessings to help victims of the Tuscaloosa Tornados in 2011, personally delivering food, clothing and visiting the injured. He donated services ($20,000+) to the Davidson County Homeless Shelter and the Salvation Army in Greensboro for severe bed bug infestations, keeping hundreds of people from losing their only shelter. Billy is a leader in the community serving with Greater Greensboro Builders Association, Better Business Bureau, Greensboro Merchants Association and Triad Local First. He has served as the President of the North Carolina Pest Management Association and currently is the President of the National Pest Management Association. Laurie Tesh shared their motto, “Have Faith and Hang on!” Billy meets life with that philosophy taking us all on a rollercoaster ride of constant action, thrills and exhilaration.