

MAKING SOMETHING GOOD

BY TIFFANY HORTON, HORTON DESIGN STUDIOS

PHOTOS BY MATT CORNELIUS



OWNERS
Natalie and Cody Peek
Rendi and Dr. Josh Wiggins

LOCATION
Nash, Texas

BUSINESS
Local Habit Coffee Co.

SIZE
Over 2,200 square feet

LOT SIZE
1 acre

DESIGNER
Justin Scurlock,
Scurlock Studio

RENOVATED
2022

“GO MAKE SOMETHING GOOD HAPPEN”

is more than just a motto for the new coffee shop in Nash, Texas; it is a way of life. Local Habit owners Rendi and Dr. Josh Wiggins and Natalie and Cody Peek exemplify this phrase in many ways. Whether through their other businesses, their children’s schools, volunteering, or simply through the relationships they have built, they strive to make a difference in our community every day. With Local Habit, they make a positive impact both locally and globally each step of the way.

Local Habit possesses a unique story of how it came to fruition. Cody and Natalie come from construction and architecture backgrounds and love rehabbing old buildings. They also have other companies and properties in the Nash area and, as a result, spend a lot of time in that community. They noticed how busy New Boston Road was and how much potential the area had for growth. At first, they bought an old vacant school in Nash and started plans for a boutique hotel with a restaurant. Then one day, Natalie and Rendi went to an estate



sale in an old home on New Boston Road, where they learned that the house would soon be for sale.

Once Cody knew it would be on the market, he was on high alert. As soon as it was available, he made an offer. At that time, he was unsure what to do with the house, but he knew the home was full of potential and could be an asset to the area. "I bought it and thought, now what do we do? Then, I thought a coffee shop would be a great idea," Cody said. "It would be a good place for that. Nash is underserved with some of those things, and it would be really compatible with other projects we have planned."

"[Cody] wanted to do something that would protect the house, keeping some of the architectural interest because this house is one of the older homes in Nash," Josh added. "There is a lot of history around the house with the school and different students, so a big part of it was finding a business that would fit." You may be wondering how they landed on the concept of a coffee shop and what gave them the confidence that they had the proper knowledge to install one. "Nobody I know enjoys coffee like Josh," Cody laughed. "He has talked about getting into the coffee business on some level, either with a roaster or a shop, so I talked to Josh, who said, 'Let me get with Rendi. It's a maybe.' Rendi liked the idea too, so we said, 'Let's do it!'"



Taking their new venture from concept to reality started once the group decided on a type of business. While general planning and discussion took almost a year, they were able to design, remodel, and open the business in an unheard-of five-month time frame.

During this time, Josh also found a coffee school where he could learn the ins and outs of opening and running a successful coffee shop. "It has all the coffee information, but then it also had a significant amount of minutia about cups and what percentage of our cost can be in a drink for us to be okay," Josh explained. "We learned a lot about the equipment, ordering, how to flow things, and how to organize the equipment in a way that allows the baristas to do what they need to do in a way that is comfortable and allows them to interact with the customer."

While Josh was busy learning about running a coffee shop, Cody oversaw the renovation process. Though he had crews available to do the work, and both he and Natalie have extensive backgrounds in design, the group gives a vast amount of credit to Justin Scurlock with local business Scurlock Studio for his help with the design and his very hands-on approach to the whole project. Natalie was able to work with Justin on both the function of the overall design and the aesthetics. Josh and Justin spent time reviewing each piece of equipment and how it would function



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within the coffee-making process, so ideally, the baristas would not have to cross paths to get their jobs done. Rendi stepped in for the legal components and worked with a marketing company on logo design, but the group gives her credit for naming Local Habit. "It was really cool. We had been working on a name for a while," Josh said. Natalie elaborated, "We were working, trying to put words together, and when Rendi said [Local Habit], it was like—that's it!"

Once they had a name, they completed their vision for the house, the business, and how it would tie into the community. The Local Habit team expressed their gratitude to the City of Nash and City Manager Doug Bowers for their support and excitement around Local Habit's presence. "I think that other areas in this district could foster Cody's vision," Natalie said. "It was important to create a sense of place within Local Habit." The whole team wanted the shop to be a place where people were comfortable to hang out with a nice cup of coffee, have a meeting on the patio, or lead a Bible study on the porch. Their vision is for so much more than just a great cup of coffee.



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As for the coffee itself, the team worked hard to curate a cup as good as, or better than, any other in the world. To accomplish this, they decided to purchase their beans through micro-roasters such as Greater Goods out of Austin, Texas. "They are a smaller company, that affords them the luxury to experiment and do what they want to do in the way they want to," Josh said. "Everything is roasted there in Austin. They have team members onsite at the farms, allowing them to know exactly what that particular lot tastes like that year. They can then get exactly the lots they want [and] develop a profile specific to those beans." The Peeks and Wiggins were also very excited that micro-roasters buy directly from the farmers, cutting out the wholesaler in the middle, so the farmer can better support his/her family. "We want to be great citizens of Nash and be local, present, and part of our schools. Because of our choices with the specialty coffee industry, those growers who are steps back in the coffee chain are also enjoying a better quality of life," said Josh.

Due to the detail that is put into every ingredient and item on the menu, Local Habit is already building up a regular clientele and developing relationships with the community around them. Manager Carington Bright added, "It has been really cool to see the different regulars. Even each barista has his/her own regulars that come at specific times of the day or when they know that person is working. It is also cool to see downstairs where people are having meetings. People have a Bible study or just sit, laugh, and drink, creating that place for community to happen." Carington then shared stories about some of the regulars, telling about a particular customer who grew up playing with one of the kids who lived in the house, Mr. Brown. He still comes almost daily to sit on the front porch and reminisce. Two other noteworthy customers are



the granddaughters of the lady that owned the house for so many years. They enjoy seeing the house full of so much life and love, and they always seem to have a story to share when they come by.

It is safe to say that the community the Peeks and Wiggins dreamed of is coming to fruition and that Local Habit is becoming one of the best habits around. "Food is a comfort thing. Coffee is a comfort thing. We wanted people to be able to come and enjoy that inner feeling in a space where they were comfortable. What better place than an old home, right where somebody was comfortable," said Natalie. "And what better way to send them out the door than encouraging them to 'go make something good happen.'" 📍



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