



Habitat for Humanity®
of Douglas County, Minnesota

25
years

the BLUEPRINT

Summer 2022 Newsletter



every door

opens new opportunities

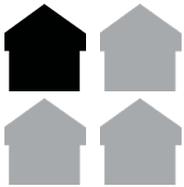
See p. 4 for highlights from the Hard Hat Events!

Dear Friends,

Thanks to you and this amazing community, our affiliate is **#6 out of 428 in the nation for the total families served**. We are grateful for this community that joins together to open doors for more families to have stability and hope. This impact is a result of this community coming together to say, "We believe in what you are doing and we want to help." **This community makes a difference. We would not be able to do this important work without you. Thank you!**

There is real return when people invest in a community. For every dollar invested in Habitat, \$1.54 is invested in the local economy through our work. That investment impacts not only people today, but generations of change for the future.

Homeownership is important to our community. Owning a home is part of the American dream. Affordable homeownership is a homerun for families like Tyson's (see picture at right). When you support Habitat, you are supporting critical positions in our community - our Habitat homebuyers are employed in health care, education, and manufacturing. They are the front-line workers making our community run. We believe investing in affordable housing for young people and seniors makes a great community.



Unfortunately, 1 in 4 Douglas County households spends more than they can afford on housing. The rule of thumb is that no one should spend more than 30% of their monthly income on housing so they have money left to afford everyday expenses.

The reality is that the need for affordable housing continues to grow. Our work is far from done. Our hope this year is to build 5 new homes and complete 25 Aging in Place projects. Your continued support - whether on the build sites, financially, or through prayer - are an integral part of building a stronger community. **Join us to continue being the change.**

With gratitude,

Lori Anderson

Since 1997, we've served:

134 families

80 new or improved homes

54 Aging in Place projects



**Lori Anderson,
Habitat Executive Director**



Our mission:

Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.

Our vision:

A world where everyone has a decent place to live.

Home is Family

For homeowner Jenna, the journey to homeownership was all about family. Her family, the family of volunteers helping build her home, the family that developed from the partnership with her mentors, Greta and Joel Siegel, and the feeling of family that surrounded her throughout the process. **"My children are my world. I want them to know they are loved, important, that I will always be their biggest supporter, loudest fan, and do everything I can to give them the life they deserve."**

Jenna has worked very hard to achieve her dream of owning a home. Though her first application was denied, Jenna did not give up hope. "After working on a few things, I applied the second time and was accepted into the program." Her determination continued throughout the build process as she completed more than the 200 hours of required sweat equity, including visiting the build site as much as she could during her lunch break and after school. **"When you want something, you set a goal and figure out how to make it work."**

Through her role on the Homeowner Selection Committee, Greta met Jenna while participating in the home visit, one of the steps of the application process. She felt a connection to Jenna right away and volunteered to be her mentor if she was approved. During the process, both families really bonded together. "I don't know if our paths would have crossed if not for this experience, but I can't imagine my life without her. I've seen first-hand how hard she fights for her kids, how the events of her life have shaped her into the determined and dedicated mom she is, and how much respect her kids give her." Both Jenna and Greta's families continue to get together for pizza, games, and fun.

Since closing on her home this spring, Jenna now feels grateful, blessed and happy. **"I feel fulfilled, cared-for, nurtured and want to give back, just like everyone has done for me. I had so much community support. From the bottom of my heart, thank you to everyone for their time, efforts, and financial support to help provide a home for a family like mine. Our home is a place of safety, family, and a place to grow."**



**Pictured above:
Jenna and her children**



**From L to R:
Greta, Jenna & Joel**



Drawing by Piper



First day of the build



Jenna & Greta

Thank you for opening doors at the Hard Hat Events!



Pictures above and right are from the June 15, 2022 Hard Hat Events.

Over 600 people gathered at the Hard Hat events on Wednesday, June 15, 2022 to celebrate 25 years in Douglas County. The event showcased how the lives of 134 families have been transformed through affordable homeownership and repairs, impacting lives for many generations.

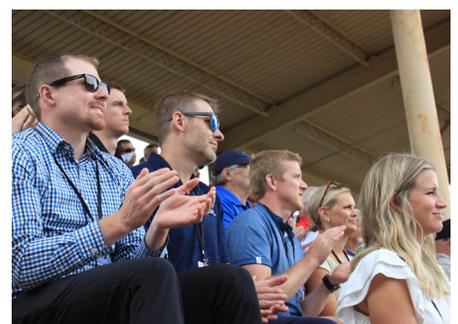
Habitat co-founders Dave Anderson and Bob Loucks reflected on how the affiliate got started. After many years and thousands of hours creating policies, procedures, prayer and planning, the affiliate was finally approved by Habitat for Humanity International on January 31, 1997. Despite the length of time it took to get organized, people often eagerly asked, "Can we pound nails yet?"

"I am proud to say I am a Habitat homeowner!" shared speaker Jenna, who closed on her home this spring. "My children are the reason I applied to Habitat. I want them to have a place for them to call home, a place they are proud to invite their friends to, a place they are safe."

Greta Siegel, member of the Homeowner Selection Committee and mentor with her husband, Joel, complimented Jenna's efforts throughout the process. "I've seen how hard she has worked to build a solid, stable life for her children."

Nicole Fernholz, Executive Director for the Alexandria Area Economic Development Commission, stated: "The average annual income of Douglas County residents is \$53,000, which is not enough to afford a median income value home in Douglas County of \$229,511 and keep the monthly payment within 30%." The 30% rule is based on the industry standard for how much a family can reasonably spend monthly on housing and still have money left to afford everyday expenses like food and transportation.

Thank you to everyone who supported Habitat at the Hard Hat events. Donations are already at work building two homes side-by-side in Alexandria this summer. There's still time to make a donation to support your neighbors by visiting hfhdouglascounty.org.



Foundation of Hope Sponsor (\$7,500)



**Thank you to our
2022 Hard Hat
Event sponsors!**

House of Strength Sponsors (\$2,500)



Door to Tomorrow Sponsors (\$1,500)



Window of Opportunity Sponsors (\$1,000)



Pillar of Stability Sponsors (\$500)



Build Updates

Faith Build



**Pictured above:
Brenda and her children**

Construction on our Faith Build home began on April 18, 2022. Despite the cold day and snow, the hearts of our volunteers were warm as they rallied to tip up walls for Brenda's family. Since starting, 162 volunteers have given 1,405 volunteer hours to help build this home. All the walls are complete, siding is on, interior painting has been done and the kitchen/bathrooms are ready for cabinets to be installed. We'll soon be back on site to complete the rest of the interior work including trim, accessories, appliances, and the final clean before closing sometime this late fall.



First day of the build!



Brenda & son



Exterior complete

Anniversary Builds



**Pictured L to R: Blaze &
Valerie; Melanie & son**

June 16, 2022, was another milestone day for our affiliate as we began construction on both of our Anniversary Build homes simultaneously. Located side-by-side, we've even had a few days when groups have built on both homes on the same day. All the walls are built, trusses have been set, windows and doors installed, siding is on and sheetrock is hung. Once the interior of the Faith Build home is complete, we'll return to these sites to finish all the interior work. We've already welcomed 154 volunteers who've shared 627 hours on these homes and the homes are not quite halfway complete.



First day of the build!



Valerie & Melanie



Houses are side-by-side

Thank you to our 2022 Team Builder Businesses



For more information about the Team Build program, contact Lori at 320-762-4255.

Habitat Board of Director Changes

As we begin our new fiscal year, we wish to honor our outgoing board members and celebrate the new members joining us. Habitat is honored to have an innovative and passionate board of twelve members who govern our work. Our board is comprised of professionals who focus on our mission, strategy, and goals.



Jon Ballou
Douglas Machine



Michelle Bethke-Kaliher
Alexandria Schools



Jeff Hohn
Massman Companies



Rick Sansted
Alexandria Schools

Thank you to outgoing members Jon Ballou and Michelle Bethke-Kaliher. Both Jon and Michelle have served on the board since 2015. Jon served on the Governance Committee and as Board Chair from 2018-2020; Michelle served on the Homeowner Support Committee since 2015, the DEI Committee, and as Secretary from 2017-2019. We are grateful for their leadership and vision!

We are excited to welcome Jeff Hohn & Rick Sansted to our board. Jeff is the President & CEO of The Massman Companies and Rick is the Superintendent of the Alexandria School District. These new members are passionate about supporting their community, dedicated to our mission, and excited to use their talents and connections to help Habitat continue to grow.



every child

deserves a home base from
which to explore the world



EQUAL HOUSING
OPPORTUNITY

**Building strength,
stability and
self-reliance
through shelter.**



Here's the scoop, we think you're *awesome!*

You've been an important part of our mission for 25 years
and we thank you for your sweet support.

Join us

**Tues, August 23, 2022
3:00-5:00 pm**

**First Lutheran Church
1655 18th Ave E, Alexandria**

