

# the **BLUEPRINT**

**Spring 2024 Newsletter**



**Affiliate receives Malachi 3:10 award & celebrates Lori's 20 years - see p. 2**

**every person**  
can advocate and help more families build  
strength, stability, and independence

# Dear Friends,

Twenty years sure go by quickly! Having been hired as the affiliate’s first part-time employee in 2004, I have seen many things change during my tenure. When I started in this role, construction on the seventh house was underway. Twenty years later, Habitat has built or improved an additional 80 homes, with another closing this month.



**Lori Anderson,**  
**Habitat Executive Director**

A look back by the numbers:

- 87 houses have been constructed or repaired.
- Aging in Place began in 2017 and has completed 83 projects.
- The ReStore opened in 2014 (see p. 7 for highlights).
- I served six years on the US Council for Habitat for Humanity International.
- The Habitat team grew from one part-time employee to 10 full-time and 2 part-time employees.

Because of the tremendous support from our communities, over 426 individuals have built or improved places to call home in Douglas County. Thank you!

Another highlight came last month at the Habitat for Humanity National Conference when our affiliate received the Malachi 3:10 Award for surpassing \$500,000 in lifetime tithe. What an honor! Tithe is one of the cornerstones of Habitat enabling U.S. affiliates to directly support Habitat's international work in more than 30 countries around the world. Through our tithe, we have served 112 international families as well as tithe for International Disasters (Ukraine); the average cost for an international home is \$4,500. When Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County was approved as an affiliate, the Board selected Central America as the recipient of our tithe. One of Habitat Douglas County’s founders, Dave Anderson, shared, “At that time, people from northern countries were invited to live with families in Central America, such as Nicaragua. Hardly anyone spoke Spanish, but we were able to communicate with one another. At night, families would gather in the street and talk about their worries for their families, especially their children. I thought, ‘We’re all the same.’” In addition to tithing, Habitat volunteers from Douglas County have participated in at least seven Global Village trips to help build Habitat homes in Cambodia, Vietnam, Mexico, Bangladesh, and Nepal.

Looking forward, Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County has a bright future! Construction on Summer Meadows will begin this year allowing us to build 42 affordable homes over the next 8-10 years. As the first affordable housing development in Alexandria since 2002, Habitat will deepen its impact on the critical need for affordable housing in Douglas County.

To learn more about how you can continue to transform the lives of local families, we hope you will join us at our 2024 Hard Hat Events on May 15.

*Lori Anderson*

### 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.

Since 1997, your support has helped

<b>170 families</b>	
 <b>87</b>	new or improved homes
 <b>83</b>	Aging in Place projects

# 18th Annual Hard Hat Events



## Save the date! Wednesday, May 15, 2024

Home has an important meaning to everyone. What does it mean to you?

The Hard Hat events play an important role in raising funds to build affordable homes and help older adults age in their homes with dignity. Join us for an inspirational hour to connect with friends and hear from Habitat homeowners who, with your help, are building strength, stability, and self-reliance for their families.

This year's program will feature homeowner, Christie Nohre. Christie and her family moved into their home in 2011. She will share what having a home means for her and her family and how homeownership has impacted their lives. Kasey Morris, Habitat's new Director of Development, will highlight the impact of Aging in Place projects for homeowners. Habitat Board Member, Rick Sansted, and Hard Hat Event Co-Chair, Allie Janssen, will serve as emcees, with a special message to be shared by Lori Anderson. Registration is open! Whether invited by a Table Host or coming as an individual, everyone is welcome to attend. **Visit our website to register at [hfhdouglascounty.org](http://hfhdouglascounty.org).** Please contact our office at 320-762-4255 with any questions.



**Pictured above: Scott & Christie's family along with mentors Jerry & Joyce Hansen**  
(photo credit: Jennifer Guenther)

### Breakfast: 6:15-8:00 am

Doors open at 6:00 am. Enjoy a delicious breakfast of scrambled eggs, bacon, fresh fruit, and caramel rolls with the musical talents of The Healers.



### Happy Hour: 5:00-7:00 pm (new time!)

Doors open at 4:45 pm, with social hour from 5-5:45 pm. Savor tasty appetizers while experiencing the musical gifts of The Healers.

At Habitat, we build because we believe that everyone, everywhere should have a decent place to call home. When a family helps build or improve a place they can call home, they are also building a better community.

When you make a gift at the Hard Hat events, your donation helps build a brighter future for our neighbors.

Contact our office at 320-762-4255 with questions.

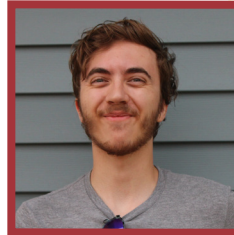
# Build Updates

## 2023 build recap



### Courtney

Courtney and her family moved into their home in January. They are almost unpacked and are settled in.



Andrew will close on his home later this month. He's excited to have his own space and use his new kitchen to make delicious meals.



### Anthony

Anthony and his family moved into their home in January. They welcomed a new baby into the home and are enjoying time together.



Katrina and her family are looking forward to moving into their home in a couple of months. They are excited to play in their backyard. This home, the Legends Build, has been built by the carpentry students at Alexandria Technical & Community College.



### Jackie

Jackie and her son moved into their home in March. They are thrilled to be in their own space and create new memories together.

## Meet the first three homebuyers of 2024!



### Angel

"My family is looking forward to spending time together and making memories. Our lives have already changed - we have gained more respect for life. My amazing friends and family supported me to apply. The community support is incredible!"



### Matt & Chelsey

"Affordable housing is hard to come by in this area. Even though we have intentionally saved for a house, we found it difficult to find affordable, safe housing for our growing family. We look forward to having space for our family, decorating, and making the house a home."



### Codie

"My family has moved 12 times. My kids need stability and a 'home' that they will always be able to come back to. I'm looking forward to a safe place for my family. I'm excited to host holidays, birthday parties, have a yard of my own and start a garden!"

# Our Volunteers are Habitat Heroes!

At Habitat for Humanity, we are continually grateful for the people who give precious time to help others. Your participation and support allows Habitat to help more families build and improve places to call home.

Volunteers fuel our vision of a world where everyone has a decent place to live. They do so by building homes with hammers — and by building relationships. Our volunteers get to see smiles on the faces of future Habitat homeowners, as they all work side by side to realize the dream of a home where a family can grow stronger and more self-reliant.



We are so lucky to have such dedicated volunteers! In fact, volunteers like you are crucial in making our mission a reality and we literally can't do it without you —thank you!

**Thank you to our Habitat Heroes!**

## 2023 Volunteer Stats



\*Independent Sector gathers data and conducts research on volunteerism in the nonprofit sector. In 2023, the value of each volunteer hour in MN was \$34.47.

We celebrate every volunteer who helped swing a hammer, mentor a homeowner, serve on our board or committee, work in the ReStore or office, or help in any capacity in 2023.

Congratulations to the following volunteers who reached volunteer milestones last year.



### 10 years

Dennis Preston

### 5 years

Cindy Frederick  
 Laurie Ghizoni  
 Charley Good  
 Justin Habel  
 Paula Howard  
 Florian Ledermann  
 Michelle Lenertz  
 Nicole Mehrer  
 Bill Melaas  
 Trebor Merriman

Devin Middendorf  
 Doug Olson  
 Cami Pexsa  
 Rachel Primus  
 Paul Quam  
 Marc Sugden  
 Eric Turner  
 Jill Urke  
 Lori Zastrow

### A special note:

Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County began as an all volunteer-led organization. While we know our founders and first volunteers contributed thousands of hours to bring our mission to life, our records begin tracking hours in 2004. **To the dedicated people who volunteered between 1997-2004, we are thankful for your vision and passion!**

## Meet Kasey!

Habitat is thrilled to announce the addition of Kasey Morris as our new Director of Development! She brings a dynamic, results-oriented approach and a passion for impactful causes to the team.

**Building a Brighter Future for Alexandria.** While new to the fundraising role, Kasey brings a wealth of experience and transferable skills from her previous role as Director of Events at Bold North Cellars. She successfully managed all aspects of the event department, from sales and planning to client and staff supervision. This experience has equipped her with a strong foundation in relationship building, strategic planning, and achieving financial goals.



**Kasey Morris**  
Director of Development

**Excited to Learn and Contribute.** Kasey shares, "I am deeply honored to join the Habitat for Humanity team in Alexandria. I am inspired by the organization's mission of building affordable housing and creating stronger communities, and I am eager to leverage my experience and enthusiasm to contribute to this impactful work. I am confident that with the support of the dedicated team at Habitat, I can learn and grow in this new role, making a positive impact on our community."

We warmly welcome Kasey to the Habitat family and look forward to her contributions in shaping a brighter future for our community.

## Maximize Your Local Impact with Donor Advised Funds

Did you know there is a way to magnify your impact on affordable housing in Douglas County while potentially receiving tax benefits? Donor Advised Funds (DAFs) allow you to contribute cash, stocks, or other assets to a dedicated account. These funds grow tax-free, and you have the flexibility to recommend grants to qualified charities like Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County on your own timeline. This offers a win-win: you receive an immediate tax deduction for your initial contribution and potentially avoid capital gains taxes on donated appreciated assets, while supporting your preferred impactful local causes.

By recommending a grant from your DAF to Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County, you will directly contribute to building safe and affordable housing for families in need, educational and financial literacy programs for Habitat homeowners, and advocacy efforts for more affordable housing options within Alexandria.

Combining the tax benefits of a DAF with the impactful work of Habitat is a powerful way to make a significant contribution to Alexandria's future. Research DAF options, open an account with an organization that aligns with your philanthropic goals, and contribute assets. Financial institutions located in Alexandria to consider include: Thrivent, Edward Jones, Northwestern Mutual, Stonebridge Wealth Management, Ameriprise, and Financial Advisor Lakes Area. Please note: Consult your tax/financial advisor for specific guidance on your situation.



**every dollar**  
invested in housing has  
an exponential return,  
transforming our entire  
community for many generations

# ReStore Celebrates 10 years on May 1!

What began as a once-a-year garage sale, along with several years of planning, became our ReStore on May 1, 2014.

ReStore Manager, Bob Voltz, shared in 2014, "To be able to take items that one family no longer needs, sell them to another individual who is looking for just that item (and is excited to find it at a reasonable price), and then turn around and use those dollars to help yet another provide a safe and affordable home for their family is truly exciting. We are looking forward to adding the ReStore as a part of our mission and to see it meeting needs and connecting people in new and meaningful ways."

Fast forward 10 years and the success of the ReStore is clear. Since opening in 2014, the ReStore has contributed over \$968,000 to Habitat's mission. "The support of this community - through donations and shopping the ReStore - has been incredible. We would like to thank everyone for their generosity and for shopping at the ReStore. You are helping families in our local community purchase or improve safe, stable, and affordable housing. You are also helping keep tons of pounds of building materials out of a landfill."

Habitat and the ReStore wish to thank Bob Voltz for his leadership throughout the past 10 years. Stop by the ReStore on May 1 to wish him well as he retires.



Thank you, Bob!

## A look back at the ReStore:



2012:  
Building purchased



May 1, 2014:  
Grand Opening



2015:  
Donation Van



2018:  
Parking lot expansion

## ReStore by the Numbers:



**24,325**  
Donations



**3,316**  
Pick-ups



**1,706**  
Tons Saved  
from Landfill

**Most popular item: refrigerators**  
**Top categories: furniture, appliances, cabinets**

**Store Hours**  
**Wed - Sat**  
**9 am - 5 pm**

**Donations**  
**Mon - Sat**  
**10 am - 4 pm**  
**Call 320-759-1989 to schedule.**

 **Habitat for Humanity**<sup>®</sup>  
of Douglas County, Minnesota  
1211 N Nokomis NE  
Alexandria, MN 56308



**every one**

deserves to build a better future for their family



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

**Upcoming events!**

**You're invited!**

 **Habitat for Humanity**<sup>®</sup>  
of Douglas County  
Minnesota

**18th Annual**  
**Hard Hat Events**  
**May 15, 2024**

Breakfast 6:15-8:00 am or Happy Hour 5:00-7:00 pm

**Broadway Ballroom, 115 30th Ave E, Alexandria**

**You're Invited!**

**Habitat Friends & Family Picnic**

**June 20, 2024**  
**5:00 - 7:00 pm**

**City Park**  
**118 City Park Rd, Alexandria**

 **Habitat for Humanity**<sup>®</sup>  
of Douglas County, Minnesota