

the **BLUEPRINT**

Winter 2023 Newsletter



See p. 6 for highlights from the first annual Upcycle ReSale Event

every donation
helps build affordable housing
in Douglas County

Dear Friends,

Last year, our board and staff met for a strategic planning session and dreamed of how we could build more, serve more, and engage more people. Throughout the past year, we've honed our conversations to create our 2024-2028 Strategic Plan as seen on p. 3.

The strategic planning process set forth the momentum to purchase land for our first large-scale development, called Summer Meadows. The development will allow 42 homes to be built over the next 10 years, with 4 to 5 homes built each year. This project addresses a need identified in the 2023 Alexandria Housing Study which recommended the construction of eight to ten affordable homes each year.

In October, I had the honor of volunteering at the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Work Project in Charlotte, North Carolina. Laura Belcher, CEO of Habitat Charlotte gave me a personal tour of the development, which when completed will include 37 affordable homes. It was inspiring to see a project very similar to our Summer Meadows Development. This was a bucket list experience for me, and a highlight was meeting Habitat Humanitarians Garth Brooks and Trisha Yearwood (pictured below bottom left). Next year, the Carter Work Project will take place in the Twin Cities and be hosted by Twin Cities Habitat.

We are grateful for the steadfast support of our mission from this community whether financially, on the build site, shopping at or donating to the ReStore. Because of your support, Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County is ranked #7 out of 428 small affiliates in the nation for housing production. This work would not be possible without you! I am also extremely grateful and proud of the way our board and team supported each other this past year without missing a beat while making plans to serve even more people!

We look forward to building five new homes and completing 25 Aging in Place projects in the upcoming year. Thank you for the many ways you support affordable homeownership opportunities to make this goal a reality.

With gratitude,

Lori Anderson



Pictured left: Lori with Garth Brooks & Trisha Yearwood; pictured above: Lori with fellow U.S. Council Members at the Carter Work Project



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.

Because of your support, since 1997, we've served:

158
families

84
new or improved homes

74
Aging in Place projects

1,505
of tons saved from landfills through ReStore donations

Board Approves Five-Year Strategic Plan



At the November 16, 2023, Board Meeting, the Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County Board of Directors approved a new five-year strategic plan. The plan encapsulates the theme “We build, engage and serve together for all.” Through this strategic plan, Habitat will address the critical need for affordable housing in Douglas County.

Highlights of the plan include:

- Increasing affordable homeownership opportunities and pathways to homeownership
- Stabilizing and preserving housing for seniors
- Optimizing the ReStore for future growth
- Educating the community while creating meaningful partnerships through advocacy.

Tony Loosbrock, Habitat’s Board Chair commented, “We have much to celebrate at Habitat with the many successful homeowners we’ve had the privilege to help throughout the years. Our focus on the future, as demonstrated in this strategic plan, is important to recognize and provides a sense of pride in how we can continue to strengthen this community. Like a home provides a strong foundation for success, Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County has a strong foundation to build upon. With the continued support of our amazing community, we will further our mission and deepen our positive impact in the communities we serve.”

Like our future homeowners, we are dreaming big and courageously broadening our horizons in pursuit of finding ways to serve more. Affordable homeownership is a life-changing opportunity, and it's impossible without you: a community that believes we can do better.

Contact Lori Anderson with any questions or to donate to support our foundational work at 320-762-4255 or lori@hfhdouglascounty.org

Build Updates



Pictured left clockwise, top: Team Build home, Courtney landscaping, Courtney with mentors John & Donna Thoennes, and Courtney.



Pictured above clockwise, top: Faith Build home, Anthony, Anthony and son with mentors Anne & Greg Stehn, and Anthony prepping for siding.

Team Build & Faith Build Homes

Landscaping and the lawn were planted in October. Our Trim Team has been hard at work in both the Team Build and Faith Build homes installing all the trim, doors, accessories and getting ready for the contractors to finish up electrical and plumbing. We'll soon be scheduling the final clean and dedication. These will be the first two homes to close in early 2024! What a great way to start the year.



Women Build Home

Lots of progress has been made on Jackie's home! Landscaping was planted in October, siding, flooring, and cabinets have been installed. The Trim Team will soon get to work adding all the trim, doors, and accessories.

Pictured left clockwise, top: Women Build home, Jackie with mentor Pat Engen, Jackie's strong woman pose, and Jackie.

ALEXANDRIA Technical & Community **COLLEGE** **Legends Build**



The Legends Build, built by carpentry program students from Alexandria College, is well under way! Siding was installed in November so work can now transition to the interior items. Construction on this home will continue into the spring.

Pictured above clockwise, top: Legends Build home, Katrina with mentor Christine Hohn, ATCC students and instructors, Katrina on the build site, and Katrina.



Cardinal Build

Our fifth Cardinal Build has seen lots of action this fall. Construction began on October 4. The exterior of the home is weather tight and dried in for the winter. Siding will be added in the spring. Interior work will continue throughout the winter.



Pictured left clockwise, top: Cardinal Build home, Andrew, AAHS students (Dakota, Keith, Collin & Brayden), Andrew with mentor Dave Murphy, and Andrew.



ReStore Corner

The first annual Upcycle ReSale Challenge and Event planned by three high school DECA students - Lauren Revering, Emma Paulsen and Faith Odland (pictured right) - for their Community Awareness project was a success!

With an initial goal of 10 items to sell, the super creative crafters of this community submitted 25 items for the challenge (see pictures below). Over 50 people attended the event which featured a silent auction and Voters' Choice awards followed by a live auction for the handmade cedar strip canoe. The auctions raised over \$3,500 which will be doubled thanks to a State Farm matching grant.

There is still time to support the DECA students and have your donation DOUBLED by giving the gift of home this holiday season! Simply indicate your wish to support the DECA project when you make your donation.

Voters' Choice winners

- A)** Best in Show - McCarten Design for the dog station
- B)** Most Functional - Ron Gallus for the charcuterie board
- C)** Most Creative - Linda Bear for the white dresser
- D)** Honorable Mention - Mona Strege for the coffee bar

Check out the creatively upcycled items below!



Pictured above (clockwise): upcycled items, DECA students, and Mona during the live auction.

Store Hours
Wed - Sat
9 am - 5 pm

Donations
Mon - Sat
10 am - 4 pm

**Call 320-759-1989
to schedule.**

Give the Gift of Home

The importance of home is undeniable - a comfortable place to gather with family, a safe space to shelter from storms or recover when sick, or a place to find peace.

Home equals safety and security. Home equals health. And home equals an opportunity for a better future.

We all want a safe place to live, yet for many in our community, living here is a real challenge. Jackie and her son are not comfortable in their current living situation. They are concerned about their safety due to the condition of their apartment and activity in the building.

You can help make a difference for a local family by giving the gift of home for the holidays. Your donation will be DOUBLED through a State Farm matching grant which supports the DECA students too!



Jackie is excited for her house! (see p. 4 for an update) "This house will be such a blessing for us. I've already seen a difference in my son. He's interested in the construction process and is looking forward to watching local ball games from his safe space. The smiles I've already seen give me hope for him and the stability and security this house will provide."

There's still time to give the best gift ever, the gift of home.

3 easy ways to give:

online at hfhdouglascounty.org

text DOUGLAS to 26989

mail in the enclosed envelope

Leave a lasting legacy.

A planned gift can be the perfect way to help even more families access the resources they need to have a safe, stable home.

You can make an impact beyond your lifetime by:



Designating Habitat as a beneficiary on your bank or retirement accounts, insurance policies or donor-advised funds.



Leaving a gift to Habitat in your will.

For more information or if you have questions, please contact Lori at 320-762-4255.



every family

deserves a safe, stable home in which lifetime memories can be made

 **Habitat for Humanity**[®]
of Douglas County, Minnesota
1211 N Nokomis NE
Alexandria, MN 56308



Because of your support, Habitat has transformed the lives of local families since 1997. From the hearts and homes of 158+ families, **thank you!**



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

Save the Date!



18th Annual
Hard Hat Events
May 15, 2024

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

The Hard Hat Events play an important role in raising funds to build affordable homes and help older adults age in place with dignity.

Join us for an inspiring program featuring Habitat homeowners.

Connect with friends and network with community members.

Registration opens
March 5, 2024!

Broadway Ballroom, 115 30th Ave E, Alexandria