

the BLUEPRINT

Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County's Newsletter • Spring 2020



Introducing the 2020 Thrivent Faith Builds homebuyer, JeriAnn

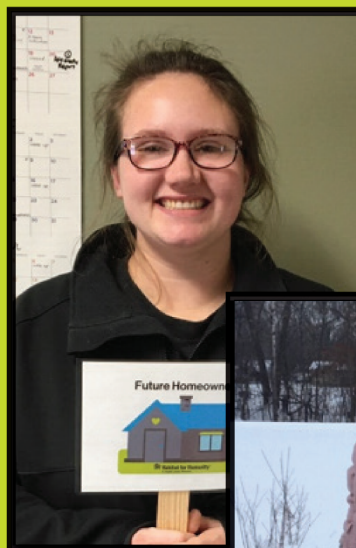
JeriAnn Hertwig was approved into the Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County's homeownership program in December 2019. She has two children, ages 3 and 6.

Born and raised in Alexandria, JeriAnn graduated from Jefferson High School. She works full-time at a local machining company. She learned about Habitat in 2018 while watching the construction of another Habitat home.

Brenna is in Kindergarten. She loves to dance, sing, play outside and be around people. Carter also loves to be outside, ride bike, play on the playground and eat. Both Carter and Brenna love to be around people.

Currently, JeriAnn and her children live with family. JeriAnn is looking forward to finally being able to be a homeowner and have something of her own for her and the kids. She is eager to begin construction this spring.

She excitedly shared, "We are so thankful about being able to experience this and have a place to call our own. We thank everyone for their help and support. This means so much to us!"



Left: JeriAnn learning she was approved; top: Brenna, JeriAnn and Carter; bottom: the family on location at their future home.

Executive Director's UPDATE



Dear Friends,

Like many people around the world and in our community, I am working from home. As I reflect on how grateful I am for my home and the safety it provides, I cannot go without thinking of the families we serve at Habitat. The term 'Shelter in Place' takes on a whole new meaning.

I reflect on the young child playing for the first time in their own backyard and her parent sharing about the JOY it brought to her. Or the 13-year-old girl with long brown hair in awe of the volunteers writing uplifting messages on the structure in her very own bedroom ... volunteers surrounding her family with love. I'm reminded of the darling blond child, smiling and saying "this is my home." More than ever we are seeing Habitat families' desire for a safe, stable place to call home, somewhere where they too can "Shelter in Place".

You are a critical part of our community and we are thinking about you and your loved ones. Our team is grateful for the trust you have placed in us. I'm happy to say **we WILL build in 2020 - our mission will continue.**

However, we have a funding gap of \$200,000. If you find it in your heart, I invite you to make a donation to the Hammers of Hope fund. This year three families in Alexandria are dreaming of a safe & healthy place to call their own; a yard to play in & a kitchen table to create memories around. YOU make a difference and bring JOY to those we serve. **YOU can build hope now.**

As part of our Habitat family, you understand the power of community action. Thank you for your continued support during these uncertain times.

Blessings and Stay Well~

Lori Andersen



"It was beautiful out today and the sun felt amazing. But even more than that, I watched Mya run around our YARD and play. And I mean run. She ran and ran. **With the biggest smile on her face.**

I thank everyone that helped make this house possible, especially Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County. I am forever grateful."

-Chelsey, 2019 homeowner



**Donate today to
BUILD HOPE**

How to Give to the Hammers of Hope Fund:

1. Donate by mail with the enclosed envelope
2. Donate online www.hfhdouglascounty.org
3. Donate by phone, call our office at 320-762-4255

*Matching funds available

Cardinal Build Update



Cardinal CAPS students, crew leaders and homebuyer Mary on their final build day

Our first partnership with the Alexandria Area High school EMTNR Academy CAPS class is soon coming to a close. This partnership allowed three students to spend their class time helping build the home at 1118 Irving Street.

The students (Ben Olson, Preston Johnson and Dominak Hines) helped with every detail of the home, from pre-build to tipping up walls in the rain, to painting, installing insulation and cabinets. Grateful for the experience of working side-by-side with the homebuyer, Mary, each student was thankful for the opportunity to learn directly from Randy, our Crew Leaders and the many sub-contractors who took time to explain their process.

We wish Ben, Dominak and Preston the best of success as they graduate this May!



Habitat Gives Thanks to Our Contractors and Vendors



With the help of our Thrivent Action Team friends, Habitat held its first annual Gratitude Dinner for our contractors and vendors. This dinner provided our contractors an opportunity to hear first-hand how their time, talents and treasures shared during the build have impacted a Habitat family's life.



A tasty meal was prepared by Chef Steve and Norma as the Habitat team enjoyed serving a sit down dinner to our guests. Following

the meal was a short program including 2019 homeowners Chelsey and Ash sharing their story and how thankful they are for each of the contractors that helped build "their" home.

We are grateful for the partnership of our contractors and vendors! Without their partnership, we would not be able to build safe, affordable homes for Douglas County families.



“Spring” into Spring with the ReStore!

Springtime means spring-cleaning. Donations are the lifeblood of the ReStore. Every donation to the ReStore helps families build more homes in our community. It's really a remarkable solution to many problems for residents and businesses. Physical items no longer needed unlock potential for someone else within our community. And an added bonus, tons of material aren't thrown away into landfills.

Finishing a remodel or spring cleaning? Consider donating:

- Appliances under 10 years old
- Tools you'll never use again
- Furniture that is in good condition
- Architectural items or unused building materials
- Solid doors
- Kitchen cabinets under 20 years old
- New windows (because you ordered the wrong size)
- Hardware
- Full boxes of tiles, flooring, or other building material



For a complete list of donation guidelines, visit our website at hfhdouglascounty.org/restore/donate. The ReStore will reopen as soon as it is safe to do so. Watch the ReStore Facebook page or our website for more details. To schedule a donation pickup, call 320-759-1989 or schedule online at hfhdouglascounty.org/restore/request-a-pick-up-donation.

Habitat welcomes two new team members: Mary & Aaron



Habitat welcomes Mary Gorghuber to the team as our new Donor Relations Coordinator. Mary is responsible for planning, organizing and directing all of Habitat's fundraising. She will work closely with all aspects of development. Mary will be

educating, informing and inviting our neighbors and community members to get involved with Habitat's mission. Welcome, Mary!

Aaron Johnson joined the team as our new Construction Coordinator, a brand-new position at Habitat! In this role, Aaron will work directly with Randy, our Construction Manager, on both new construction and Aging in Place projects.

Aaron's main focus is the Aging in Place program, overseeing and performing improvements to the safety, accessibility, energy efficiency and exterior of homes. Aaron will conduct home assessments to understand the homeowners' desire to live safely in their home and will coordinate all program requirements and oversee all modification work performed by Habitat. Welcome, Aaron!

Volunteer Spotlight



Jennifer, Chelsey and Rich

Rich and Jennifer Rentz began volunteering with Habitat in 2018 as mentors. This past year, they were mentors for Chelsey Koopman. They chose to volunteer with Habitat to help others achieve an affordable, safe home. “We felt we had the time and energy to expend on this worthy cause. Service to others has been a top priority for us and mentoring for Habitat permitted us to carry out this value.”

Habitat mentors support and encourage approved homebuyers by empowering them through the homeownership and sweat equity process. For Rich & Jen, the best part of volunteering is the relationships that develop with the homebuyer and “seeing the homebuyer’s dream becoming a reality.” Initially, they spent time getting to know Chelsey and her family by having dinner together, coffee dates or attending Habitat events and classes. “When the build began we spent time pounding nails, painting trim, cleaning the floors, sealing the floors, helping pick out shrubbery, and hanging the blinds. Working together helped foster the

relationship. We also attended and participated in the home blessing, dedication, and home closing.”

Rich & Jen were also amazed with all the volunteers on the build site, always so willing and enthusiastic to help. “We were profoundly impacted by the kindness and generosity of the people involved in the build. It truly takes a community working together to achieve a successful build. The build reinforces the good in the world which isn’t always apparent. We were grateful that we were asked to be involved in the build.

This experience was very humbling and opened our hearts to the importance of serving others in need.”

When asked what they wished people knew about Habitat, Rich & Jen shared, “We want people to understand that the Habitat home is not a free home. The potential homebuyer has to put in 200 sweat equity hours. They also have to be pre-approved and demonstrate their ability to afford the home. The potential homebuyer is also required to attend classes on finance/budget, home maintenance, etc. to prepare them to be a successful homeowner. We felt the mentoring process was extremely organized. The mentoring process was explained in detail and we were given a mentor hand book to use as a guide. The Habitat staff was a text or phone call away which was very reassuring. We want others to know that the staff is knowledgeable, helpful, and always available. Seriously consider being a mentor ... the rewards you receive far exceed the time and commitment involved.”



1211 N Nokomis NE
Alexandria, MN 56308

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.

OUR *Core Values*

- **Compassion** – Acting with selflessness to demonstrate Christ's love.
- **Stewardship** – Serving others with the gifts entrusted to us.
- **Relationships** – Building community through meaningful partnerships.
- **Family** – A foundation of love and safety.
- **Optimism** – Empowering hope and possibility.

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Save the Dates!

We hope you can join us for one of these events full of networking and inspiration

Hard Hat Breakfast
September 16, 2020
6:15-8:00 am
Broadway Ballroom

Our 15th annual Hard Hat Breakfast will feature Habitat homeowner Katelynn Prestidge, Aging in Place homeowner Dennis Anhalt, Dustin Schlichting, Lynn Evans and Mark Deterding.

Home is the Key Luncheon
September 29, 2020
Noon-1:00 pm
ReStore

Our 4th annual Home is the Key Luncheon will feature Habitat homeowner Katelynn Prestidge and Lynn Evans.