

the **BLUEPRINT**

Summer 2025 Newsletter



every family
deserves to feel their home is a sanctuary

Dear Friends,

When a family walks into their own home for the first time, they're walking into a fresh start. A start where kids have their own bedrooms for the first time. Where parents can breathe a sigh of relief. Where bills don't mean panic, and where the future finally feels within reach. That's when a house becomes something more.

And that's what you help make possible. It is often said it takes a village, and Habitat's village happens to be filled with hammers and hard hats. We are grateful for incredible community support. Thank you to the 700 volunteers who contributed more than 11,000 volunteer hours, the 500 unique donors who support our mission, and more than 3,000 donations to the ReStore. We couldn't do this work without you!

In April, we celebrated serving our 200th family (see pictures to the right). This was a full circle moment because Richard and Lori closed on their Habitat home in 2013, and now utilized our Aging in Place program. They shared their gratitude in the following thank you letter:

Because of my medical condition, I was looking into replacing our bathtub with a shower that would make it easier and safer for me to get in and out of. Prices put the project out of our financial limit. Then we heard about a program available from Habitat. These projects just don't happen. It takes a lot of planning and coordination to put it all together. Much of this work is not seen nor appreciated. Our thanks for all the hard work that you people do. Just so you know, Lori and I have lived in this home for 13 years. The house was built for us by Habitat. So, we owe Habitat a double thank you from us. A thank you from the bottom of our hearts. More than we can ever repay. Our prayers and thanks to the individuals of the Habitat team who worked so hard for us.

This summer, we will build five homes in the Sumer Meadows Development. It is the first affordable single-family housing development in Alexandria since 2002 and the largest project in our history. I invite you to drive through and see the development firsthand. The once dormant ground is now green, trees are blooming, and there is energy in the air with the noise of hammers. You can see a bright future where 42 families will have a place to call home.

Inside a home of their own, families can grow roots, kids do better in school, and parents can build a nest egg for the next generation. Your support will help us build five homes and serve 25 Aging in Place projects in the upcoming year.

With gratitude,

Lori Andersson



**Lori Anderson,
Executive Director**



**Richard & Lori,
our 200th family!**

Leadership Transition: Habitat Begins Search

After more than two decades of impactful leadership, Lori Anderson will retire this fall. Her tenure has transformed our community, expanding the number of families served and establishing programs like the ReStore and Aging in Place. To continue this momentum, we've partnered with Bonsai Leadership Group to find our next Executive Director, a mission-driven leader who will uphold our values and help us "double our impact" in the years ahead. A special event to honor Lori's legacy will take place this fall. Stay tuned for more details.

- Angie Krebs, Habitat Board Chair

Hard Hat Event Highlights



Pictured above, left to right: Ron Otterson, Bob Loucks, Lori Anderson, and Dave Anderson – three volunteers who helped start our affiliate

On May 7, 2025, over 500 people gathered for our 19th Annual Hard Hat Events. Our goal was set to raise \$150,000. To date, \$133,872 has been raised! Thank you to all who attended and contributed!



Pictured above: Lori Anderson with Hard Hat Event Emcee Jeff Hohn, Habitat Board Vice Chair/Treasurer

Hard Hat photos by Josie Marie Photo



"Had it not been for the Aging in Place program through Habitat for Humanity, a move to a one floor home was in our near future. Now we are safe." - Barb, Aging in Place Homeowner



"Homeownership feels like such an accomplishment. When a person feels happy and safe in their home, it sets them up in all the other areas in life as well." - Jackie, Homeowner



"Habitat for Humanity changed my family's life. We have a place to call home. A place to continue our story. A place to dream even bigger dreams." - Jenna, Homeowner & Board Director

Donations are accepted and appreciated year-round. Your gift will support building homes, communities, and hope in Douglas County. Simply use the enclosed envelope to make a gift or go to hfhdouglascounty.org or scan the QR code.

To watch the full Hard Hat program and/or hear more stories from our program participants, visit our website: <https://hfhdouglascounty.org/events-news>

Scan to donate:



Thank you to our generous sponsors!

Hard Hat Event Sponsors

\$10,000 Happy Hour presenting sponsor:

Geneva Capital LLC

\$5,000 sponsors:

Douglas Machine, Tradesmen Construction

\$2,500 sponsors:

Bremer Bank, Massman Companies, Nodland Construction, Realty Group, Sanford Health

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Event In-Kind

Brandon & Abby Johnson Photography, Broadway Ballroom, Colorful Seasons, filmedbyteddy, Josie Marie Photo, Livewire Entertainment



Support from local businesses totaled \$51,250 providing a great foundation for reaching our goal of \$150,000. Thank you!

Workplace Build Sponsors

\$10,000 sponsors:

3M, Aagard

Team Build Sponsors

3M, Aagard, Alexandria Industries, Alomere Health, American Solutions for Business, Amy Christopherson State Farm Insurance Agency, Bethany on the Lake, Diamond Buick GMC, Douglas Machine Foundation, Flab-U-Less Y Gals, Greater Alexandria Area Association of REALTORS®, Hubbard Broadcasting-KIKV, Interstate Engineering, Massman Companies, Pemberton Law, Ryan Witte State Farm Insurance Agency, Van Ahn & Co, Vivie, We Are Family



Faith Build Partners

Calvary Lutheran Church, Church of the Harvest, First Lutheran Church, Grace Lutheran-Brandon, Faith Lutheran-Evansville, Immaculate Conception-Osakis, New Life Christian Church, St. Nicholas Church-Belle River, Salem-Sauk Valley Lutheran, Shalom Lutheran Church, The Church of St. Mary

Build Updates



2024 Legends Build

We are grateful for the ATCC Carpentry Program students who built this home last school year. Closing is this month!

The Legends Build homebuyer shared, "I've moved 12 times. My kids need stability and a 'home' they can always come back to. I am looking forward to a safe place for me and my children. I am excited to host holidays in my home, have a place for birthday parties, and a yard for my kids to play. I want to start a garden. A home will create roots for my family. It will be peaceful. There will never be enough ways I can thank all of you. We know this isn't possible without you helping build our home. Thank you for making OUR dream come true!"



House #1

This is the first home in the Summer Meadows development! Interior work (painting, cabinets, floors) is on tap this month.

House 1 homebuyer shared, "I wanted to have a place to call my own, a safe space for my family. We love to play outside, draw, paint, play games, and read. I am looking forward to the security of owning my own home, a safe place for me to relax and live, not just survive. Thinking about having someplace safe to call my own brings me to tears because I can see how amazing our family's future is going to be. I am so grateful for all the people helping build my home!"



House #2

Rainy weather didn't stop our groups from building this home! Exterior work wraps up this month.

House 2 homebuyer shared, "I have been searching for an affordable house for about a year and nothing was even close to a mom with three kids on a budget. We can't wait just to have grass under our feet, eat popsicles outside in the summer, and have a family game night in the living room! I feel so much peace knowing we will now have a permanent foundation. The weight will be lifted off of our shoulders. We are so blessed by this amazing community helping our family. We are forever grateful!"

Coming Soon!

House #3:
Starts in July

House #4:
Starts in Sept.

House #5:
Starts this fall

Will be built by ATCC
Carpentry Program Students

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.

Through your support, since 1997, we've served:

203
families

93 new or
improved
homes

110 Aging in
Place
projects



every volunteer
helps build a better future
for a local family



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

ReStore - the store that builds homes



Donate.



Shop.



Volunteer.

Store hours: Wednesday - Saturday, 9 am to 5 pm

Donation hours: Monday - Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm

Call to
schedule 

1211 N Nokomis NE, Alexandria | 320-759-1989