

the BLUEPRINT

Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County's Newsletter • Summer 2018



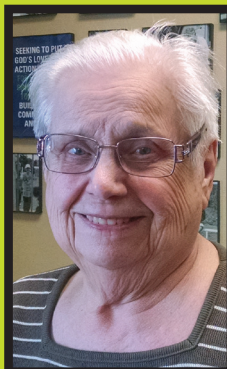
Meet Four Aging-In-Place Homeowner Families



Ron and Barb



Rose



Beverly



Mary and George

Launched last fall, Habitat's new Aging in Place program is now well underway and currently serving the seventh homeowner family. This program is geared to partner with homeowners age(s) 65+ through safety, accessibility or energy improvements. While examples of work may include installing grab bars, ramps, raised toilet seats, and much more, the projects are truly homeowner driven. Homeowners are actively involved in determining what work they would like done and have the choice and flexibility to customize the projects based on their wants and needs. Here are just a few local stories:

George and Mary needed a safe and accessible entrance to their home and partnered with Habitat to build a new ramp with arm rails on each side for stability. "I like [the ramp]," said George. "I can now get into my home without having to worry about falling. The crew was very efficient and great to work with. I was impressed." Another homeowner who also partnered with Habitat to have a ramp installed shared, "My husband is able to be more independent. He can use the ramp to get outside, get more exercise and not have to worry about falling."

Beverly was in need of someone to paint the exterior of her home and repair some gutters. She was able to

get these tasks checked off her list through the Aging in Place program.

Ron and Barb also found themselves needing a safer, sturdier entrance to their home, as their current deck was showing its age. They partnered with Habitat to build a new ramp – custom-designed to match their home.

Rose was looking to add safety enhancements, and chose to install a raised toilet, update new smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and add a custom gate at the top of the steps to prevent falls. Rose shared, "The work is top-notch. I can't say enough about the program and the workers. Every step of the way I was made very happy. The workers were professional – very courteous and always had a smile. I'm so happy."

Habitat's founder, Millard Fuller, once said, "I envision Habitat for Humanity becoming the conscience of the world concerning shelter." We believe that giving people the ability to safely age in place is a matter of conscience. We hope you'll join us in our efforts to address this issue by volunteering and donating to the Aging in Place program. Please contact our office at 320-762-4255 for more information about this program!



Thanks to you and this amazing community, our affiliate is #10 out of 518 small affiliates based on five-year construction trends. Thank you for helping us make an impact on an important community need: affordable housing!

We need your support now to meet the growing need for our program. Our goal for July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019, is to double the number of Aging in Place projects from five to 10 and to partner with three new

homeowners to build three new homes. Please consider how you can support our mission by becoming a monthly donor, volunteering, or inviting one of our team members to make a presentation at your church, service group or workplace.

To learn more about our impact, view our new video on our homepage at hfhdouglascounty.org.

With your help we will continue to be a top 10 affiliate!

With gratitude,

Lori Anderson

Habitat Douglas County Named a Top Affiliate

Since Habitat for Humanity was founded in Douglas County in 1997, the community's support has been the cornerstone to its success. It was recently announced that, out of 518 small affiliates, Habitat Douglas County is ranked number 10 based on five-year construction trends of new and rehabilitated homes. After hearing the news, Executive Director Lori Anderson shared, "While I've known our affiliate is on the leading edge of house production, it is truly amazing to see our ranking in writing ... a true testament of the impact and power of people coming together to support a community need. We take this opportunity to share the good news, celebrate our accomplishments and stay driven to serving families in our community."

Thrivent Builds



Thrivent Builds and Repairs

Alexandria Lakes Area Associates and members from Thrivent Financial could be spotted at nearly every Habitat project this spring! The long-standing partnership began in 2005, and since that time Thrivent has sponsored 17 Thrivent Builds Homes and six Thrivent Builds Repairs in Douglas County. Their financial support totals over \$1.3 million locally, but their support doesn't end there. This year alone, 46 Thrivent associates and members have come together to volunteer more than 1,250 hours. Examples of their service include installing insulation and poly, building ramps for Aging in Place projects, painting both the interiors and exteriors of homes, building headers and jambs and grilling lunch for volunteer groups, just to name a few. We are so grateful for their commitment to affordable housing and for their actions to #livegenerously.



Hard Hat Breakfast Raises Over \$110,000!



Habitat is thrilled to announce that for the second year in a row, the Hard Hat Breakfast event has exceeded its goal! Over 500 guests attended the breakfast, filling the Broadway Ballroom to capacity. The room was abuzz with excitement for this annual event, and we continue to be amazed by how many people are willing to get up early and show their support year after year.

Keynote speakers for this year's event included 2016 homeowner Mackenzie Thompson along with her mentors, Sue and Terry Quist. Sue and Terry spoke about the drive and determination they see in Mackenzie, and how impressed they were at her ability to manage working full time, building her Habitat home and being a single mom. Both in the nursing field, Sue has encouraged Mackenzie to continue her education, and Mackenzie has already achieved her CNA and has one semester under her belt toward attaining her LPN degree. Mackenzie spoke about what homeownership means for her and her 2½-year-old daughter, Aubree. She told stories about what life is like in her neighborhood and the bond that has evolved with her next door neighbor and Habitat homeowner, Lisa. She said that she is proud of the home that she helped build and optimistic about her family's future. She thanks Habitat, the donors and volunteers for the opportunity.

A huge thank you to each and every person involved in making the Hard Hat Breakfast 2018 such a success. A special shout-out to the event co-chairs, Carmon Watkins and Mary Ellen Thompson, the emcee Nick Heydt, the Rainbow Strings and director Brad Lambrecht, pianist Randy Morken, greeters Nan Haggerty, Priscilla Reineke, and Donna Ryan, all of the table hosts, and each and every donor who made the \$110,000 goal attainable. Thank you!



Keynote speaker Mackenzie Thompson shared what homeownership means to her.



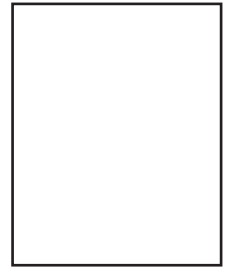
Pictured with Mackenzie Thompson (center), her mentors Sue and Terry Quist spoke of her determination and drive.



Homeowner table



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.

Pizza ... With a Purpose!

Join Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County on August 8, 2018 for a fun night of pizza, music, and fellowship. The event will take place at the Alexandria United Methodist Church located at 2210 6th Ave E from 5-8 pm, with proceeds going toward the Habitat for Humanity ReStore expansion.

The 14" pizzas are baked in the wood-fired oven with many topping options to choose from. Pizzas are \$15 each and guests are encouraged to bring along a lawn chair or blanket and listen to the live music performed by Jackson Burns Music.

Dessert will also be available from Scoop and Grind Ice Cream. Soda and water will be available for purchase (or feel free to bring your own beverage), but remember it is an alcohol- and smoke-free campus. We hope to see you there!

