



Habitat for Humanity®
of Douglas County, Minnesota

25
years

the **BLUEPRINT**

Spring 2022 Newsletter

**Beyond the
Home: How
Affordable
Housing
Impacts
Children's
Education - p.4**



every child

deserves to build a strong foundation for the future

Dear Friends,

On behalf of Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County's 126 families and counting who now enjoy the life-changing benefits of homeownership and repairs - Thank You! To our donors, volunteers, product donors, and ReStore shoppers we can't thank you enough for your continued support.

The legacy of your investment has a ripple effect beyond what you may see. It impacts generations.

Take JeriAnn's family for example. She has owned her home since 2020. Homeownership has been a positive experience for both JeriAnn and her children. Each night, she helps her children complete their homework and read together as a family. "We have a good routine. My kids have both improved in schooling, behavior, and even get along better." There's less anxiety and more calm, they feel safe and have been healthier. She's gotten to know her neighbors, an opportunity she never had before owning her own home. She's saving more money, playing with her children -- all of which contribute to the family's happiness. "My home is awesome!"

Multiply JeriAnn's family by all the families we serve and those who have been approved to build their homes. It becomes easy to see the ripple effect and the potential of your investment. Years after they bought their homes, we hear stories of gratitude from our homeowners.

Despite volatile cost fluctuations, supply chain interruptions, and other market forces, we have continued to grow and increase our impact. This fiscal year, we are on track to deliver homeownership opportunities to five families and Aging in Place repairs for 25 homeowners.

We will be facing increasing costs again this year and need your help. The historic increase in building costs will have a major effect on our work. It will cost us \$25,000 more to build each home than it did in 2021. Please consider supporting our work. Individual gifts, corporate sponsorships, and gifts from your church or service group all make an impact. Contact me if you would like to talk about how you can change lives.

Thank you for your generosity. We are humbled and grateful for this work that builds brighter futures and stronger communities for all, and for you who make it possible.

With gratitude, *Lori Anderson*



Lori Anderson,
Habitat Executive Director

Since 1997, we've served:



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.

16th Annual Hard Hat Events



Save the date!

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

We are excited to see you and empower more families to achieve the stability of home.

The need is greater than ever for safe, affordable homes. The Hard Hat events play an important role in raising funds for our work in building homes and helping older adults age in their homes with dignity.

Our Hard Hat events return to Knute Nelson Memorial Ballpark this year, providing two options to hear first-hand from Habitat homeowner Jenna Hill and her mentor Greta Siegel. Brooke Zabel, Habitat's Board President, returns as emcee with special messages to be shared from Habitat co-founders Dave Anderson and Bob Loucks, AAEDC Executive Director, Nicole Fernholz and Habitat's Executive Director, Lori Anderson.



Jenna Hill



Greta Siegel



Both live events will feature a light meal catered by Broadway Ballroom, music, and an inspiring program. The Home Plate Happy Hour will feature a special musical performance by Blonde & the Bohunk.

Our community Team Captains will host guests at the Hard Hat events. If you have not already been asked and would like to attend the lunch or happy hour in person, or the virtual event, please contact our office at 320-762-4255 or register online to attend at hfdouglascounty.org/hardhat

New location!

Knute Nelson
Memorial Ballpark

2 live events, same program!

Home Run Lunch: 11:30am - 1:00pm
Home Plate Happy Hour: 4:30 - 6:30pm

Can't attend in person?

Participate virtually

Register online:

hfdouglascounty.org/hardhat

Contact our office at 320-762-4255 with questions

Beyond the Home: How Affordable Housing Impacts Children's Education



The location and condition of a child's house play a significant role in their physical, cognitive, emotional development and well-being, which impacts their education through improved attendance, better cognitive and behavioral health, and improved academic achievement.



Since the 1950s, an achievement gap has existed for children of low income families. Contributing to this gap are factors such as:

- Households with low income move at a faster rate because of housing cost burden, structural and environmental housing problems, neighborhood violence, or evictions.
- Poor structural quality, cleanliness, hazards, and overcrowding cause children to experience higher symptoms of illness, depression, anxiety, and aggression from elementary through young adulthood.
- Limited access to technology, stress from unstable housing, and low instructional engagement impacted low income families even more during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Overall impacts of this lower achievement last into adulthood influencing economic mobility as well. "Children from families with at least two generations of low incomes are about 36 percentage points less likely to attend college than children from families with higher incomes, ultimately stunting their ability to make higher salaries as adults."

How Habitat for Humanity helps

Habitat provides an opportunity for families to help themselves move into better housing. Affordable homeownership mitigates financial instability. An affordable and energy-efficient home becomes a stable and safe environment for families. The residential stability, avoidance of health hazards, and reduction of stress for both adults and children minimize disruptions to children's education. The work Habitat does not only helps families achieve affordable homeownership, but leads to many outcomes that extend beyond the house in areas such as health, financial stability and wealth building, social engagement, and more.

Locally, we've heard

- "My children don't have to worry about where to sleep each night and can focus on school."
- "We have more space and fewer distractions which allows us to concentrate better."
- "I've been able to save money so now I can go back to school."
- "Feeling the care and concern of all the volunteers, knowing how much they want to help you really boosted my confidence."



This article cites information shared in "How does housing affect children's education?", an Evidence Brief compiled by Habitat for Humanity International. To read the complete article, visit our website at hfhdouglascounty.org/get-involved/advocate

ReStore Corner

Thank you to the Greater Alexandria Area Association of REALTORS® (GAAAR) for filling up the ReStore pot o' gold during their 2nd annual donation pick-up event. The group picked up 30 donations totaling 206 items while spreading cheer and a wee bit o' luck throughout the community.

Heather Ahrens, CEO of GAAAR shared, "It is amazing to see the immediate impact this day has for the ReStore. To watch the showroom floor be filled up and things that we picked up being purchased within the hour brings everything full circle instantly. Our members, both REALTORS® & real estate business partners, enjoy being part of such an impactful day each year. We look forward to continuing this event in the years to come as part of our commitment to give back to the communities we serve."



Pictured above: Members of the Greater Alexandria Area of REALTORS® who volunteered on March 17.



All proceeds from the ReStore help fund the construction of affordable housing in Douglas County.

**Pictured left to right:
Kyle Brown, Brandon Stanek and Glen Bearson**

every gift makes a lasting impact!



leave your legacy

Planned gifts allow generous people to make meaningful gifts you may have never thought possible. Just a little planning expands your opportunity to help Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County build a world where everyone has a safe, decent, and affordable place to live.

**Contact Lori Anderson at
320-762-4255 to learn more.**

Our Volunteers are Habitat Heroes!

For 25 years, Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County has brought people together to build safe, affordable homes. **Because of volunteers**, 126 families in Douglas County have improved their housing. You continue to show up and show us how much you care about YOUR community. Thank you for opening doors for local families. **You are our Habitat heroes!** We are so thankful for EVERY volunteer! We are especially grateful to the following volunteers who have volunteered with us for many years.

25 years

Dave Anderson
Bob Loucks

15-24 years

Sandy Benson
Dwayne Berger
Roger Biss
Bev Dokken
Kathy Franson
Joyce Hansen
Judy Hoffman
Phyllis Kern
Dick Welder
Judy Welder
Chris Worley
Jerry Wright

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!** We sincerely apologize for any errors or omissions.

In Memory of Board & Committee Members:

Bettie Anderson	Clark Hoffman	H Dan Ness
John Beem	John Kern	Dorie Otterson
Fred Bursch	Clarence Lange	Larry Petefish
Bill Flaig	Adrian Lederman	Anita Stone
Bernard Hassig	Carolyn Loken	Bernie Wambeke

10-14 years

Alice Anderson
Allan Anderson
Bob Bergan
Judy Berger
Verdell Berger
Harry Bettin
Greg Billberg
Michael Bouressa
Terri Bouressa
Jim Braaten
Terry Brueske
Ron Buse
Rebecca Callahan
Anne Eidsvold
Karen Erickson
Jan Finazzo
Tom Fleming
Sister Sharon Fyle

Carol Gaffaney
Judy Gallus
Ron Gallus
Larry Gebhardt
Ed Hagel
Al Hansen
Jerry Hansen
Arlis Hanson
Doris Hassig
Jeanne Howell
Mervin Johnson
Emil Kack
Levern Kingsberg
Angie Krebs
Les Kuehl
Tudor Ledum

Janna Lindoo
Mike Loken
Andy Lopez
Dave Lundy
Loretta Lundy
Randy Meyer
Ruth Molloy
Ron Otterson
Leila Preston
Terry Quist
Jeanne Sieve
Dennis Thompson
Dustin Tomoson
Linda Unruh
Bob Upton
Irene Vagle

Donna Vollmers
Carol Westphal
Harold Withers
Kathy Withers
Mary Kaye Wright
Neal Zappe



5-9 years

Joan Aasboe	Hans Dahl	Mary Johnson	Ron Moritz	Tom Sinning
Andrea Allyn	Kim Deterding	Reg Johnson	Kathy Munsch	Clayton Skoglund
Doug Alvstad	Mark Deterding	Roger Johnson	Mike Munson	Bill Smith
Paul Amundson	Jessica Dezeeuw	Matt Jossart	Diane Nelson	Anna Solheid
Dennis Anderson	Caroline Dittberner	Mary Ann Kack	Mitch Odland	Rich Solheid
Gabe Anderson	Bob Dokken	Dennis Kalpin	Peg Okerlund	Brenda Solum
Jennifer Anderson	Ruth Dolan	Arnold Karsky	Vickie Olmschenk	Jill Stoeck
Marie Anderson	Mike Doyle	Sister Patrice Kiefer	Michelle Lackey Olsen	David Stoltz
Seth Anderson	Virginia Eastley	Geraldine Kingsberg	Andrea Olson	Brittany Suckstorff
Terry Anderson	Rita Jo Ellenberger	Michael Kivisto	Carol Olson	Carol Sumstad
John Aponte	Mike Emerick	Julie Klopp	Diane Olson	Sandy Susag
Karen Arm	Jack Engdahl	James Klug	Robyn Olson	Daniel Sutton
Ed Arneson	Linda Engebretson	AJ Kluver	Todd Olson	Jodie Tatro
Lindsay Auran	Susanne Engstrom	Scott Kluver	Kathleen Ortloff	Carol Thalman
Cassandra Baas	Connie Fields	Dave Krebsbach	Kate Ouverson	Cindy Thiele
James Baas	Cindy Forbrook	Elaine Larson	Jesse Parker	Donna Thoennes
Judy Backhaus	Jerry Freding	Marvin Larson	Bob Pearson	Joan Thompson
Jon Ballou	Bonnie Freudenberg	John Leesch	Allen Pederson	Paul Thompson
Donald Bangsund	Gene Fynboh	Gaylen Lerohl	Ken Pederson	Derald Thorson
Daniel Barber	Kathy Fynboh	Jim Lien	Bill Perrin	Pam Thorson
Mari-ann Bartlett	Doug Garin	Jeff Lindoo	Thomas Peterman	Ed Thull
Lucie Battey	Donald Gayken	Myron Lofquist	Janelle Petermeier	Carol Tillitt
Carla Beem	Kathy George	John Loken	DeLilia Peterson	Tom Trisko
Vicki Berberich	Tom Gleason	Tony Loosbrock	Jim Peterson	Greg Tvrdik
Brian Berg	Barb Golden	Dian Lopez	Lisa Peterson	Katie Tvrdik
Howard Berg	Mike Golden	Marlene Lorsung	Therese Peterson	Kristopher Tvrdik
Michelle Bethke-	Dennis Gronholz	Cynthia Losch	Thomas Peterson	Curt Ulvestad
Kaliher	Eric Gronholz	Sonja Loucks	Grant Pexsa	JoAnn Udem
Marlene Bettin	Ted Haar	Stephanie Lucy	Arvin Pletcher	Angie Urman
Jeanette Bidne	Rollen Halvorson	Dennis Lund	Bruce Pohlig	Tim Urness
Bonnie Bina	Catherine Hansen	Ron Lyman	Greg Pouliot	Carl Vaagenes
Judy Biss	Paul Hanson	Gary Magnuson	Gerald Prchal	Gordon Vander Helm
Steve Block	Stephen Haug	Jill Manlove	Dennis Preston	Dean VandeKieft
David Blom	Joyce Hausmann	Barbara Manthei	Rebecca Pyburn	Richard Volker
Jeanie Brever	Lynn Hausmann	Karen Martinson	Krista Rehm	Dale Vollmers
Jason Briscoe	Angie Heidelberger	Sharyn Mayer	Eddie Reif	Colleen Voltz
Dale Budke	Annette Helder	Terry Mays	Priscilla Reineke	Kari Van Wakeren
Teresa Bursch	Steve Hellermann	Erin McCoy	Tucker Reishus	Melody Warren
Mary Butler	John Heydt	Jodi Meade	John Ries	Quentin Warrey
Alan Callaway	Nick Heydt	James Megel	Barb Riley	David Watkin
Ted Carlsen	Larry Holt	Barb Lehman Merickel	Blake Saathoff	Carmon Watkins
Gary Carlson	Ken Howell	Joe Merickel	Dennis Schmidt	Lynndene Way
Joyce Carlson	Chris Huether	Jen Meyer	Marcia Gae Schmitt	Delmar Wehking
Steve Carlson	Henry Huhnerkoch	Pam Mickelson	Ryan Schmuck	Margaret Wehking
Kris Chisholm	Leona Hurlbut	Bonnie Miller	Jim Schoeberl	John Widmark
Chad Coauette	Joan Huseth	Dennis Miller	Lance Schoeberl	Mary Williams
Clarke Comer	John Huseth	Chad Mistele	Kathryn Schoonhoven	Ricky Williams
Molly Comer	Kellie Janssen	Joyce Moe	Marilyn Sellin	Bernice Wimmer
Dennis Conn	Donald Jensen	Rich Moen	John Severson	Pete Wood
Julie Critz	Nancy Jenzen	Christina Mohr	Mike Shaughnessy	Becky Worley
Gaylin Croonquist	Brandon Johnson	Keri Mohror	Greta Siegel	Lynda Wosmek
Jane Croonquist	Charles Johnson	Jeff Montgomery	Corey Simonson	Brooke Zabel
Tim Cullen	John Johnson	Deb Moorman	Natalie Simpson	Barbara Ziegelman
Maxine Current	Lucretia Johnson			Larry Zilliox



every child

deserves a home base from
which to explore the world



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

**Save the date for our 16th Annual Hard Hat Events:
June 15, 2022 at Knute Nelson Memorial Ballpark**



16th Annual

Hard Hat Events

**Home Run
Lunch**

11:30am - 1:00pm



**Home Plate
Happy Hour**

4:30 - 6:30pm

Featured speakers:



**Jenna Hill,
Habitat
Homeowner**



**Greta Siegel,
Habitat
Mentor**

June 15, 2022

Knute Nelson Memorial Ballpark

305 5th Ave W, Alexandria

**Register online at
hfhdouglascounty.org/hardhat**