

the BLUEPRINT

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



Meet the 2018 Families!



Karen, Carmin and Robert

As the snow melts and the weather warms up, we know spring is on its way. While this is an exciting time for everyone as we crawl out of the burrows of our homes, hit the trails, get outside and enjoy the sunshine, it is an exceptionally exciting spring for three Douglas County families.

Habitat will start the year in Alexandria with Robert, Karen, and Carmin who will be partnering to build the 17th home sponsored by Thrivent Builds in Douglas County. The family is looking forward to having a nice, safe, and stable place to call home. They look forward to having trees in their yard and planting a garden.

The next Habitat home will be built with Katie and Robert's family in Brandon! The site will also host Habitat Minnesota's annual fundraising

event called the bike.home. (more details on page 3) Katie and Robert have five children: Kyla (14), KeeKee (8), Mya (6), Jo (4) and Tommy (6 months). They can't wait to live close to where the kids go to school, have a place of their own, and be near the kids' grandparents. The couple shared, "We are so excited, God is so good! This is the beginning of something absolutely



Katie and Robert's family

amazing!"

In the fall, we will venture out into Kensington, a new community for Habitat! Thanks to a land donation by Flo Bergquist,

outreach efforts were made and Olimjon and Dilorom's family was approved! The couple has three children: Ezoza (7), Zamiridden (4) and Maryam (1). Two main reasons led them to apply for a Habitat home: their culture of hospitality and wanting the ability to host guests, and their need for a larger home for their kids to have their own space and room to play. When Olimjon first moved to the area he lived in Kensington, so having a home in that community, he says, "is a true honor."



Olimjon and Dilorom's family



Happy spring! The excitement is building as we enter our 21st build season. For the first time ever, we will have two builds outside of the Alexandria area. This is an important milestone as our service area includes all of Douglas County.

We have many events happening throughout the summer, and sincerely hope that

you, our Habitat friends and family, are able to join us for the various celebrations outlined on page 4.

I also want to personally invite you to consider joining me and others on a Vietnam Big Build November 3-10, 2018. I saw firsthand how global village teams changed the lives of families in Cambodia in 2017, and can honestly say it changed my life as well.

Our goal for 2018 is to partner with 7 families through our home construction program and Aging in Place. We need everyone to help make this goal possible.

In partnership,

Lori Andersen



New ReStore Entrance Plans Underway

You probably noticed the commotion on the south side of the Habitat offices and ReStore last fall. We were able to get the property leveled, have a storm sewer installed, and cover the lot with class 5 gravel. Phase two of the ReStore expansion includes paving the lot, new signage, and creating a new entrance for the store. This will allow for an additional 40 parking spaces! The goal is to have the work completed this summer. The ReStore is currently seeking donations to support the finalization of Phase II. If you would like to give to this project, please specify ReStore Expansion on your donation envelope. We are eager to get the work accomplished to give the ReStore more exposure and allow for more traffic. We couldn't do this without the community's support – thank you for your loyalty to the store that builds homes!

2018 Big Build Set for Vietnam

In 2017 Habitat Douglas County sent the largest team to an international Big Build in local history! We would love to continue to bring great Midwest Minnesota representation to Vietnam in November 2018!

The build will take place from November 3-10, 2018. The group will fly into Ho Chi Minh City to gather and then will travel together to Dong Thap to complete the work. Thrivent's support, along with the title credit paid by Habitat Douglas County help significantly reduce the cost of the trip.

If you would like more information, or would like to chat with someone who has been on an International Big Build before, please contact Lori at 320-762-4255. We hope you will consider this incredible opportunity to see Habitat's work across the globe!



Greg Tvrdik and Janice Des Marais working on the 2017 Cambodia Big Build.

Hard Hat Breakfast – We Need Everyone!



The 13th annual Hard Hat Breakfast will be held on Wednesday, May 16, 2018, at the Broadway Ballroom in Alexandria. This is Habitat's premier fundraising event, with the goal of raising over \$110,000 to build homes. The co-chairs for this event are Mary Ellen Thompson and Carmon Watkins. Sponsorship opportunities are available. Please contact Lori if you are interested in helping sponsor Habitat's signature fundraising event.

This year's program will feature homeowner Mackenzie Thompson and her mentors, Sue and Terry Quist. Mackenzie will share what having a home means for her and her family and the

opportunities she's had since moving in two years ago. Sue and Terry will speak about the mentor's perspective and the drive and determination that Mackenzie and other Habitat homeowners have to create a better life for themselves.

The breakfast buffet will be served from 6:15 a.m. to 6:50 a.m. with the program beginning at 7:00 a.m. Please email Lori at lori@hfhdouglascounty.org by April 27, 2018 if you would like to attend. Your involvement in this event helps build strength and stability in our community! This event will be live-streamed on our website, www.hfhdouglascounty.org.

Everybody loves pie!

On Wednesday, March 14, 2018, Habitat Douglas County and Thrivent Financial paired up to host a Pi Day celebration! With the goal of raising money and recruiting volunteers for the Thrivent Builds home, 50 pies were purchased with the help of The Brass Lantern and Travelers Inn. Throughout the day over 47 volunteers signed up and \$246 was raised! A huge thank you to everyone who came out to make this day such a success!



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Left to right: Molly Comer, Habitat for Humanity; Carrie Sweetwater, The Brass Lantern; Tim Erickson, Thrivent Financial; and Mike Sieve, owner of The Brass Lantern.

Habitat MN's Annual Habitat 500 Bike Ride



Now entering its 26th year, the Habitat 500 is a bicycle ride (not a race) and fundraiser that covers 500 miles over the course of 7 days.

Each rider raises funds from family, friends, businesses, and church groups and designates the Habitat for Humanity affiliates they wish to support both locally and around the world. The ride is coordinated and hosted by Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota, the state support organization.



Each year the ride designates a bike.home. community, where one day during the ride the riders have the option to build on a Habitat home. This year the bike.home. community is with Habitat Douglas County and will be working on the home in Brandon! We are thrilled to host the riders and the volunteer crew.

The ride has a few options: full week, three-day, and a one-day ride. Each length has a minimum amount of fundraising required, which you are able to designate to the Habitat for Humanity of your choice.

A key component of the ride is to raise awareness about the need for decent, safe, and affordable housing. If you are interested in riding or volunteering with this event, please contact our office at 320-762-4255 for more information.

Save the Date!

We have a spring and summer full of fun planned, be sure to join us for the following events:

- **April 27, 2018** – Ribbon cutting at the new warehouse and volunteer appreciation, 889 Northside Drive, Alexandria , 9:00-10:30 am
- **May 1, 2018** – Blessing of the build – 1900 Timber Lane NE, 4:00 pm
- **May 16, 2018** – Hard Hat Breakfast – Broadway Ballroom, 6:15-8:00 am
- **June 19, 2018** – Friends and Family Reunion – City Park, 5:00-7:00 pm
- **July 18, 2018** – Blessing of the Build – 509 Hayes Ave, Brandon, MN 8:30 am
- **July 18, 2018** – bike.home. celebration dinner, City Park, 6:30 pm



home is the keysm

We don't often acknowledge the significance of the house keys jingling in our pockets – that what's behind the doors unlocked by those keys reveals our opportunities in life. For many families hovering on the cusp of a better life, a chance to build and buy a home can open the door to a new and more stable future.

Habitat and its partners in this effort will call national attention to the need for affordable housing in the U.S. and will help drive demonstrable change.
Home is the key.



Everyone deserves a chance to build strength and stability.
Unlock a family's better future. Donate to habitat.org.



our vision

is a world where everyone
has a decent place to live.



Even in the U.S., decent and affordable housing is unreachable for too many.

- One in 4 households in the U.S. pays more than 30% of its income for housing and many have difficulty affording necessities such as food or clothing.¹
- Virtually nowhere in the U.S. can a full-time employee earning minimum wage afford a one-bedroom apartment. Even two such jobs won't rent a two-bedroom apartment in 29 states and the District of Columbia.²

Habitat creates homeowners, which creates monumental change.

- Children raised in a Habitat home are twice as likely to go to college.³
- 57% of adults in Habitat households report furthering their education.⁴
- Children of homeowners make fewer visits to the emergency room for routine health problems.⁵
- Habitat homeowners have more disposable income after moving into their Habitat home.⁶

1. *The State of the Nation's Housing 2015*, Joint Center for Housing Studies, Harvard University, 2015.

2. National Low Income Housing Coalition, 2014.

3. Didi Fahey, Ph.D., Metro Denver Habitat survey, 2012.

4. *Impact of Homeownership and Affiliate Experiences: A Collaborative Study by Habitat for Humanity International Women Build, Whirlpool Corporation and the University of Southern Indiana*, 2011.

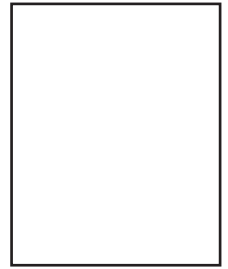
5. E.E. Kiersten, K.Z. LeWinn, L. Gottlieb, D.P. Jutte and N.E. Adler. "San Francisco Children Living in Redeveloped Public Housing Used Acute Services Less Than Children in Older Public Housing" *Health Affairs*, Vol. 33, No. 12, 2014.

6. "Impacts of Habitat for Humanity Ownership," Habitat for Humanity Minnesota.

7. Habitat for Humanity received the highest numerical Equity Score and the highest numerical score relating to Trust/Love among Social Services Non-Profits included in the 2016 Harris Poll EquiTrend® Study. Please go to habitat.org for further details.



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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.

Help Habitat Serve Families Through Aging in Place

History has shown that it takes the guidance, encouragement, and support of friends and family for people to apply for Habitat's programs and services. As we plan to serve no less than seven families each year, we look to expand our Aging in Place program to meet that goal. We need your help in supporting and referring those people age 65+ that you think could benefit from safety improvements or mobility modifications to their home.

Examples include (but are not limited to):



Ramps



Grab Bars



**No-Step
Door
Threshold**



**Lever-Style
Handles**



**Contrast Steps,
Railings and
Non-Slip
Treads**