

the BLUEPRINT

Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County's Newsletter
Spring 2017



Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County Celebrates 20th Anniversary

Over 20 years ago, the initial spark to create a local Habitat for Humanity was ignited. Dave Anderson of Alexandria held a meeting in the basement of First Lutheran Church, at which two other people attended: John Aponte and Bob Loucks. Inspired by the need for affordable housing in the community, volunteer engagement increased and the group worked diligently for more than a year to become a recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. On January 31, 1997, Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County, Minnesota was established.

Looking back on Habitat Douglas County's 20 years, it is inspiring to see how far the organization has come through the hard work of many. Habitat floor plans have been altered and energy efficiency standards have increased. The local Habitat office began as a mail cubby at First Lutheran and is now located in a beautiful building on North Nokomis. The Habitat ReStore launched in 2014 to help fund our programs, and provides a retail niche in the community. The number of families served each year has grown from one to a current goal of seven. The faces of staff, board members, and volunteers have transitioned over time. While many pieces of the organization have transformed, the intangibles have remained steady: the hearts of Habitat volunteers, the generosity of donors, the leadership of directors and committee members, and the ambition of homeowner families.

Habitat for Humanity is a hand up. Homeowners who partner with Habitat put in hundreds of hours alongside volunteers on the construction site, take educational and budgeting courses, as well as pay an affordable mortgage. All Habitat homeowners have one thing in common; they



Bob Loucks (left) and Dave Anderson (right) celebrate Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County's 20th anniversary.

want a better future for themselves and their families.

Habitat Douglas County feels blessed to have served over 60 families in the community, and aims to reach 93 by the year 2020. We know that when we build homes, we are also building strength, stability and independence. We also know that it took thousands of people stepping up to make 20 years possible, and are humbled by those who give their time and financial gifts generously.

We are excited to continue this 20-year legacy! We are recruiting families, volunteers and business partnerships for the 2017 build season. To learn more about our programs, visit our website at www.hfhdouglascounty.org, call us at 320-762-4255, or stop by our office at 1211 N Nokomis NE in Alexandria.



Habitat Family Reunion Set for June

We are excited to invite you to a 20th anniversary celebration we are calling our Habitat Family Reunion! The event will take place at 5:00 pm on Tuesday, June 20, at City Park in Alexandria. There will be grilling, games and a good time. You are encouraged to bring a potluck dish to share. Everyone is welcome!

Strategic Plan Set for 2020

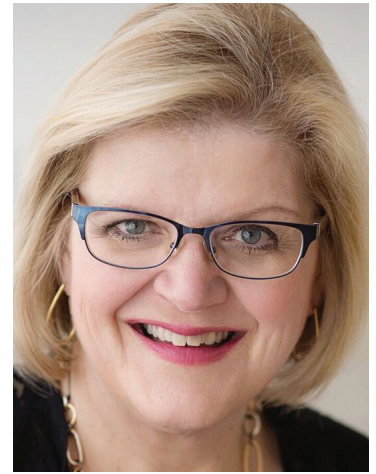
Late in November 2016, the Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County Board of Directors, staff, and committee members met for a strategic planning session. The meeting was upbeat and enthusiastic as we looked ahead to plan for the coming years. Some key themes include growing:

- capacity to meet shelter needs
- organizational capacity
- brand awareness
- volunteer engagement

To see the Strategic Plan Executive Summary, please visit www.hfhdouglascounty.org/content/publications

Dear Friends,

On January 31, Habitat celebrated an important milestone our 20th anniversary. Three people attended the first meeting to explore the possibility of starting a local chapter of Habitat for Humanity in Douglas County. Two of these volunteers, Dave



Anderson, (no relation to me) and Bob Loucks are still involved in our mission today! Their vision and dedication are an inspiration to all and make our work possible. Bob has volunteered on almost every new home that has been built and has been a regular volunteer on the build site. Dave has been a true example of a servant leader, taking time to meet all of the Habitat team members and office volunteers and offer support, humor, guidance and taking time to celebrate along the way. Without these two leaders, Habitat would not be where it is today.

Our vision is a world where everyone has a decent place to live. Every home is the opportunity for a family to build a stronger future. Every gift has an impact. Every hand makes a difference. Consider sharing your hands during the 2017 build season.

As we celebrate 20 years, we thank you for every hand, every dollar, every prayer, and every ounce of support. Our families are grateful for the help they receive and experience meaningful and lasting change in their Habitat homes.

We are thankful for you,

Lori Anderson

Thrivent Builds Homes Key to Habitat Douglas County Growth

Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County has been awarded \$71,500 from Thrivent Financial to build a home in Alexandria beginning April 2017. Since the launch of Thrivent Builds in 2005, their role in helping grow our local Habitat has been monumental. To date, over **\$1.2 million** has been distributed from Thrivent locally in an effort to build affordable housing and as a result, stronger, more stable communities. “The partnership with Thrivent Builds has been instrumental to our work in Douglas County,” states Lori Anderson, HFHDC Executive Director. “Beyond the significant financial investment, Thrivent Builds has helped us to develop organizational



capacity and has played a key role in our ability to serve more families in need. Our mission and our community is stronger because of their investment in affordable housing.” If you would like to get involved with the 2017 Thrivent Builds home, please contact Molly at 320-762-4255 or molly@hfhdouglascounty.org.



Thrivent Builds Homes At a Glance

	Years	Number of Homes	Total volunteers	Total volunteer hours
All U.S. Thrivent Builds Homes	2005-2016	2,280	686,452	4,538,414
Habitat Douglas County Thrivent Builds	2006-2016	16	3,124	31,157

2017 Big Build to be Held in Cambodia



Global Village
volunteer trips

Build with us

Habitat is recruiting volunteers to participate in a global village build on November 13-17, 2017. Michelle Lackey-Olsen will be the team leader. She has led several global village trips for Habitat Douglas County. If an international build has been on your bucket list, consider joining approximately 200 volunteers from around the world to build 15 homes on secure land in the Battambang Province with families currently living in urban informal settlements.

For more information, contact Michelle at michellevlo@yahoo.com. Volunteers will be required to pay their own travel costs and a program fee. Thrivent Financial is partnering with Habitat and is offering special pricing for Thrivent Members.

Meet Our New Staff – Darolyn and Sara

Darolyn Juberien became the Office Manager for Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County in October. She works with financial bookkeeping and administrative support. Darolyn has many years of experience in administration and accounting, as well as experience as a supportive housing coordinator. We are very blessed that she is a part of our team!



Darolyn Juberien

Sara Gronholz joined our team in December as the Family Services Coordinator. She serves as the main contact point for families. Sara recruits families for the homeownership and repair programs, providing direction and assistance throughout the entire application, build season and closing processes. Sara's background in training and working with families will serve her well in her role. We are very excited that she joined our Habitat team!



Sara Gronholz

Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County and Lowe's Invite Women to Join Habitat's 10th Annual National Women Build Week



Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County and Lowe's invite women to build alongside future homeowners during the 10th annual National Women Build Week, May 6 through 14. Habitat Douglas County is one of 300 Habitat organizations nationwide hosting Women Build projects during the week with support from Lowe's, a longtime partner in the event.

National Women Build Week brings together women to devote at least one day to building decent and affordable housing in their local communities. Nearly 100,000 women from all 50 states have volunteered in previous years.

"We are excited to participate in the 10th annual National Women Build Week," said Lori Anderson, executive director of Habitat Douglas County. "This is a great opportunity for women of all skill levels to come together to help a family build or repair a decent and affordable place they can call home, and we are grateful to Lowe's for their financial and volunteer support."

No construction skills are necessary to participate in this year's project. To volunteer or donate, email molly@hfhdouglascounty.org.



Annual Hard Hat Breakfast Builds More than Homes

Save the date! The 12th annual Hard Hat Breakfast will be Wednesday, May 10th at the Broadway Ballroom in Alexandria. This is our premier fundraising event. The goal is to raise \$100,000 to build a home.

This year's speaker is Pastor Greg Billberg of First Lutheran Church. Habitat Douglas County was founded at First Lutheran 20 years ago. The program will also include a testimony from a homeowner and a volunteer. 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.



*2017 Keynote Speaker
Pastor Greg Billberg*

Please email Lori at lori@hfhdouglascounty.org if you would like to attend. The program will be streamed on our website beginning at 7:00 am and donations can be made online. Your involvement in this event helps build strength and stability through shelter in our community.



every gift

helps a family build decent,
affordable housing.

Your Designated Thrivent Choice Dollars® Directions Can Help Fund the Building of Homes for a Family in Need



Are you a member of Thrivent Financial? Are you eligible to participate in the Thrivent Choice Dollars program? Choice Dollars® grant funds can make a world of difference to Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County, as we work together to build safe, decent and affordable housing for families in need. Individually, by making a recommendation through Choice Dollars directions, you can make a difference in the lives of families right here in our community. Together, we can reach our goal. For more information or to direct your designated Choice Dollars, simply go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call 800-847-4836 and state "Thrivent Choice."

Celebrate with us!

Blessing of the Build

Monday, April 17, 2017 • 4:00 pm

2608 Pawnee Dr SE • Alexandria, MN

**Thrivent®
Builds**



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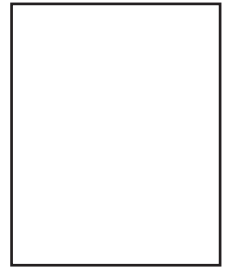


New Database: New Contact Information?

With a new database just around the corner, we want to ensure that we have your correct information on file. Please email any contact information changes to molly@hfhdouglascounty.org or call 320-762-4255. Thank you!



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.

The ReStore Has Your Spring Cleaning Covered

With a touch of warmer weather and hopefully more on the way, you might be thinking about spring cleaning! The ReStore has got you covered. Keep your good, reusable items in use and out of the landfill by dropping it off at the ReStore on North Nokomis.

Some of the items we're looking for include:

- Furniture
- Appliances
- Cabinets
- Building supplies
- Much more!

Go to www.hfhdouglascounty.org/content/donate to see the full list.

If you are unable to drop off your donations, you can schedule a donation pickup on Tuesday mornings in advance. You can schedule online, or call the ReStore at 320-759-1989.

Donations made to the ReStore are tax-deductible and 100% of the proceeds support Douglas County Habitat for Humanity.

