

the **BLUEPRINT**

Spring 2025 Newsletter



From Blueprint to Reality

Construction on first homes in
Summer Meadows begins this month!

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Dear Friends,

I am excited to share with you that I am planning to retire from my role as Executive Director this fall. This transition will allow me the gift of more time to spend with my family and friends, travel, and fully enjoy the lakes area I love so much. It is the right moment - for both me and Habitat. I've had the honor of walking alongside families, volunteers, staff, and community partners in building something with lasting change. As I step into this next chapter, I do so with the confidence of knowing that Habitat is stronger than ever and well-positioned for continued impact and growth.



**Lori Anderson,
Executive Director**

Last year, we broke ground and completed the infrastructure for **Summer Meadows, the first affordable single family housing development in Alexandria since 2002** and the largest project in Habitat's history. The development will allow 42 homes to be built over the next 8 to 10 years. We approved a **new strategic plan** that provides a bold direction to address the critical need for affordable housing. The plan encapsulates the theme "We build, engage, and serve together for all." We have **strong leadership** from our board of directors, phenomenal staff, committed volunteers, and with the power of supportive donors **our affiliate is in the top 3% of small Habitat affiliates in the nation since 2019.**

It has been an honor and joy to serve as the first employee and Executive Director for the past 21 years. I am immensely grateful for the opportunity to lead this great organization and count the people I have met and the experiences I have had as a profound blessing in my life. Building Habitat homes in Cambodia and Vietnam and participating in two Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Work projects were bucket list experiences.

When hired, I was tasked with some bold initiatives that would not only transform the organization but also the lives of the families we serve. Together, we have moved from serving one family a year to 30 families a year. I have been able to see the joy of a Habitat homeowner when they sign the closing papers and receive the keys to their home. They know their family will experience the safety and stability that a decent place to live can provide. With your support, we have served 196 homeowners; 93 affordable homes and 103 Aging in Place projects. In 2014, we opened the ReStore to provide a sustainable source of funding for our mission and a wonderful place for the community to shop.

Once the new executive director is on board, I'll remain engaged in a short-term transitional support role. During this time, I'll focus on wrapping up key strategic initiatives and offering continuity and insight where helpful while also giving the new leader the space and autonomy to lead with confidence.

Thank you for the support you have graciously shown me. I know our incredible supporters will continue to lift up the next leader and Habitat's critical mission in our community. With a solid foundation, I am confident the next leader will bring the organization continued success.

With gratitude,

Lori Anderson

Leadership Transition

Habitat's board of directors is committed to a thoughtful and well-planned leadership transition. To guide this important process, the board has engaged with Bonsai Leadership Group, LLC – a national executive search and leadership development firm with deep expertise in nonprofit leadership transitions. Over the coming weeks, members of the board search committee will partner with Bonsai Leadership Group to gather input from key stakeholders. This input will help shape the leadership profile of the next Executive Director. The board aims to ensure that the next leader builds upon Lori's extraordinary legacy with a fresh vision that will carry Habitat into its next chapter – rooted in the same mission, values, and commitment to service.

- Angie Krebs, Habitat Board Chair

Because of your support, since 1997, we've served:

196 families

93 new or improved homes

103 Aging in Place projects

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.

Celebrating more than two decades of leadership!

Hired in 2004, Lori Anderson began her career with Habitat as the first employee of the affiliate. “From the moment she started, Lori has been the cornerstone of Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County and has played a pivotal role in shaping the foundation of our affiliate,” commented Nicole Olson, Office Manager. Tasked with bold initiatives that transformed the organization, her early contributions were instrumental in establishing Habitat’s core values and operational standards, ultimately strengthening the organization’s capacity.

Lori possesses a deep understanding and passion for Habitat’s mission and has been a steadfast advocate for affordable housing. Her journey with Habitat is a testament to her resilience, adaptability, and passion for her work. She has not only witnessed but actively contributed to the evolution of the affiliate, making her an invaluable asset.

Angie Krebs, current Habitat board chair, aptly remarked, “In our community, Lori is known for her strong relationships with donors, community leaders, and volunteers. Her work has been instrumental in helping 103 families realize their dream of homeownership and countless others improve their living situation. Lori’s servant leadership and dedication to the organization perfectly exemplify Habitat’s mission.”

Under Lori’s leadership, Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County has earned the recognition of being both a top producing and top tithing small affiliate. Her experience and knowledge have been sought out by her peers across the country, highlighted by her six years on Habitat’s US Council, which functions as the planning and policy recommending body to guide the growth of Habitat’s work in the United States. This role allowed Lori to provide a strong voice on behalf of small affiliates and establish connections with Executive Directors across the nation to help the affiliate become even stronger.

Cristen Incitti, President & CEO of Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota views Lori as a “thought partner, innovative leader, and a true embodiment of Habitat’s mission. I have learned a lot from her leadership,” adding, “Her impact on this organization, and the Douglas County community, will continue to be felt and realized for generations.”

Congratulations, Lori! Since 2004, you have led our organization with vision, passion, and an unwavering commitment to provide affordable housing solutions in Douglas County. You have been a mentor, community builder, and a true embodiment of Habitat’s values. You will always be a cherished part of the Habitat family. We are deeply grateful for your leadership and plan to celebrate your incredible legacy this fall to which the public will be invited. Please visit our website at hfhdouglascounty.org for details about this special event and ongoing updates about the leadership transition.



2007: Lori Anderson with Millard Fuller, Habitat for Humanity International Founder



2016: Lori Anderson with Jonathan Reckford, Habitat for Humanity International CEO in Vietnam



2024: Bob Loucks, Ron Otterson, Lori Anderson, Dave Anderson



“Habitat for Humanity is extremely thankful for Lori’s many years of service. From leading the affiliate to serving on our U.S. Council, we are grateful for her commitment to building homes, communities and hope in Douglas County and beyond. Many more families are able to enjoy the benefits of a safe and affordable home because of her efforts, and we have been blessed to have her as part of our ministry.” - Jonathan Reckford, CEO, Habitat for Humanity International

19th Annual Hard Hat Events

Register by
April 30!

Save the date! May 7, 2025

Building Hope and Changing Lives



The Hard Hat Events play a vital role in raising funds to build affordable homes for hardworking families and complete affordable repairs for older adults, ultimately creating a stronger, more vibrant community. This powerful hour is your chance to connect with friends, hear heartfelt stories from Habitat homeowners, and see the impact of your support.

- » **Change local lives:** Every dollar raised stays in our community.
- » **Be inspired:** Experience moving testimonials from homeowners whose lives have been transformed.
- » **Celebrate impact:** Enjoy an uplifting event and network with neighbors and community leaders.

When you support Habitat, you are building a future where children can simply be children - where they have a safe yard in which to play, a room to call their own, and the freedom to dream big and believe in endless possibilities. Your support also helps create a safer environment where adults can confidently remain in their homes -- where they really want to stay -- as long as possible.

Join us for a powerful opportunity to change lives! **Together, let's build a better future for our neighbors.**

2025 Speakers



Jackie
Homeowner



Barb
Aging in Place
Homeowner



Jeff Hohn
Emcee



The Healers
Featured Musicians

Breakfast: 6:15-8:00 am

Doors open at 6:00 am. Enjoy a delicious breakfast of scrambled eggs, bacon, fresh fruit, and caramel rolls with the musical talents of The Healers.

Happy Hour: 5:00-7:00 pm

Doors open at 4:45 pm, with social hour from 5:00-5:45 pm. Savor tasty appetizers while experiencing the musical gifts of The Healers.

Questions?

Call our office at 320-762-4255 or
visit our website hfhdouglascounty.org



Please join us May 7!

Select your event:

Breakfast 6:15 - 8:00 am **or** **Happy Hour** 5:00 - 7:00 pm



Register by April 30:

Phone: 320-762-4255 **or** **Online:** hfhdouglascounty.org



Attend on May 7!

Come with a friend **or** **Meet a new friend**



Make an impact!

- * Hear first-hand stories
- * Network with the community
- * Support affordable housing



Questions? Call or email Christine: 320-762-4255 or christine@hfhdouglascounty.org



Welcome Christine Reilly!

Christine joined the Habitat team in January as the new Director of Development. In this role, Christine leads fundraising strategies to support the organization's strategic plan, develops relationships with individuals and businesses, shares stories of how Habitat is making a difference in our community, and works to further the impact of our mission. Christine grew up in Alexandria and moved back in 2002 with her husband, Shawn, and their three children: Emma, Colin, and Olivia. "In recent years, I have found that my passion is in nonprofit work. I am very excited to continue the excellent work of Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County and look forward to finding ways to increase the impact of Habitat in our community." For Christine, home is her happy place, a place of comfort, security, and family. Please join us in welcoming Christine to the Habitat family!



**Christine Reilly,
Director of
Development**

Welcome Our New Board Members

Habitat is thrilled to welcome two outstanding leaders to our board of directors - Jerry Hansen and Whitney Anderson.

Jerry Hansen is a retired community leader who has served on many local boards. He has been involved with Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County since 2005 and has been a mentor for two Habitat homeowners along with his wife, Joyce. Through his career with Thrivent, Jerry traveled to El Salvador and Argentina on Habitat builds with Thrivent Worldwide. He believes Habitat encourages a hard work ethic in those we serve providing an opportunity for them to improve their life.



Jerry Hansen

Whitney Anderson is a Senior Philanthropy Consultant with The Nature Conservancy, a nonprofit whose mission focuses on conserving the environment. Her firsthand experience in fundraising will provide key insights to the Habitat board and team. Whitney and her family recently moved to Alexandria and is eager to become involved in the community. She shared, "Affordable housing is strongly linked to mental and physical health, better educational outcomes, and a stronger community. I am proud to live in a community with a strong Habitat affiliate."



Whitney Anderson

Jerry and Whitney join our powerhouse board of directors Angie Krebs (Chair), Jeff Hohn (Vice Chair/Treasurer), Rick Sansted (Secretary), Tony Loosbrock (Past Chair),

Jenna Hill, Scott Kluver, Tim Madson, Bobbi Jo Sellnow, Carmon Watkins, and Janelle Wunderlich. As Habitat continues to increase our capacity to serve more families through affordable housing and repairs, the vision and leadership of our incredible board are instrumental in guiding our efforts.

Please join us in welcoming both Jerry and Whitney to the Habitat family.

Pictured left, front row: Jenna Hill, Angie Krebs, Whitney Anderson, Rick Sansted, Jerry Hansen. Back row: Tony Loosbrock and Jeff Hohn.



Habitat Adopted a Highway!



Habitat strives to be a good steward of our environment through recycling the materials used on the build site, and our ReStore. To pay it forward, we adopted a two-mile section of State Highway 29 North, near Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Twice per year, we will coordinate a group of volunteers to pick up litter on both sides of the road alongside our designated area.

Join us May 12, 2025, from 1:00-4:30 pm!

- Volunteers must be age 12+ (*ages 12-15 must be accompanied by an adult*)
- **Bring your own gloves.** All other supplies provided.
- To learn more or sign up, visit our website: hfhdouglascounty.org/volunteer/adopt-a-highway.html

Our Volunteers are Habitat Heroes!

April is Volunteer Appreciation Month — the perfect time to recognize our incredible volunteers who make Habitat's mission possible. Every nail hammered, every wall raised, and every family served is a testament to your dedication and generosity. Whether you swing a hammer on the build site, assist in our ReStore, serve on our board or committees, or help in any way, your contributions create a lasting impact on our community. Because of you, families achieve the dream of a stable home, children have safe places to grow, and people can remain in their homes.

From all of us at Habitat and the ReStore, we extend our deepest gratitude. Thank you for being the heart of Habitat — you are our Habitat Heroes!

Congratulations to the following volunteers who reached volunteer milestones last year:



every volunteer
creates a lifetime
of impact for every family

20 years

- Dwaine Berger
- Dick Welder

15 years

- Carol Gaffaney
- Ed Hagel
- Les Kuehl
- Harold Withers
- Kathy Withers
- Bob Upton

10 years

- Kim Deterding
- Bob Dokken
- Dave Krebsbach
- Michelle Lackey Olsen
- Bill Perrin
- Eddie Reif
- Tom Trisko

5 years

- Joanne Bliese
- Joyce Engel
- Adam Frederick
- Dennis Gangl
- Joan Helgeson
- Alex Henderson
- Jeff Hohn
- Fatima Holm
- Brooklynn Johnson
- Wyatt Johnson
- Tom Klemenhagen (in memory)
- Gary Kluver
- Shirley Kluver
- Angie Larson
- Scott McLaughlin
- Pam Miller
- Ron Moore
- Terrill Morical
- Nicole Nettleton
- Bev Paul
- Brittany Schmidt
- Roger Schultz
- Bobbi Jo Sellnow
- Chad Silbernack
- Sally Smith
- Greg Stehn
- Kurt Steidl
- Dean Strege
- Dennis Strong

663
volunteers

2024
Volunteer
Stats:

11,319
volunteer
hours

\$410+K
value of
volunteer time*

*Independent Sector gathers data and conducts research on volunteerism in the nonprofit sector. In MN, the value of each volunteer hour was \$36.31.

A special note: Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County began as an all volunteer-led organization in 1997. 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!**



Build Updates

From Blueprint to Reality - Homes in Summer Meadows Are Underway!

Similar to many of our Habitat homeowners, what started as an ambitious goal is finally a dream come true -- Habitat has begun construction on homes in Summer Meadows, the first affordable housing development for Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County and the first affordable housing development in Alexandria since 2002.

Through the vision and passion of the Habitat Board of Directors and team, along with the invaluable partnership with the Alexandria City Council, Alexandria Area Economic Development Commission and USDA, led by the expertise of Tom Klemenhausen, the Summer Meadows development will help address the critical need for affordable housing and create a sustainable community for tomorrow. **"Safe and affordable housing makes a huge difference in the lives of families and [Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County] are making it happen. You are the first one in the state to take on a site like this. Congratulations, this shows the strength of your private and public sectors,"** commented Colleen Landkamer, State Director for USDA at the July 2024 Ground Blessing.

Like our future homeowners, Habitat continues to dream big and pursue ambitious goals to serve more people. Our strategic plan includes increasing our capacity from building five affordable homes per year to six (or even more). To achieve this critical work, Habitat has started implementing new procedures to improve efficiency, particularly on our build sites. As the 2025 build season begins, volunteers can expect a new system to register for volunteer activities and complete the annual waiver, among other enhancements.

"Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County has a strong foundation to build upon. With the continued support of our amazing community, we will further our mission and deepen our positive impact in the communities we serve," said Tony Loosbrock, Habitat's Past Board Chair.

Homeownership is a life-changing opportunity for the families we serve, and none of this would be possible without you -- the volunteers, donors, and advocates who believe in our mission. As Summer Meadows comes to life, we invite you to be part of this historic transformation. Whether swinging a hammer, making a donation, or spreading the word about our programs, every act of support strengthens our mission. Together, we are building strength, stability, and self-reliance through shelter.

Questions about the homeownership or Aging in Place programs?
Please call the office at 320-762-4255



Above: view looking south from Scenic Heights Rd



Above: view looking north from Summer Ln



Above: birds eye view of entire development



Legends Build Home

As students from Alexandria College's Carpentry Program near completion of their academic year, so nears the end of construction on this home. Within the next two months, a home dedication will be celebrated after which Codie will close on her home and begin creating new memories and traditions with her children. Caution: excitement ahead!

ReStore Corner

As our ReStore continues to grow, so does our amazing team. Last fall, we welcomed three new ReStore team members who have been hard at work bringing energy, expertise, and passion for Habitat's mission to their roles. Whether helping customers find the perfect treasure, ensuring donations are cleaned and ready to find their next home, to keeping the store running smoothly, Eli, Brenden, and Ron have already made a big impact. And remember -- when you shop local at the ReStore, you will find a great deal and support affordable housing in our community while having a great experience with our ReStore team.



Eli Starzl

ReStore Assistant Manager

Eli joined the ReStore team in November. Prior to joining Habitat, he was a college basketball coach, an operations scheduler, and an area manager for a honey producing company.

He comes from a family of all nurses, and his son is currently enrolled at Alexandria Area High School.

Eli is excited to meet all the friendly ReStore donors and customers, work with the Habitat families - especially seeing the smiles on all their faces. "The ability to give back is something very meaningful."

For Eli, home is peace, comfort, and joy, and where your heart knows you are safe.



Brenden Thornsberry

ReStore Associate

Brenden, his wife, and their fur babies moved to the Alexandria area a couple of years ago to be closer to family. Prior to joining Habitat, Brenden owned a flooring business, worked as an in-home health care provider for adults with disabilities, and had assorted roles in the technology industry.

He enjoys working with all the customers, helping with the wide array of needs. "Helping someone discover the ReStore and the many things we have to offer is fantastic!"

For Brenden, home means knowing you have a safe, warm, and welcoming environment to come home to each and every day -- a feeling everyone deserves to know.



Ron Moritz

ReStore Associate

Ron and his wife, Cindy, are long-time residents of Alexandria. For 30 years, Ron managed Yesterday's Antiques until joining the ReStore team in December.

He was on the planning committee for the ReStore before it opened in 2014 sharing, "I was confident the ReStore profits would help make the dream of home a reality for many more people."

Ron is excited to help the ReStore continue to grow, ultimately helping even more families build affordable homes with Habitat.

For Ron, home is his happy place, his quiet place, and a place to make family memories with his wife, beautiful daughters and husbands, and their three grandchildren.

Donations
Call 320-759-1989 to schedule.

Mon thru Sat
10 am to 4 pm

Store Hours
Wed thru Sat
9 am to 5 pm

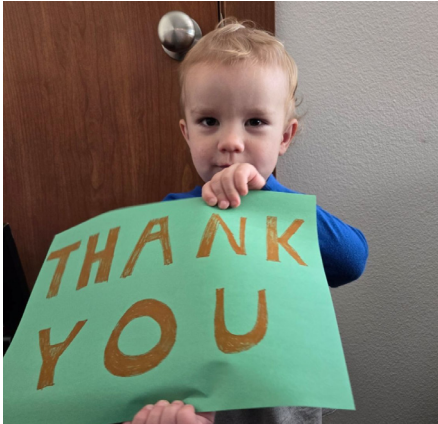
Questions about the ReStore?
Please call 320-759-1989 or email jim@hfhdouglascounty.org



Habitat for Humanity®

of Douglas County, Minnesota

1211 N Nokomis NE
Alexandria, MN 56308



every smile

is more joyful when you realize you are at home



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Building strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter.

Upcoming Events - Join Us!

Register by April 30!



Habitat for Humanity® of Douglas County Minnesota

19th Annual



Hard Hat Events
May 7, 2025

Breakfast 6:15-8:00 am or Happy Hour 5:00-7:00 pm

Broadway Ballroom, 115 30th Ave E, Alexandria

Happy Hour presented by Geneva Capital

Join us!

Visit hfhdouglascounty.org
or call 320-762-4255

You're Invited!

Habitat Friends & Family Picnic

5:00-7:00 PM

17 JUNE 2025

CITY PARK
118 City Park Rd
Alexandria

