

 Twin Cities
Habitat for Humanity®

Habitat

HERALD

Vol. XXXIII #1 **Winter 2022**

You
**build firm
foundations.**

INSIDE

Save the date! Don't miss out on the return of
the best gala event of the year **6**

Photo by Bruce Silcox

January 2022

Dear Friends,

I can't thank you enough. But I'm going to try...

Thank you, thank you, *thank you!*

Over these past two years, you and the entire Habitat community have stepped up in ways I never imagined possible. You rallied together to support homeowners struggling during the pandemic. You renewed your commitment to closing the racial gap in homeownership. You trusted us to prioritize safety as we continued serving clients and engaging volunteers.

Thank you for rolling up your sleeves and helping to build a more equitable Twin Cities region.

And my gratitude doesn't stop here. All month long, Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity will be showering gratitude on supporters like you. We call it *Thankuary*—a month of celebrating your hard work and generosity.

What's Ahead for 2022

You're a trusted partner, so I want you to know the inside scoop on Twin Cities Habitat's plans for 2022 and beyond.

You probably know that the Twin Cities face tremendous housing disparities, particularly in rates of homeownership between Black and White households. Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity is a leader in creating affordable homeownership in our region. And we're proud that about 80% of our homebuyer clients are households of color. But we recognize that we've come up short on delivering a program that's relevant for Black families in the Twin Cities. We need to do more and do better.

That's why we've built a strategic plan that's laser-focused on expanding equitable access to homeownership and

narrowing the racial homeownership gap—with a focus on better serving our Black neighbors.

We know we can't do this work alone. We're collaborating with our new Black Homeownership Council and other partners to center the lived experiences of Foundational

Black Americans—those who are descendants of enslaved Africans and have been the primary targets of racist housing policies.

Together, we'll learn, build, partner, redesign our programs, and realign our advocacy—all with the goal of

reducing our housing disparities. And we know that when we improve our programs for those most impacted by housing discrimination, our program will become better for everyone who partners with us, including the immigrant communities who've long found success in our program.

In addition, against the headwinds of soaring home prices and land costs, we will innovate our homebuilding strategies, expand our mortgage financing for low- and moderate-income households, and continue to set families up for long-term success in homeownership.

The bottom line? Your support will go further than ever.

In 2022 and beyond, your support will power our mission to bring people together to create, preserve, and promote affordable homeownership and advance racial equity in housing. When you rally around Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity, you change the lives of real people. Your contributions unlock the potential in local families—and the impact grows for years and years.

In this *Habitat Herald*, you'll read a story about how just one Habitat home has impacted a family for five



generations. That's the ripple effect of your support. Thank you for the many ways you support Twin Cities families through Habitat for Humanity. I look forward to working together in the year ahead.

Gratefully,

Chris Coleman

Chris Coleman

P.S. Save the date for the party of the year! The Hard Hat & Black Tie Gala is on Saturday, April 23, at The Depot – Minneapolis. Register at tchabitat.org/gala2022

All month long, we're thanking Habitat supporters like YOU. Last year, more than 3,000 volunteers and 7,000 donors came together to support 818 families. ***Thank you!***

Always Open

Heart + Home



The generational impact of your gifts ripples through families for years to come.

Thank you.



All photos this spread by Bruce Silcox

Five generations of Deborah's family have been nourished in her Habitat home. That's the impact of your generosity.

Deborah has fond memories of her childhood. Her mom was a natural host, and her home was always filled with people. Friends, family, neighbors—anyone and everyone was welcome at Deborah's mom's place.

"She was like a counselor to our friends," Deborah remembers. "All of our friends would come over to my mom's house and stay the night." It was the place to be.

When Deborah grew up, she knew she wanted to be a generous host just like her mom. But she didn't know if she'd ever be able to buy a home of her own.

And then Deborah found Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity.

She applied and was accepted. The entire process took her two years. It wasn't too long, but it definitely took work. She was careful to maintain and improve her finances. When it was time to select her home, she fell in love with a North Minneapolis home built in 1910.

Deborah's three kids and her partner Jerry's two kids were excited. They could move out of their small townhouse into their own rooms. The house had beautiful woodwork, two bathrooms, a spacious backyard, and plenty of room for hosting friends and family.

Deborah takes pride in her home. Over the 20 years she's owned the property, she has updated the doors, windows, furniture, and appliances.

Deborah has painted, landscaped, installed a new fence, and replaced her roof. Her walls are filled with photos of the memories her family has created over the years. She keeps her home in excellent condition so she can pass it down to the next generation.

"I want to be a blessing to others who need a place to stay or a place to eat. My house is always open."

Deborah

Habitat homeowner since 1998

"It's a wanted house," she says. "Everybody that comes here feels loved and wanted and appreciated. It's like an open house—open arms."

Her home has been there for her through some trials and tribulations. A few years ago, Deborah was diagnosed with cancer. Jerry also became unable to work. But through it all, she was able to keep up with her mortgage and bills. In fact, she was able to pay off her mortgage a year early and do some more upgrades to the house. Now she's a proud cancer survivor and loving life. As she's seen friends fall into foreclosure or other housing difficulties over the years, she's grateful for the strong foundation of her Habitat home.

"I was blessed with this house through Habitat, so I want to be a blessing to anybody else who needs a place to stay or a place to eat. My house is always open. I'm proud to be able to do that, because nothing is promised in life. That's just me—the way I was brought up. I love life!"

Deborah's Habitat home has been a rock for her family for more than twenty years. And it will continue to be a firm foundation for generations to come. That's the power of your support.



Your Top 3 New Year's Resolutions

Become a Winter Warrior

Habitat needs volunteers year-round—because hope doesn't take a snow day! Become a Winter Warrior by volunteering three times between December and February. You'll receive a special thank-you gift.

Sign up at tchabitat.org/winter

Start a Recurring Gift

When you become a monthly donor, you create strength and stability for families that multiply for generations. You'll also receive less mail and help lower our costs. Plus, you'll join our Carpenter's Club for recurring donors and receive special perks. It's a win-win-win.

Give now at tchabitat.org/sustain

Build Your Career

We're hiring! Align your values and passion with your workplace and join team Habitat. We offer an excellent benefits package and competitive compensation. You or someone you know could be the perfect fit.

Sign up for Habitat job alerts at tchabitat.org/jobs



With your generous support last year, **818 families** partnered with Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity, including **77 families who bought homes** of their own. Think of all the lives changed forever, thanks to your generosity.

See your impact in our online annual report at tchabitat.org/hopeful

SAVE THE DATE

HARD HAT & Black Tie

Saturday, April 23, 2022

The Depot - Minneapolis

The party of the year is back in person (or you can join from home)! Get your tickets now for Hard Hat & Black Tie—the gala that's a little less formal and a lot more fun!

tchabitat.org/gala2022



Photo by Bruce Silcox

Dave (above, left) and other members of the ARegs take a break at a build site. Volunteer with Habitat at tchabitat.org/volunteering

Reminiscences on Home Repair

As someone who enjoyed home repairs but didn't have time to pursue those interests during his working years, Dave DeVoy was eager to volunteer with the *A Brush with Kindness* Regular Crew (the ARegs) when he retired in 2010.

Dave dove in and quickly found he enjoyed the work. Many of the homes they worked on were in a state of neglect. Solving the issues was a fresh challenge each time. The crew members have many different skills, which means they can rely on each other as resources when a new problem arises.

Dave says, "The staff and AmeriCorps are strictly *awesome*. They carry everything to site each day, provide coaching and assistance during the day, and clean up at the end of the day. All with grace and good humor."

The homeowners are also great to work with. Dave says they're very patient and sometimes even bring the crew delicious snacks.

"It is a gift and an honor to give something back to such amazing folks."

Dave DeVoy

Habitat ARegs volunteer since 2010

"It has long been my experience that those with the least to give are often the most generous, whether with a meal, shelter, a smile, a hug, or whatever else they can share. It is a gift and an honor to be able to give something back to such amazing folks."

Over the last decade, Dave has learned a lot more about home repair and also had some once-in-a-lifetime experiences — like meeting President Jimmy Carter during the *Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Work Project* in 2010! He's looking forward to many more volunteering days to come with all of the great people who make up the *A Brush with Kindness* team.



Last year, you gave generously to make sure local families had stable, affordable places to call home. As our way of saying thanks, we invite you to

Get 50% off
your entire purchase, January 18–22



restore.tchabitat.org

Valid 01/18/2022 through 01/22/2022 only at 510 County Rd. D West, New Brighton, and 2700 Minnehaha Ave, Minneapolis locations. Excludes red-tagged items. Limit one per purchase, per customer. CODE: **Herald33**