



Support a Rider . . .



. . . pave the way to a better life!



North St. Louis County
Habitat
for Humanity®

Seeking to put God's love into action,
Habitat for Humanity brings people
together to build homes,
communities and hope.

No Chain

Dear Friends,

On July 14th through the 19th, 15 hearty bike riders will embark on the Habitat 500 bike ride fundraiser. They have committed to ride their bikes for miles and miles in support of the five families we are partnering with to build simple, decent and affordable homes. You can learn more about them and the families they are riding to help in the rest of the pages of this newsletter. Our Habitat 500 riders love their bikes, but... they are not always in love with their bike chains! The bike chain is that special component of the bike that connects the friction of the road to the pedals. As friction and gravity pull on the bike, that struggle is passed on to the rider's pedals via the bike chain. The chain = the struggle!



For our Habitat partner families, substandard housing = the struggle; the chain. We have neighbors in need who are struggling with high rents, high utility bills, moldy apartments, thin walls with loud tenants, 100 year old wiring, plumbing and windows. As our riders struggle with their chains for 500 miles in July, they are thinking about our Habitat partner families and their struggle with substandard housing. They are riding to take away the chain of substandard, unaffordable and unsafe housing.

One of Lance Armstrong's famous quotes was simply, "No Chain!" He commented that he strove for that point in his training and fitness where he could be climbing up an incredibly steep road in the Alps and look down to see no chain on his bike. The ride would be effortless!

We are working together towards that goal for our neighbors in need. We are striving to help our neighbors and looking for that day when the "chain" of substandard housing is gone and everyone has a decent place to live. Please consider a donation in support of our riders efforts to eliminate the "chain" for five more of our neighbors in need. With your help, these families can move on from their difficult situations and thrive in homes that offer strength, stability and self reliance.

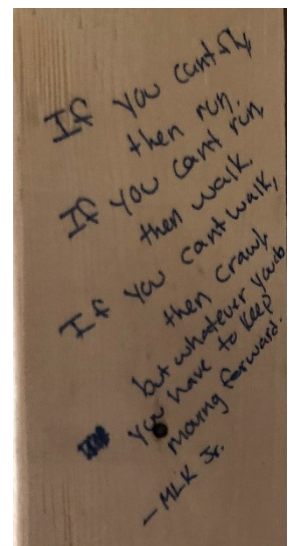
Together we are making a difference!

Sincerely,

Nathan Thompson, Executive Director



No Chain!



Inside, meet
our 2019
families and
the riders
who will
bike 500
miles this
July to raise
money and
awareness
for Habitat!

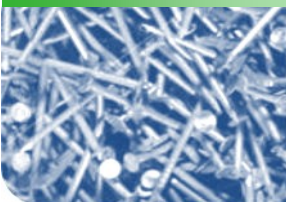
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I Felt a Sense of Kinship

Family: Kris Edstrom Riders: Debby Bocnuk and Todd Roswold

Habitat address: 202 Mesabi Location Annex, Biwabik, MN



Kris, DaJuan and Damari Edstrom have had an exciting fall and winter! First of all, Kris received the call last June that her family had been selected for our 2019 build season. Then the word came that Leo Lukas and his carpentry students at Mesabi Range College would be interested in pouring the foundation for her house this past fall! Not only did the students get that done, they also managed to frame, truss and sheet the house in time for our very snowy and cold winter. Kris and DaJuan were loyal shovelers all winter long. Their patience is paying off: the house is well underway and we hope to complete it this fall! Upon learning they had been selected, Kris remembers, "My son, DaJuan had the best reaction, he was so happy to know that he would have a door on his bedroom. I cried...it has been a

long time since something positive has happened to my family. It brought more hope for the future." The experience so far has also been very moving for Kris: "As I watched the foundation being poured or worked with volunteers, I felt a sense of kinship. People coming together and working by putting in time without expecting anything in return. It gives me hope for my children's future. The world is not as bad as the media makes it out to be."

This year, new Habitat 500 riders Debby Bocnuk and Todd Roswold are riding and raising funds for the Edstrom family. When asked why she is joining the ride and supporting Habitat for Humanity, Debby wrote, "A home, your very own, is such a life changer. My own home was a thrill; a yard, garden, bird feeders and all. The Habitat 500 bike ride is a means for providing homes, an opportunity to make a difference. God plopped this opportunity down right in our neighborhood, gave me the ability and passion for cycling, and tailored it just so to connect Kris and the boys, our church, and Habitat for Humanity. The Edstrom family has a home. How great is that?" Todd added, "As an avid cyclist, I am pleased to ride the Habitat 500 to raise funds for Habitat homes. The past several years, I've had the opportunity to be involved in the construction of three Habitat homes in our area. I'm grateful to see the construction of a home with Kris Edstrom in Biwabik and know how important it is to have a home for your family."



This year, Brian Birk, interim pastor at Faith Lutheran Church in Chisholm and the first Habitat 500 rider for our Habitat, will be participating in his 20th Habitat 500 bike ride! Brian says: "I am 66 years old and will hit 67 prior to the start of the bike ride. I am married. I have a son living in Duluth and a daughter south of Biwabik. I have a ten year old grandson who also lives south of Biwabik and is a good friend of another ten year old, Dajuan, who will be living in the Habitat for Humanity Home currently being built in Biwabik. I am not a fast bike rider or a superbly conditioned athlete. I am able to ride 500 miles because I simply keep pedaling unless I become injured or my bike breaks down. I believe in the mission of Habitat for Humanity. I am grateful for being able to be a part of the partnership that makes simple, decent homes a reality for many people." Because of his passion for cycling and for Habitat's mission, it is no hardship to Pastor Birk to ask his friends for support to help families realize the strength, stability and self-reliance that homeownership provides. Your support is very much appreciated!





Independence and Security

Family: Kenny & Alicia Forsman Riders: Nathan and Marjie Thompson

Hibbing School Build—2502 3rd Ave E, Hibbing, MN

Hi, I am Marjorie Thompson, and my Dad and I are riding the Habitat 500 bike ride yet again. This ride has been a long time tradition in our family. This will be my Dad's 16th year, and my 8th year participating. We are very excited to have the bike ride in our back yard. One of the many reasons our family loves this bike ride is because it gives us the opportunity to help and get to know a family in our community.

This year, my Dad and I are riding for the Forsman family! We had the great opportunity to meet and get to know Kenny and Alicia, along with their two little girls, Kharma and Marley. Kharma is five years old, and Marley is four years old. However, their family would not be complete without the mention of their sweet dog Cooper.



Nathan and Marjie Thompson and the Forsmans

Last September, Kenny had a motorcycle accident that put him in a wheelchair. While some families would fall apart after something like that, the Forsman family only grew stronger and closer together! The Forsmans told us: with their young girls, the family is excited for all the life they have ahead of them.

The Forsman family currently lives in a two story house in Hibbing, with Kenny's room on the second floor. This house is difficult for Kenny to get around and do things in. The Forsman family is very excited to partner with Habitat to build a one level house that will be accessible for Kenny and meet his needs. The new Habitat house will help Kenny be able to do things he really enjoys, like cooking for example. Habitat for Humanity is partnering with the Forsmans to build an accessible kitchen with cabinets and appliances Kenny can use by himself. Habitat for Humanity also wants to utilize sliding doors and other things like a roll in shower to really customize the space to give Kenny more independence.

Giving people the independence and security of a home is what this organization is all about. Everyone deserves somewhere decent and affordable to live, and that's what Habitat for Humanity is striving to do in every community. My family and I are so happy to raise money and awareness for this cause and specifically for the Forsman family this year. Habitat for Humanity is an organization that is near and dear to our hearts and we believe it helps our community. I would like to ask you to help us help the Forsman family and other families like them by supporting us on the Habitat 500 bike ride. Any and all contributions are very helpful and appreciated. Thank you!

Donate to the Habitat 500 Bike Riders by credit card

\$ _____ VISA \$ _____ Master Card \$ _____ Discover \$ _____ American Express

Card Number: _____

The CVV2 code or security code on back of card: _____

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RIDING TO BUILD A CYCLE OF HOPE!

Raising Money and Awareness for Habitat for Humanity



Habitat 500 Bike Ride July 14-19, 2019

July 13-15: Hermantown
July 15-17: Hibbing (*bike home. Tuesday*)
July 17-19: Aurora
July 19: Hermantown (finish line celebration)



1-Day, 3-Day and 6-Day Options

Pedaling to build a cycle of hope.

This July 14th—19th, **15** cyclists will embark on a 500 mile journey to raise money and awareness for Habitat for Humanity homes.

To truly come to understand the heart and mission of Habitat for Humanity, they have met with Habitat’s 2019 partner families to share and celebrate their Habitat stories.

We invite you into their stories and on their journeys as together we:

“Build homes, communities and hope in North St. Louis County”.

