



North St. Louis County

Habitat for Humanity®

Habitat HIGHLIGHTS

Spring 2013

Volume XIX, Edition II

MISSION VISION

A world where everyone has a decent place to live.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

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SUSTAINABILITY: THE CAPACITY TO ENDURE

The word sustainability describes how things endure and remain diverse and productive over time. Sustainability is an important concept to us at North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity. When we serve our neighbors in need we have a desire to help them achieve sustainability. Together we achieve this by building an affordable AND energy efficient home. Sustainability in homeownership is not only found in a 0% mortgage. A home also has to be affordable to maintain in order to help a family endure the hurdles of difficult economic times.

North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity made the commitment to build all of its homes according to the Minnesota Green Communities Guidelines in 2009. These guidelines affect the way in which we use building materials to minimize waste. There are also standards for using low VOC (volatile organic compounds) paints, adhesives and caulking that impact the health of our homeowners and volunteers. In building a home green, care is taken in the orientation of our homes to take advantage of the sun for light and heat. The use of energy star lights and appliances as well as the latest techniques in super insulating our homes insure that families can afford the ever rising utility costs.

Does building green work? Are Habitat homes affordable to maintain? Since our move to using the Minnesota Green Communities Guidelines we have tracked the performance of our homes. During the five coldest months of our northern Minnesota winter the average heating cost for a Habitat home was a grand total of \$350. The average electrical and gas costs for a Habitat home for the whole year was \$1470 or just \$122

per month. These numbers help families break the cycle of poverty as they thrive in a home which is sustainable.

As steps were being taken to build homes that were more sustainable, the board of directors was also addressing the issue of Habitat's ability to endure and thrive. Steps towards organizational sustainability have brought new faces to Habitat. Dave Alaspa our construction manager was hired in 2009 and Tom Long our resource development manager in 2011. This winter we have begun construction on an office and warehouse. The facility will bring efficiency to building operations as materials and tools will no longer be scattered across North St. Louis County. Adequate storage will also allow us to buy materials in bulk at better prices. The shop area will serve as a staging place for activities like staining trim and pre-building wall panels. Having the office located in a permanent location will eliminate the confusion and loss of productivity

that several moves have caused in the past. The goal in taking on this project is to ensure Habitat's efficiency, productivity and sustainability as we continue to grow to meet the needs of our neighbors.

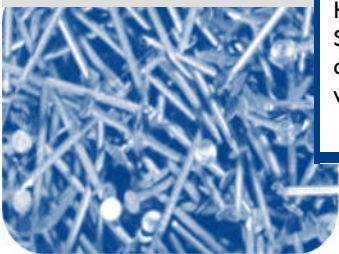
Work on the facility started this winter through a partnership with the City of Mt. Iron and Northland Builders. Over 75% of the funds for the project have been secured and we are working to raise the additional 25% during this current year. The shell of the facility will be completed by contractors in April. We would love to have you, our wonderful supporters and volunteers, help us build sustainability for Habitat as we work to pour a floor and finish the interior early this summer.

Thank you for your support! Together we are growing stronger to help more families.

Nathan Thompson
Executive Director



Dave Alaspa, Nathan Thompson pause for a photo with Northland Buildings CEO Pete Marsnik and team.



JOIN THE STAFF TEAM! ~ HELP WANTED

Since 2003 North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity has been blessed with the talent of eight full time VISTA volunteers and six Summer VISTA volunteers. These wonderful people have helped our Habitat affiliate grow in the areas of Family Services, Church Relations, Volunteer and Construction Site Management.

We have been blessed with the opportunity to host VISTA positions again this year. We are currently seeking applicants to fill three positions.

The first is a position in communications and marketing that runs from August

2012 to August 2013. This 40 hour per week position will receive a monthly stipend of \$946 and an educational award of \$5500 at the end of the year and requires a college degree or experience in communications and marketing. The year of service will be focused on communicating key messages, updating and creating new publication templates as well as increasing the organization's online presence. It would be ideal for a person just getting out of college or someone who is semi-retired.

Secondly, we are looking to fill two stipend summer positions for the months of June and July to help lead

volunteers in building activities.

You or someone you know may be the perfect fit to help further Habitat's ministry this year. Please give Nathan Thompson a call or email at habitat@nslchfh.org as soon as possible if you or someone you know is interested!



PLAY HOUSE RAFFLE

North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity and Wausau Homes of Eveleth have partnered for a new fundraiser to benefit Habitat. Todd Stanek of Wausau Homes

to raffle off this spring and summer.

We will be utilizing volunteers to take the playhouse to area businesses and community events and sell raffle tickets. Tickets can be purchased for \$5 each or five tickets for \$20. The drawing will be held Thursday August 1.

All proceeds will go to build REAL homes for partner families in need of simple, decent and affordable housing. Recent statistics show the need for affordable housing in North St. Louis County is greater than ever.

We could use your help! If you would like to staff the ticket table at one of our events and visit with the public about the good work that Habitat is doing

please give me a call.

If you would like to purchase raffle tickets for your children, grandchildren or to donate to you church, childcare provider or that family across the street, you can send a check to the Habitat office indicating the number of tickets and what name(s) and address you want on the winning ticket. We will return the ticket stubs to you by mail.

Please use the return envelope or mail checks and ticket information to:

North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity
P. O. Box 24
Virginia, MN 55792



provided a beautiful Playhouse for North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity

Tom Long
Resource
Development
Manager



CELEBRATE HOMEOWNERSHIP WITH THREE FAMILIES THIS SPRING!

- ◆ The dedication of Gina Harder's home in partnership with Chisholm and Hibbing High Schools and the Hibbing Community College will be held on May 13th at 10 am. Join us at 1211 16th Ave East in Hibbing to share in this joyous occasion!
- ◆ Celebrate homeownership with Megan Manley & family as we dedicate her home on May 15th at 10 AM. The home, built in partnership with the Mesabi Technical College's Second year carpentry class, is located at 1113 West 2nd St in Eveleth.
- ◆ Renee Peterson's home will be dedicated on May 22nd at 9AM. Join us at the home located at 105 8 1/2 St South in Virginia. This home was donated by the Peterson family (no relation) to be totally remodeled in partnership with local community volunteers and the Virginia High School's Building Construction Class,

CONTRIBUTORS

Thank you for your generous support! Habitat for Humanity extends a heart felt Thank You to all those who have contributed money, materials, and professional services.

Donors listed from 12-14-12 thru 4-3-13.

If we have missed your name,
please inform us so that we can recognize you in the next newsletter!

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The only gift
is a portion of
thysself.

-Ralph Waldo
Emerson

WEBSITE AND EMAIL

For the latest news on
building projects, volunteer
opportunities and events
please check our website
often at:

www.nslchfh.org

Donations can now be
made online. Check out
our website at
www.nslchfh.org

If you would like to receive
email updates on volunteer
opportunities and events
please send us an email
with that request to:

habitat@nslchfh.org

Love in Action!
“My Children, our love
should not just be
words and talk; it must
be true love, which
shows itself in action.”
I John 3:18

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/AmeriCorps*VISTA



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We are very grateful for the many individuals, organizations, businesses and corporations who have made donations to North St. Louis County Habitat.

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U.S. Green Building Council MN
United Way of Northeast MN
Virginia Community Foundation
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Churches

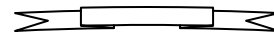
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- ◆ Aldo and Carol Ongaro In memory of Ramon Bugliosi
- ◆ Anders and Patricia Stone in memory of Alex J. Stone
- ◆ Diane Lavern in loving memory of Edward Walberg Jr.
- ◆ Gary and Avis Norton in memory of Ray Ranta
- ◆ Janet Gaspersich in memory of David Pocrnich
- ◆ Jim & Virginia Patregnani in memory of Hank Wiilianen
- ◆ Jim and Virginia Patregnani in memory of David Pocrnich
- ◆ Ramon and Joanne Bugliosi in memory of Lois Vitali (Jim)
- ◆ Robert and Ruth McClain in honor of Kay and Ray Johnson and in memory of Pearl Anderson
- ◆ Rod and Judy Politano in memory of Jean P. Bussey
- ◆ Vivian Williams and Ervin Kahtava In memory of Eleanor Leinonen

SPECIAL THANKS

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JOIN THE TEAM ~HABITAT 500 BIKE RIDE FUNDRAISER SET FOR JULY 14TH-20TH

There are quite a few of us at North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity who are very enthusiastic about bicycles and building affordable homes. In fact, if you get us started on one of these topics I am sure that we could talk your ear off about either subject! We are more than happy to discuss what is the best kind of bike to ride or where are the best roads and trails. Get us started talking about affordable housing and we can visit with you for hours on topics like sustainable building practices and the impacts that a simple decent and affordable home has on a family in need.

When you combine the topics of bicycles and affordable homes we take

our conversations to a whole new level: that of the Habitat 500 fundraising bike ride. Over the years many of our board members, volunteers and staff have participated in this great event by either biking 500 miles in seven days or volunteering to raise funds and awareness for Habitat for Humanity projects. This year is shaping up to be an exceptional year for this biking event. Team NSLCHFH is bigger than it has ever been before. We are working to recruit twenty bike riders to come join us!

The event is a ride and not a race. Though 500 miles in seven days seems daunting it is more realistic when taken

in twenty mile intervals from rest stop to rest stop on the road. Participants approach their friends and family to raise at least \$900 towards home projects on the Range. Many of our riders raise much more than the minimum. Last year \$26,000 were raised to help our neighbors in need. Thank You!!

Please consider joining us on this event. You can ride all seven days or come as a tag team member and ride one or more days of the event. If you or someone you know might be interested in joining our cycling team please give us a call at the office at 218-866-8910. More information can be found at www.habitat500.org

THREE STUDENT BUILT HOMES NEAR COMPLETION AS THE 2013 BUILDING SEASON BEGINS!



Even as the Construction Committee plans the start of five new home projects and an office/warehouse project for the 2013 building season our hearts rejoice with three partner families who's homes are nearly complete. These three homes have been "learning labs" for students across the Range during the 2012-2103 school year.

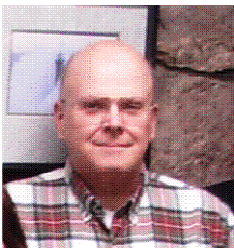
The partnership with the Applied

Learning Institute, Chisholm, Hibbing, Virginia High Schools along with the Mesabi Technical and Hibbing Community Colleges has successfully completed nine homes! North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity is fortunate to have these partnerships that bring the hands on learning of students and community revitalization together to build homes and hope with families across the range. The three

homes built this year by students in Eveleth, Hibbing and Virginia will be dedicated in May.

A big thank you goes out to all of the schools involved in this partnership, the students, the Applied Learning Institute and the dedicated community volunteers who work with teachers to lead these students in their affordable housing work.

ROD McPEAK, FELLOW LABORER IN THE HABITAT MISSION WILL BE MISSED!



The Habitat family is mourning the lost of Rod McPeak who passed away on March 16th. Rod joined the Habitat for Humanity board of directors in 2005 and served in the capacity of board secretary, president, site selection committee chair and construction site supervisor for the Tower and Soudan homes. His genuine love for volunteers and partner families kept him energized in helping North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity fulfill it's mission of putting God's love into action by bringing people together to build homes, communities and hope. His commitment to excellence helped guide the organization as it increased its capacity to build six homes with families in need. Rod will be greatly missed by the Habitat staff, board, volunteers and partner families. Our prayers are with all, especially his family, during this difficult time.



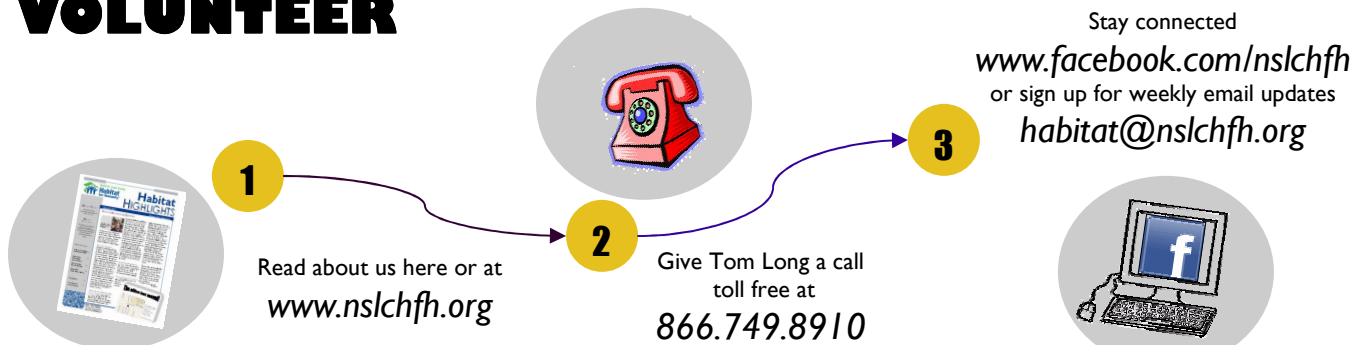
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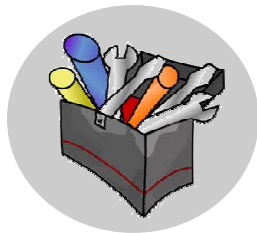
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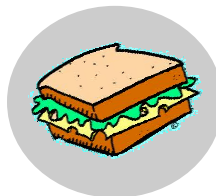


WHAT YOU CAN DO...



Volunteer on a build site

Provide a meal



Support our partner families
 Serve on a committee

Prepare mailings and newsletters

