



North St. Louis County

**Habitat**  
for Humanity®

# Habitat HIGHLIGHTS

Summer 2013

Volume XIX, Edition III

## 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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## SERVING EIGHT FAMILIES! ~ 2013 BUILDING SEASON

Dear Friend of Habitat,

Yes the title is right, eight families! Wow, that means that eight more families will have simple, decent homes that they can afford. The children from eight families will stop having to move from one apartment to another and have safe and adequate space to do their homework, enjoy family time and bring friends over. Eight parents will be enjoying the stability and sustainability for their families that homeownership will provide.

### All this – wouldn't happen without you!

The 2013 building season will be challenging and greatly rewarding! Let me tell you how this exciting year developed. Four homes, two in Virginia and two in Hibbing, are new construction projects and are under way! We started with the Thrivent Builds home in Hibbing in June. Two homes in Virginia in partnership with the Wells Fargo Foundation started at the end of July. The Hibbing and Chisholm High Schools along with the Hibbing Community College's electrical class began a new home construction project, our fourth of this season, in Hibbing in September. The fifth home for the 2013 building season will also begin in late September. This homeownership opportunity was made possible when the family of Carol Nelson (one of our Habitat homeowners who passed away last winter) decided to sell the home back to Habitat so that another family could continue to benefit from Carol's legacy. Volunteers will begin adding a third bedroom to this home beginning in late September. This was the base plan for our building season this year.

Like most plans, we realize that they are subject to God's will and His hand at work in our lives and organizations. Through various circumstances, including happy stories like partner families getting married and moving with their spouses to other homes, we were able to bring three Habitat homes back into our ownership to be "recycled" back into the program. With a few minor repairs and new

paint these homes will soon be providing a stable, safe, energy efficient and affordable home for three more of our neighbors in need. These homeowners will go through our application process, put in their required sweat equity on the other five homes being built and then be ready to purchase these homes around the first of the new year.

We cannot serve these eight families without you! We need your help in spreading the word that we are accepting applications to fill these "recycle" homes as well as homes that will be built in the 2104 building season. Your time, energy and donations are needed this year more than ever. As we work with these families to prepare them for homeownership, we need your help to raise funds to provide the necessary materials and to perform the work that is needed to make each of these eight houses a home.

Thank you for your continued support! There is more information throughout this newsletter on ways in which you, your friends, and organizations that you may be involved with can help.

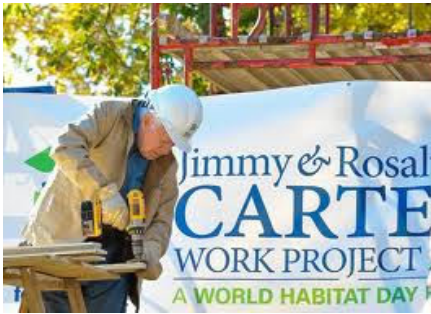
In partnership to build hope,

Nathan Thompson, Executive Director



Family Support Committee members meet monthly with Habitat Partner Families to encourage them and give them tools for successful homeownership.

## 30 Years of Building with the Carters



When this year's Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project begins in early October in New York, it will be the 30<sup>th</sup> time that Habitat's most famous volunteers have given a week of their time to help build and improve affordable housing.

**"We hope our efforts will raise not only walls but awareness of the power we each have to create significant and substantive change."**



### "Where This All Began" New York City

"Back in 1984, I was in New York to give a sermon at the Eastern Orthodox Cathedral. One morning I jogged out to what I knew was a Habitat site, a renovation of the Mascot Flats building on East Sixth Street. I saw the desperate need for volunteers and, in a weak moment, said Rosalynn and I should come and help.

That got back to Millard Fuller, and he took it as a commitment. We thought we'd get a few people and maybe take a station wagon back up to New York to work for a week. We ended up with 42 people on a Trailways bus.

I never thought we'd be back a second time, much less a continuing annual commitment. But the thing about Habitat is this: Just when you think you're making a big sacrifice to work on a

Habitat project, it turns out to be a blessing to you.

We haven't been on a single Habitat build that hasn't thrilled and inspired us. We have met hundreds, thousands, of families and Habitat volunteers, many with tears running down their faces at each house dedication. Many times – too often to count – we've been in that number ourselves.

Rosalynn and I have found in these years that Habitat is the best way to put our religious faith into practical use. We get to work side by side with people who lack a decent place to live. We get to see despair transform into hope over and over. We get to see changes in the lives of people who have moved into new homes and who now have new hope for their futures.

This year – as we prepared to build in Oakland and San Jose, California, Denver; and back once again in New York City where this all began – we celebrate three decades of building. We are honored to have joined so many dedicated volunteers and homeowners – those who have worked alongside us, those who have supported Habitat's work around the world and all those who share our vision of a world where everyone has a decent place to live.

Together, we've been able to build and repair homes in partnership with more than 2,000 Carter Work Project families in 14 countries. We look forward to continuing to do so."

~President and Mrs. Carter



*"God sent special angels to get this house built. (President Carter) is one wonderful person to work with, building a home. He drives a good nail."*

Habitat homeowner, Rossetta Trammel



Jimmy & Rosalynn  
**CARTER**  
WORK PROJECT 2013  
A WORLD HABITAT DAY EVENT

### President Jimmy Carter Build Day here in the Northland!

**Where:** 105 S 12th Ave, Virginia  
**When:** Oct 12th 9:00-4:00  
**Why:** Build Day in honor of the  
Carter's 30 years of service

North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity wants to offer you the opportunity to participate in a build day to honor President Jimmy Carter's 30 years of service with Habitat. We are holding a "President Jimmy Carter Build Day" on Saturday, October 12, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM on 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. near Mesabi College in Virginia to help the Hansen and Bennett families here in the Northland. Lunch will be provided and everyone will get a T-shirt! Anyone 16 years or older is invited to work on these homes. **NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!** Everyone is welcome, bring a friend or a group, just call 218-749-8910 to let us know you are coming.

Unfortunately President and Mrs. Carter can not be here for the build day but we want to honor them by doing their share and ours in giving the Hansen and Bennett families a decent and affordable place to live.



## HABITAT 500 - A RECORD BREAKING YEAR!

THANK YOU, donors, riders and volunteers that made the 2013 Habitat 500 a record breaking success!

This year the Habitat 500 raised a total of \$318,000 to build homes for needy families across Minnesota and just over \$32,000 has been raised to build homes with our neighbors right here in North St. Louis County. If you forgot to send your donation in, there is still time, just mark "Habitat 500" on your check or the envelope.

This year we had two teams with eight riders who shared the event by taking one or two days each. We also had 14 riders who participated in the whole 500 mile event giving us a total of 22

riders and one rest stop volunteer— a new record in participation! Our oldest rider was 72 and our youngest 14. We would like to thank all who participated.

If you have wanted to ride but could not take the whole week to do it, perhaps riding as part of a team is right for you. We are always looking for new riders. Next year's ride will be July 13-19. Please, let us know if you have any interest in riding all 500 miles or participating on a team.

One other thing you should know about the Habitat 500 this year: two present and one past board member rode along with three staff members. That shows commitment on



Part of our team on the 100 mile day.

behalf of the board and staff who give of their time, money and endure the ride to support our neighbors in need of a home.

Thank You everyone that made this a record breaking year, we couldn't have done it without you!

## AMERICORPS VISTA VOLUNTEERS HELP BUILD CAPACITY



Britta Bloomquist, Communications Coordinator AmeriCorps VISTA

Hello, my name is Britta Bloomquist, and I am North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity's newest AmeriCorps VISTA! I am a December 2011 graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Superior with a journalism major and a health minor. In my free time, I like to spend time in the great outdoors. Some of my favorite activities include: hiking, vegetable gardening, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and cleaning my adopted highway!

I also love to give back to my community. When the theme of this newsletter was developed (It won't happen without you.), it sparked a thought in my head about all the volunteering I do. I have been involved in the community since attending high school here in Virginia.

When I found the VISTA position at NSLCHF, it caught my attention right away. I have often been

referred to as a "professional volunteer," so I knew this non-profit organization would be right up my alley! When people complain about there not being enough to do in our area, I try to encourage them to get involved in something extracurricular that isn't connected with their nine to five work. If you find yourself helping with something you enjoy, you find a bond with the community and discover that there really are things to do in the area!



Alina Stevenson completed her year as our Family Support VISTA in August

My year as a VISTA will be a bit different than Alina Stevenson's year. Instead of working directly with families, I will be working a bit more behind-the-scenes as the Communications Coordinator. One of the larger projects I will be working on is a communications audit. Is North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity visible enough and to the

right audiences? What areas of marketing do we need to work on? How can we make the marketing process easier when there is not a VISTA here to do so? Those are some of the questions that will be answered through a series of questionnaires. Then I will compile a schedule for the upcoming year when I am no longer here. This is just a snapshot of what my year as a VISTA will be like.

I am excited to see what this year brings, and I look forward to bringing more visibility to the community about North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity.

P.S. Don't forget about Give to the Max Day on Thursday, November 14. Watch the weekly emails, our website, and Facebook for more details!



Summer VISTA's Tom Tiburzi and Alex Krummi lead volunteers in June and July

## THRIVENT BUILDS HOME IN HIBBING WITH THE JOHNSON FAMILY



**Thrivent  
Builds**  
with Habitat for Humanity®

Thrivent Financial is the largest sponsor of Habitat for Humanity homes across the country. As a fraternal organization Thrivent is committed to giving back to the community in a way that also engages its investors to make a difference in people's lives.

This year, NSLCHFH has received a Thrivent Builds grant to build with Marge Johnson and her family.

To help kick off the Lutheran commitment of providing 50% of the volunteer labor force for the build, ELCA Bishop Tom Aitken hosted a Build with the Bishop Day (first photo to the right). The project continued with great

momentum with help from Habitat RV Care-a-vanners (pictured left) to help frame and side the home in a two week span. The Hibbing Chamber of Commerce organized a Women Build Day in which 30 women from the Hibbing area came out to prep the home for sheetrock (pictured center). The shingles for the home were laid by Marge Johnson's family making it possible for the home to be "dried in" by the end of two weeks!

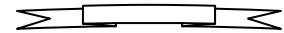
This home has also received great support from: Faith Lutheran and Grace Lutheran churches in Chisholm and the First Assembly of God Church, First Lutheran, First Presbyterian, Hoy Trinity Lutheran, North Star, Our Saviors' Lutheran churches in Hibbing.

We are also looking forward to two volunteer days from employees at

Delta Air Lines! If you would like to volunteer or help organize a group day (4 to 12 people) call us at 866-749-8910.

Volunteer Build Site supervisors Harold Wentland and Ozzie Shock have put in countless hours to lead all of these groups along with our two summer VISTA's Tom Tiburzi and Alex Krummi.

Thanks so much for all of your support. Our volunteers are the heart of Habitat's building program. We couldn't build homes without you!



We were sad to lose one of our very dedicated volunteers, Dick Jarvi who faithfully installed trim on every home we built in Hibbing. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family. He will be greatly missed!

## TWO HOMES START IN SEPTEMBER!

One of our projects this year will be built by students! We are once again partnering with the Chisholm and Hibbing High Schools and the Hibbing Community College through the Applied Learning Institute to help build a home for one of our neighbors in need in Hibbing.

The Applied Learning Institute helps provide the funding for students to be transported to and from the school to the home construction site. Once there, the home building site becomes a hands on learning classroom for the students as they help build a home. The groundbreaking for the student build home will be held on October 9th, at 9 AM, at 1212 15th Ave East in Hibbing.

The last full construction project for the 2013 building season will also begin in September. We will be partnering with Waynette Larsen to add a third bedroom onto a home in Virginia. This is the home that was graciously offered back to Habitat from Carol Nelson's family when she passed away last winter.

Volunteers will begin the process of freshening up the home with new paint and some flooring as well as prepping the back of the home to receive the additional bedroom starting in September.

The groundbreaking for the Larsen home will be held on Sunday, September 29th, at 224 North 3rd St. in Virginia. Come join us to celebrate the beginning of these two home projects!



Instructor Terry Vessel  
(Right) leads students in construction.

We couldn't build Hope without our volunteers!



## OFFICE/WAREHOUSE UPDATE

With the summer winding down and our home building projects underway, the office/warehouse project is starting to progress as we get ready for fall.

The land at 5558 Enterprise Dr. NE, in Virginia, was graciously donated by the City of Mtn. Iron just over a year ago. This winter, Northland buildings provided a significant discount to put up the shell of the building. This summer we were able to work with our excavators to have the utilities brought to the building.

Our goal for the fall is to get the floor poured inside the building so that we can work with volunteers to finish off the wall partitions in the offices

and be ready to move in by spring time. This will allow us to use some of the winter months after many of our homes are completed, to focus on working on the office/warehouse without delaying or interrupting our most important work—building homes with our partner families.

We will be making volunteer opportunities available this fall and winter as the project progresses and look forward to your help as we seek to build a permanent location for Habitat's operations.

We are greatly looking forward to the efficiencies that this new facility will provide to the entire

operation as we bring our operations under one roof!



Utilities were brought in this summer.

## WELLS FARGO SPONSORS THE BENNETT/HANSEN SIDE-BY-SIDE PROJECTS

This is the first time that North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity has been able to build two homes side-by-side AND at the same time. There is definitely some efficiency that comes with doing this! From saving money on the professional trades as they don't have to travel between sites, to being able to utilize more volunteers at one time. There are many blessings that we are realizing as we build with the Bennett and Hansen families at 105 and 107 South 12th Ave West in Virginia.

Wells Fargo is the major sponsor of these two homes with commitments to bring volunteers from their area banks (pictured left below) as well as providing \$30,000 for building materials for the two homes. Wells Fargo has been sponsoring North St. Louis County Habitat homes since we

began building them in 1996. Thanks Wells Fargo!

We have been reaching out to engage the many volunteers needed to get all of this great work done! JoyGlobal, a new partner this year, allowed their employees to come out for two days to work on the home. Working together with Habitat's RV Care-A-Vanners, the folks at JoyGlobal (pictured center below) were able to help us meet the goal of getting both of these homes framed and a roof over our heads in two weeks!

These projects have also enjoyed great help from the Evangelical Free Church of Embarrass, United in Christ Lutheran Church in Eveleth, and Faith United Lutheran Church of Iron. The First Covenant, Gethsemane Lutheran, and Our Saviors Lutheran of Virginia have also worked to provide help in building hope with these families.

The Cliffs Foundation has continued their commitment to provide funding for Habitat homes in the Northland with their second of five \$10,000 yearly grants. United Taconite is gearing up to bring volunteers to the project to help "put up" the construction materials purchased with the Cliffs Foundation grant.

A Women Build day was held on September 12th, and we are working on a Law Enforcement, Loggers, and Firefighters volunteer work day as well.

Any day on a Habitat build is a good day!

Our local and faithful crew of regular (yet extraordinary) volunteers continue to come out every Tuesday and Thursday to keep the project moving. Feel free to join them!



Thank You, Thank You Thank You!

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## CONTRIBUTORS

**Thank you for your generous support!** Habitat for Humanity extends a word of thanks to those who have contributed money, materials, and professional services.

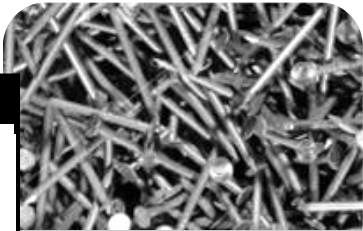
### Donors listed from 4-4-13 thru 8-4-13

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

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Crystal Caudullo	Robert & Donna Haapala	Gregory Krog	Kathy Oliver
David & Amy Chard	Candice Habel	Jeremy Krog	Ruth Ollila
Vivian Chase	H. Fredrick Haiker	Jon Krog	Arlee & Doreen Olson
Shirley Choquette	Bob & Mary Hall	Gary Kruz	Doreen Olson
Rick & Tammy Christenson	Arnold Hall	Audrey Kuehl	Tiffany Olson
Renee Christianson	Bill & Marjorie Hallin	Kimberly Kugel	Shawn Opplinger
Ralph & Sally Christopherson	Michael & Kathy Hannay	John Laitinen	Barry & Susan Osell
	Roy Hanson	Alvin & Janet Lamppa	Jennifer Osufsen
	Clint Hanson	Brian & Liisa Lamppa	Caroline Owens
	Paul & Beatrice Harnad	Daryl & Cheryl Lamppa	Peter & Diane Pastika
	Joyce Hart		Peter Pellinen



The only gift  
is a portion of  
thymself.

-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](http://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](mailto: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





North St. Louis County

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## *It won't happen without you...*



Everyone deserves a  
place to call...



→Over 80% feel safer & believe their children are safer with a Habitat home...

→73% of Habitat families feel more connected to their community...



→Over 50% have started or are planning to start a higher education program...



**Help us build a world where everyone has a decent place to live...**

To get involved with a build site, committee, event planning or meals for volunteers call Tom at 218-749-8910