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Habitat HIGHLIGHTS



Winter 2022

Volume XXVII, Edition III

VISION

A world where everyone has a decent place to live.

MISSION

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

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Dear Friend of Habitat,

Recently I helped fix a sagging floor on an old home. This unsafe condition, left unchecked, would eventually cause severe damage and condemn the home. The only way we could tackle the great weight of this problem and lift the floors back to their safe and supported condition was through the tried and true concepts of leverage. We found solid points in the foundation, used levers to lift the floor, and put in new supporting pillars.

The housing crisis that we are faced with on the Range is daunting. Old housing stock (with problems like sagging floors and failing foundations!), diminishing availability of affordable units, high rent costs and heating bills due to lack of efficiency are all contributing to an overwhelmingly heavy affordable housing crisis that adversely affects our lower income neighbors. Families are trying to survive winter in rental units, 54% of which were built before 1970. St. Louis County ranks ninth in the state with 50% of renter households paying more than 30% of their income for housing. Our county is ranked 24 out of 87 with a 17% gap between the rise of rents and salaries. The need for affordable housing continues to be a critical issue for our low-income neighbors.

Habitat provides an opportunity for families to help themselves out of substandard housing. An affordable and energy efficient home becomes a stable and safe environment for families. The Habitat home built today has average winter heating bills as low as \$75 per month. By not spending more than 30% of their income on housing, parents can provide better food, medical care, and education opportunities for their children. Our program also creates long term relationships between the families we serve and all our community partners, providing a lifelong impact in their lives.

The only way in which the Habitat for Humanity program works is through the concept of leverage. We recently hired Jennifer Krenner as our Community Resources Manager. She joins our Construction Manager: Brandon Anwiler; Family Services Manager: Marnie Maki, and me, to complement the Habitat team of staff whose main job is to leverage your help, and the resources of our community, to help our neighbors build strength, stability, and self-reliance through shelter. We are reminded daily that our staff, no matter how committed to the mission, cannot lift our neighbors out of the cycle of poverty alone: we need you!



We are so grateful for each of you and your individual contributions which make this housing ministry work. Every volunteer hour, every dollar donated, every in-kind donation of materials, and professional labor, and every conversation in the community that helps us advocate for affordable housing is contributing to the mission of building homes, communities, and hope with our neighbors in need. I am continually amazed by the generous spirit we see on the Iron Range. You are so willing to add your weight to the lever that helps give families a hand up out of poverty housing. The list of businesses, individuals, churches, and organizations that are part of Habitat for Humanity's affordable housing ministry team is too big to mention. You warm our hearts and energize our hands to work daily towards a world where everyone has a decent place to live.

Thank you so much for adding your part to the lever as we build homes with five more families this year. We need you now, more than ever! Thank you for your continued partnership with us in 2022. Together we are making a difference!

Nathan Thompson
Executive Director



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Come Build Hope with NORTH ST. LOUIS COUNTY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY!

You are cordially invited to our



Building the Future
with Habitat



Winter Dinner and Silent Auction Fundraiser for
North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity

Thursday, March 31, 2022

Check inside for more details.



Meet our new Community Resources Manager!



My name is Jennifer Krenner, and I am the new Community Resources Manager with North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity. I am writing to formally introduce myself and share a little bit about the work I will be doing here with you.

As the Community Resources Manager, I will be responsible for planning and executing fundraising events, marketing, and communications to get the word out about Habitat's great work and produce funds to allow us to assist our partner families in their journey to homeownership. I will also be overseeing and coordinating our volunteers. Strengthening existing relationships, making new contacts, and building relationships for both volunteers and donor opportunities is something I am particularly excited about. I can't wait to meet you! I am eager to work directly with Nathan, Marnie, and Brandon, our Habitat team, to create exciting marketing campaigns, support our partner families, and recognize and support our volunteers and donors. With each of our creative abilities, similar mind frames, empathetic hearts, goals, and analytical sides, I can see our team

working together to do magnificent work alongside all of you who are committed to Habitat for Humanity's mission of putting God's love into action to build homes, communities, and hope.

While I was applying for this role, I noticed the tight-knit company culture and belief system here, which made me excited to accept this opportunity. I hope that over the course of the next few weeks I get the chance to meet many of you all in person. Please feel free to reach out to me and connect about Habitat opportunities at 651-210-4409 or email me at jennifer@nslchfh.org.

I would like to share some details about my own professional experience. Prior to accepting this position, I have owned multiple LLCs and seasoned my interpersonal communication skills in the management field both in the business realm and as a nurse of 13 years. I was most recently the health services manager and nursing supervisor for a large entity with 12 residential locations and work programs across the Range community. Financial accountability, analytics, leading large diverse teams, motivating individuals, strategic management, effective communication, and connecting with people on a deeper level are skills that I can am excited to add to the Habitat effort in our community.

Although my past experiences were extremely valuable and contributed to a large portfolio of work, I am also looking forward to the collaborative work environment that partnering with you will bring to my life.

Please feel free to reach out to me directly if you have any questions or to collaborate on opportunities. I look forward to getting to know all of you!

Best regards,
Jennifer



Home Dedications Highlights!

One of the best parts of our job is preparing for home closings. It means that families will soon move in to their Habitat home and begin their homeownership journey. Although the final push to complete a home can be stressful, it is also a time of celebration. Home dedications tend to be a favorite event around here. As homes are nearly complete, and we are preparing for closing, we gather family, friends, city, and county officials, the family's pastor, Habitat board members and staff to officially welcome families HOME. Here are some highlights from our most recent home dedications and closings. Enjoy!



Pictures (L-R): Nicole Bach (Chisholm) Home Dedication, Nicole Back Closing, Hunter Maki and Abbie Moberg (Hibbing) Home Dedication, Ruth White (Hibbing) Home Dedication, and Erin Danielson (Cook) Home Dedication, and Erin Danielson Closing



You are cordially invited to

Building the Future with Habitat

Winter Dinner and Silent Auction Fundraiser for North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity

Together, we are building homes, community, and hope.

Thursday, March 31, 2022

Mountain Iron Community Center ~ 8586 Enterprise Drive South

Social hour at 5:00 p.m., Dinner served at 6:00 p.m.

Dinner Prepared by Chef Phyllis Rayton

Blueberry Chutney Chicken Breast

Served over Rice Pilaf

Bourbon Glazed Carrots

Strawberry Field Salad

Dinner Roll

Vegan Option Available, Request with RSVP

Join us for an evening of

Live Music, Games, Raffles, Silent Auction

All guests MUST RSVP by March 17, 2022

You may RSVP at the Habitat office: 5558 Enterprise Dr. NE, Virginia, MN

By phone: 866.749.8910, Email: habitat@nslchfh.org, online at www.nslchfh.org, or via the enclosed RSVP card

Tickets are \$40 per individual

This event WILL sell out! Tickets must be purchased or reserved in advance.

TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

