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## Celebrating 11 New Homes and a Mission That's Working

**Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> birthday this year and there's no more appropriate way to celebrate than dedicating new homes.**

On May 19, family, friends, supporters, site supervisors, volunteers, AmeriCorps members, interns and Habitat staff gathered to celebrate the new homes of 11 Habitat families.

"This is the first time we've ever dedicated so many homes at one time," said Twin Cities Habitat President, Susan Haigh. "It's wonderful to see all those families gathering together with everyone who helped build the homes and support the families in making this day possible."

We're proud of all of our homebuyer families. They're living examples of the

Habitat vision of the Twin Cities region where "hard-working families can own homes in healthy neighborhoods with access to jobs, transportation, and quality schools."

For example, Andre, his wife Stephanie, and her son are looking forward to living the American dream. Andre, who served six years in the Army, followed in the footsteps of a great grandfather who served in the Union Army during the Civil War, A grandfather who fought at Anzio, Italy in WWII, and a father who served in the Air Force during the Korean War.

Nath, who moved to Minnesota in 2010, and his wife Ia, who was born here, look forward to teaching their



Photo by Andrea Cole

**Each family that buys a home has an affordable mortgage payment. This helps families save for the future, and Habitat to build more homes.**

two children the responsibilities of homeownership and the steps to buying homes of their own.

Shukri, and her mother Fadumo, both moved from Kenya to Minnesota in 1999. After having to move several times, and having to put her five children in bunk beds in one room, Shukri is looking forward to having a stable home with enough bedrooms for all her children.

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# DEAR FRIENDS,

*A good new home is a blessing.*

That sentiment was reinforced for me in May as I joined with 11 delighted families to celebrate their new Habitat homes with a dedication event at our (still relatively) new building on University Avenue in St. Paul.

A Habitat Home Dedication is a special moment to honor the monumental milestone for our family partners who are buying their first home, and to thank the volunteers and supporters who helped make their dream a reality. It's also a moment to imagine the future and dream big. And that's the position Twin Cities Habitat is in right now thanks to those who gave money, time, and talent to make the New Home for Habitat Campaign a success. Thank you!

Only one year in, our New Home is alive with activity. In this new space, we've hosted more pre-purchase training classes for families, a grassroots "Habitat Off the Hill" gathering of the energetic Housing Hero advocates, a summit with our hard-working regular volunteers, and a news conference with the Governor to announce hundreds of millions of dollars of investment in affordable housing development all around Minnesota.

If you haven't already, please come visit! Our fresh and energizing space embodies what we build into every Habitat home we sell to a hard-working family. It is safe, decent, affordable, and built to last.



Photo by Andrea Cole

**Sue Haigh joined 11 families in celebrating new Habitat homes during a dedication event in May. Please come to a Habitat home dedication and meet the families who benefit from our work. Find the next one at [www.tchabitat.org/dedications](http://www.tchabitat.org/dedications).**

And, it is a place of hope for the future. We're proud the building is LEED Silver certified and that its eco-friendly design will save us money each year so we can focus more resources on serving people.

In recent months, we've welcomed in families, faith leaders, corporate executives, volunteers, and other long-time supporters of Twin Cities Habitat, to gather their input for a new Strategic Plan to guide our work through 2020. In the years ahead, I am confident our increased visibility will attract even more partners to join in our work of finding solutions to the affordable homeownership challenges we face.

As rents rise and wages don't in our

region, the gap grows ever larger between what families can afford and what housing costs. It will take creativity, determination, and all of our efforts to realize the vision of a Twin Cities region where hard-working families can own homes in healthy neighborhoods with access to jobs, transportation, and quality schools.

Share in making this vision a reality—please continue to give, volunteer, and advocate!

Gratefully,

» *Cont'd from page 1*

## HABITAT HERALD

**Contributors to this issue:** John Hagerman, Becky Engen, Megan Hard and Kaitlyn Huntington with design by Erin Ahlstrom and edited by Matt Haugen.

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Each wants to paint their own rooms different colors.

Every Habitat homebuyer has unique and powerful personal stories about families, dreams, overcoming hardships, and building better futures. Dedicating 11 homes at once was a great way to celebrate all of our past, present and future

homeowners and to recognize everyone who has helped make each home possible. Please continue to be generous with your time and treasure. Each time you donate money, volunteer time, or advocate for better policies, you're helping build better futures for Habitat families, and for the entire community.

# Making an Ongoing Impact with Habitat

Judy Van Osdel signed up in 2007 to be part of a team from Wells Fargo to spend a day painting a house with A Brush with Kindness. At the time, she didn't know volunteering and donating to Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity would become such a big part of her life.

Since that first day, Judy has been on four Global Village trips to Costa Rica, including a trip earlier this year, and she has spent four years volunteering with Women Build. She's also a member of the Habitat Carpenter's Club, whose members make monthly donations to support Habitat families. Judy has her gift automatically deducted from her payroll.

When asked why she continues to be so involved with Habitat she said, "I believe in the mission and that everyone deserves a decent place to live and it's a way to break the cycle of poverty."

**"Once you meet a new homeowner's family, it's hard not to seek out more ways to become involved."**

**Judy Van Osdel**  
DONOR & VOLUNTEER

Like many of our supporters, she discovered that, "Once you get started with Habitat and meet a new homeowner's family, it's hard not to seek out more ways to become involved."

To join others in the Twin Cities who feel as passionately about homeownership as Judy does, become a member of the Carpenter's Club with a monthly donation. By making Habitat a priority, your monthly gift will help sustain and shape the housing landscape of the Twin Cities.

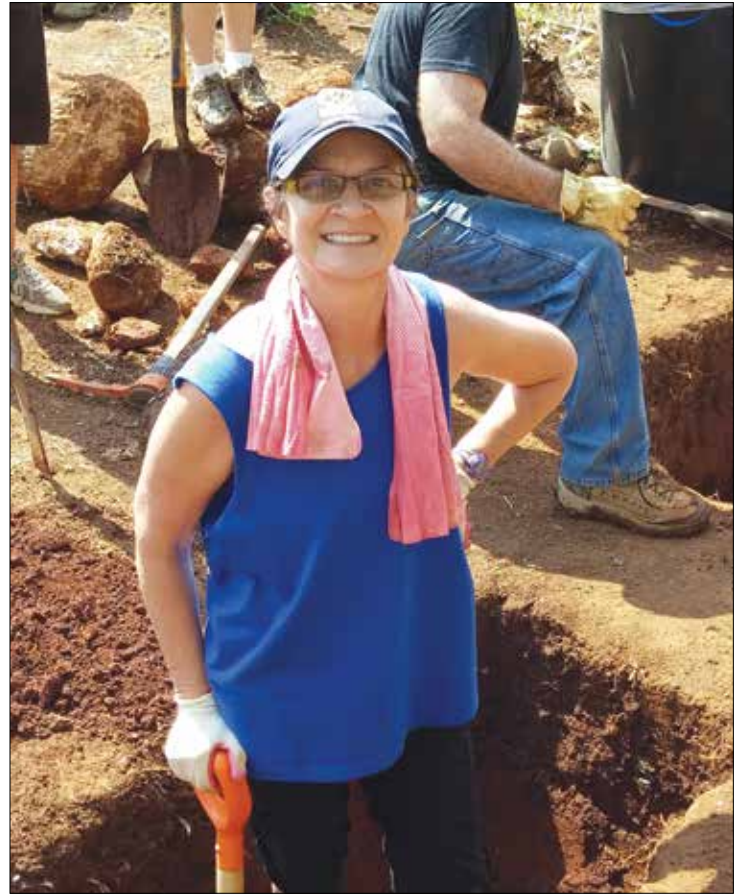


Photo by Dennis Chick

**Judy has built Habitat homes in the Twin Cities and in Costa Rica. She believes deeply in the mission and her monthly gift makes her a member of the Carpenter's Club. If Habitat is important to you, please consider joining the Carpenter's Club. See how easy it is by visiting**

**[www.tchabitat.org/donate](http://www.tchabitat.org/donate)**

of Habitat  
**Women**

**HOPE BUILDERS LUNCHEON**

October 6, 2015 @ Loew's Minneapolis Hotel

**[tchabitat.org/luncheon](http://tchabitat.org/luncheon)**

*honor a loved one*

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**Find your way to give.**

[tchabitat.org/donate](http://tchabitat.org/donate)

*give stock*

*work pro bono*

*put Habitat in your Will*

# Summer Build Sites



## 8 HOMES & VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THOUSANDS

Thrivent Financial is Twin Cities Habitat's biggest supporter, sponsoring eight new homes this year, 71 overall. With volunteers from Thrivent's faith communities, staff, the Holy Hammers, other groups, and individuals, over 5,000 volunteers will touch these homes this year before they are done.

*\*Thrivent Build locations are marked on the map in red.*

## E-HOUSE INSPIRES 600+

Entrepreneurs House is a collaboration of small businesses that work together to raise \$150,000 and bring over 600 employee volunteers to spend a day building. Now that's a meeting with purpose!



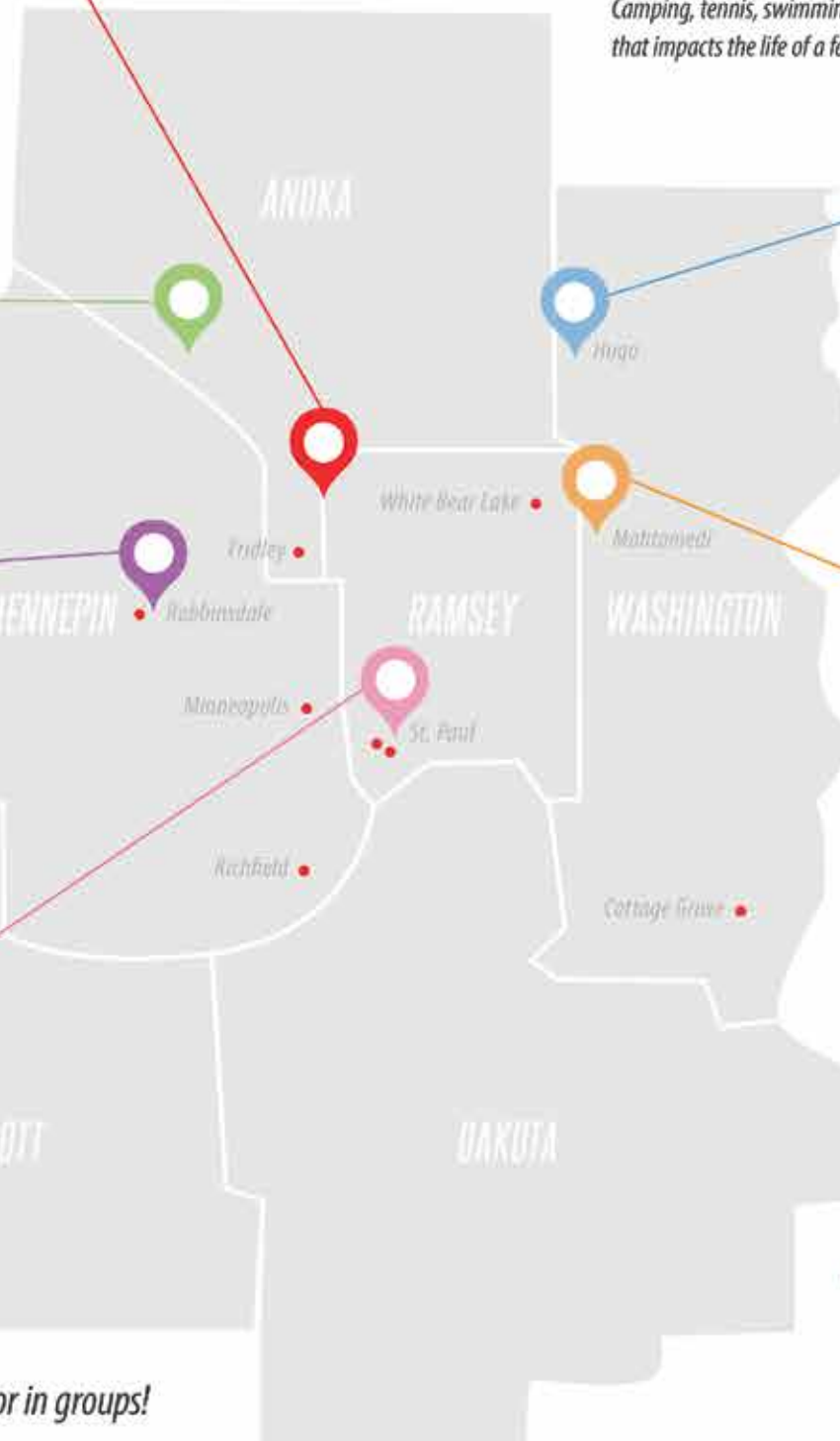
## 21 YEARS OF VOLUNTEERING

General Mills began partnering with Twin Cities Habitat over 21 years ago. Since then, they have sponsored 24 homes and provided more than 5,000 employee volunteers. Some volunteers have been coming back for well over a decade!



## GIRLS PLAY HOUSE, WOMEN BUILD THEM!

An all-woman volunteer force will completely fund and construct two new St. Paul homes and perform critical repairs on another as part of this year's Women Build effort.



## VOLUNTEERS ADD NEW OUTDOOR SPORT

Camping, tennis, swimming, boating—Minnesotans love everything outdoors in the summertime. This summer, try a new activity that impacts the life of a family forever—volunteer on a Habitat homebuild or a home repair project with **A Brush with Kindness**.



## 33 NEW TOWNHOMES TO BE BUILT IN HUGO

The regular crews and volunteers of 3Mgives Habitat Project and AdvisorNet will introduce themselves to the residents of Hugo this summer, where Twin Cities Habitat will be building 33 townhomes. Ground has already been broken on the first four!

## ST. ANDREW'S STARTING ON 3<sup>rd</sup> DECADE

Members of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Mahtomedi have been volunteering with Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity for over 20 years! They are the primary sponsors of a home being built in White Bear Lake.



As building season gets into full swing, we need more volunteers, individually or in groups!  
 Learn more and sign up to help at [tchabitat.org/volunteer](http://tchabitat.org/volunteer).



# Hard Hat & Black Tie

*Thanks, Sponsors!*

We were able to raise \$626,000 dollars toward helping hard-working, low-income families in the Twin Cities!

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network to

# RAISE A GLASS FOR TOMORROW

#raiseaglass  
[tchabitat.org/raiseaglass](http://tchabitat.org/raiseaglass)

**Friday, September 25**

@ The Venue | 315 N 1st Avenue, Minneapolis

# Repair Program Keeping People in their Homes

John and Marlene deserved a little extra kindness in their lives. John is disabled and a Navy Veteran. Marlene is a Veteran of the Army. Together, they raised six kids in a small home in Lexington, in Anoka County. Today three of the kids are grown and have moved out, but their youngest daughter has Down's syndrome and needs a lot of extra care.

Several years ago, John lost his steady job of 25 years when his company relocated. The family has been living paycheck to paycheck ever since. Home repairs just haven't been in the budget. John and Marlene's oldest daughter, Hannah, knew her parents needed help. She wrote a letter to Twin Cities Habitat's paint and repair program, A Brush with Kindness, to explain the challenges. She said her mom is always baking treats for other families, even though her kitchen is falling apart. She wrote that her mom is the strongest woman she knows and getting help with repairs would mean a big boost in morale for the family.

**"This program was a huge blessing in my family's life."**

**Hannah Rose**

DAUGHTER OF ABWK HOMEOWNER

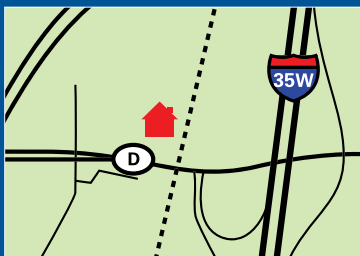
Fortunately, ABWK staff and volunteers were able to make several critical repairs to the home and redo the kitchen. Please help other low-income homeowners keep the homes they love by giving a gift today. Even small gifts can have a big impact.



Twin Cities  
**Habitat**  
for Humanity®

**ReStore**

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Is helping working families  
buy homes they can afford  
important to you?

**Join the Carpenter's Club.**



[tchabitat.org/donate/carpentersclub](http://tchabitat.org/donate/carpentersclub)

