



# every helper

makes a difference

Residents and volunteers  
come together to revitalize  
neighborhoods » pgs 4–5

## PLUS:

First family buys home  
on open market with  
Habitat mortgage » pg 3

*A young  
volunteer  
helps plant in  
Frogtown*

Twin Cities  
 **Habitat for Humanity®**

# Habitat

## HERALD

XXVIII - Number 3 Fall 2017

Sue Haigh,  
President and  
CEO of Twin Cities  
Habitat (left),  
congratulates  
Muktar & Esniya  
at their home  
dedication.



Photo by Glen Stubbe, ©2017 Star Tribune

## Dear Friends,

**One of the best feelings in life is that first time you turn the key, open the front door, and walk into a home you own yourself.**

It is an empowering moment filled with excitement and anticipation for the good times to come.

This summer, Muktar and Esniya experienced that feeling as they brought their two young sons into their new home in Brooklyn Park. Our staff celebrated with them because they were the first family ever to partner with Twin Cities Habitat to buy a home on the open market (read their story on the opposite page).

This new buying option for families is part of our audacious goal to multiply our impact and more than double Twin Cities Habitat homebuyers by 2020. Thankfully, our new partnership with Bremer Bank (the largest banking partnership in Habitat for Humanity history) will provide the funding for hundreds of affordable Habitat mortgages. But to ensure these mortgages stay affordable for families—and empower all those families to become homeowners—we must increase our philanthropic support by thirty percent.

Thirty percent more giving to more than double our homebuyers. That's good math and a smart

investment; because buying a Habitat home is a multi-generational life-changing event for a family.

I think of all the advantages Muktar and Esniya's boys will enjoy, starting with a safe place to play, grow, and learn.

The generosity of Twin Cities Habitat supporters like you never ceases to amaze me (our volunteers contributed more than 30,000 days in the past year!) so I know we will do this together. Please join me in digging a bit deeper so many more families can experience the joy of walking into homes they own for the very first time.

Warmly,

**Sue Haigh, President & CEO**  
Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity

*P.S. Join us at the Women of Habitat Hope Builders Fundraising Luncheon on October 3. Dorothy Bridges, a Senior VP at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, will lead what I know will be an inspiring panel on economic empowerment and housing in our community.*





every gift keeps homes affordable



Photo by Blake MacKenzie

Too many families find themselves in a financial bind: they make too much for some low-income affordable housing opportunities, but not enough to affordably buy on the open market. Thanks to your support, we've expanded our homeownership program to include families like Muktar and Esniya's.

Their Habitat journey began with a Financial Coach like Adade (right), who guided them on their path to mortgage-readiness. Next, they worked with Maureen (second from right), Habitat's Community Loan Officer, to create an affordable Habitat mortgage at 30% of their income. Finally, they found their home with realtor Charlie Braman (left) from Braman Brothers Real Estate, LLP.

Your support makes Habitat homes affordable, whether they're built by volunteers or purchased on the open market. You've also inspired us to dream big—over the next four years, more than double the number of families will be able to purchase an affordable Habitat home.

Learn more about our homeownership program online at **[home.tchabitat.org](http://home.tchabitat.org)**

## Your impact in the last year



**140+ families** completed **financial coaching** to be mortgage-ready



Groundbreaking partnership with **Bremer Bank** to fund **500 mortgages**



**7000 donors** gave over **\$9.5M** to help us keep homes affordable





Members of **St. Frances Cabrini, St. Cecilia, and Prospect Park United Methodist** have built together as the **Tres Iglesias coalition** since 1992.

One organizer says, "It's our most successful cross-community endeavor."



**Darrell Gilmore** has an audacious goal: volunteer with Habitat for Humanity **in all 50 states** in one year. In August, MN became state #36 when he reunited with his old **Cargill Cares regular crew** at a North Minneapolis build.



**Cristo Rey junior Andrese** volunteered weekly at a ReStore through school, and liked it so much he applied for a summer job there! Students from **Metro Deaf School, Step Up Achieve, and Cretin-Durham Hall** also volunteer their time at our ReStore locations.

# every volunteer

## builds strength through community



Images by Andrea Cole Photography



Above and left, volunteers pause for a group photo at the Jordan Week of Kindness, where spontaneous dancing has been known to happen.

Find your perfect volunteer opportunity at [tchabitat.org/volunteer](http://tchabitat.org/volunteer)

### Jordan Week of Kindness

Despite what you might hear on the news, there's a lot of pride for the North Side of Minneapolis. We're proud partners of the Jordan neighborhood through our Neighborhood Revitalization program, and this summer was our second annual *Jordan Week of Kindness*.

Throughout the week, community partners, corporate sponsors, and volunteers came together to complete four repair projects for families on Morgan Avenue. At the end of the week, everyone came together to pick up trash, plant gardens, and have a ton of fun.



### Charles Avenue

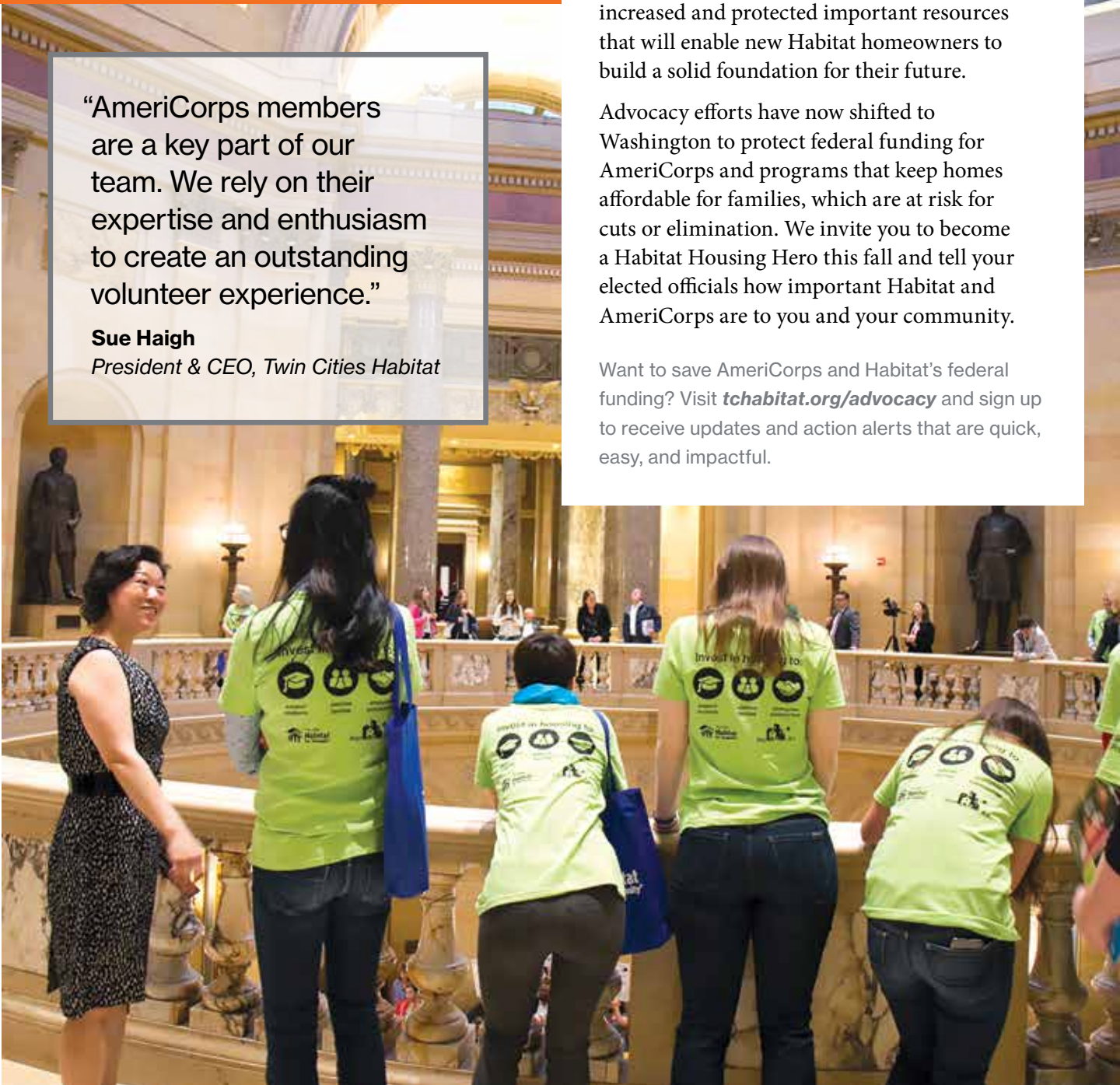
We believe strong partnerships require listening and learning, even if that means scrapping plans to replace an old home with a new Habitat home. That's what residents wanted for their stretch of Charles Avenue in the Frogtown neighborhood of St. Paul. But the residents had bigger dreams for their block, and we realized we could collaborate with them and other local organizations to make their dreams a reality. That culminated this summer in a week of repair, paint, and planning projects capped with a community celebration—a testament to the power of partnership.







## every voice makes a difference



“AmeriCorps members are a key part of our team. We rely on their expertise and enthusiasm to create an outstanding volunteer experience.”

**Sue Haigh**

*President & CEO, Twin Cities Habitat*

Habitat Housing Heroes are people like you who advocate for affordable housing across the state—and your inspiring stories have been effective. At the close of the state legislative session in May, Habitat Heroes successfully increased and protected important resources that will enable new Habitat homeowners to build a solid foundation for their future.

Advocacy efforts have now shifted to Washington to protect federal funding for AmeriCorps and programs that keep homes affordable for families, which are at risk for cuts or elimination. We invite you to become a Habitat Housing Hero this fall and tell your elected officials how important Habitat and AmeriCorps are to you and your community.

Want to save AmeriCorps and Habitat's federal funding? Visit [tchabitat.org/advocacy](http://tchabitat.org/advocacy) and sign up to receive updates and action alerts that are quick, easy, and impactful.

# thanks,

## Raise the Roof sponsors & guests



Photo by Andrea Cole Photography

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WOMEN OF HABITAT

## Hope Builders Fundraising Luncheon

Tuesday, October 3  
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Join us for a panel discussion on economic empowerment with an emphasis on creating stability and economic independence for families through affordable housing. Visit [tchabitat.org/luncheon17](http://tchabitat.org/luncheon17) to purchase tickets for the event.

## Hard Hat & Black Tie

**SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 2018**

The gala is moving venues!  
Don't miss the party that's a little less formal and a lot more fun, at  
**The Depot Minneapolis!**





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*Thank you!*

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