

Susan Haigh

Thirteen years of leadership. . . 2-5

# your impact

on this generation and the next

Twin Cities  
**Habitat for Humanity**

# Habitat

HERALD XXIX - Number 1 Spring 2018

Sue Haigh

President and CEO since 2005



**“Your gifts of time, talent, treasure, and love will build hope and opportunity for families long into the future.”**

## Dear Friends,

**Spring is a time of renewal, hope, and possibility** at Habitat as we begin foundations for new homes and volunteers sign up for the busy build season. Renewal, hope, and possibility are on my mind, too, as I contemplate my retirement on June 1.

These past 13 years have flown by for me and I have learned so much from all of you. I have acquired some nifty building skills—shingling a roof, installing siding, hanging sheetrock, building a porch rail, digging trenches, and laying block. However, I confess I would be helpless to try out my skills without a Habitat field staff or regular crew member alongside to guide me through each step.

Our homebuyer families have been some of my best teachers—they have overcome obstacle after obstacle to build better lives for their children and parents. Their resilience and drive to become homeowners inspire me daily. Many families I have met over the years are recent immigrants and new Americans. I have heard repeatedly at dedications—‘God bless America and God bless Habitat.’

The network of our homebuyers’ extended family is so strong; they care for each other and share what they have with boundless generosity. It leaves me so hopeful for our world. It is our family partners who have motivated me to tell our Habitat mission story with enthusiasm and urgency. They have taught me that the Habitat partnership model works time and again with each new family!



Some of my favorite days are the ones I spend with Habitat people like you. Habitat people are generous, selfless, kind, and passionate about our commitment to justice and opportunity for everyone in our community. And you know how to have fun as you serve! Many of you have heard me say before that if you aren’t sure what love feels like, you will feel it as you gather to dedicate a home with a new homeowner. Thank you for sharing your love with Habitat.

You came to be a part of Habitat to live out your values. And so did I. To use the words of Frederick Buechner, *I feel so blessed to have been called to this place where my deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.*

Together, we’ve accomplished so much, but our work at Twin Cities Habitat is not done. While I will miss working with you, I am glad to know that you will continue to bring our Habitat mission to life with passion and purpose. Your gifts of time, talent, treasure, and love will build hope and opportunity for families long into the future.

Thank you for the many gifts you have shared with me and for filling my heart with joy.

Gratefully,

Sue Haigh  
President and CEO

## PLUS

Buffy’s Story . . . . . 6

Your ReStore coupon . . . . . 9



In 2010, we hosted the Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project, engaging 2,000 volunteers to build, rehab, and repair 26 homes in Minneapolis and St. Paul.



Our neighborhood revitalization program launched in 2011 and has developed strong collaborations with residents, community groups, donors, and volunteers.



Following two successful fundraising campaigns, World of Hope and New Home for Habitat, we moved into our new University Avenue office in 2014. The space has been wonderful for staff, homebuyers, supporters, and community organizations.



With Sue's guidance, we launched an advocacy program in 2009. Our *Housing Heroes* have since secured hundreds of millions of dollars at the local, state, and national level for the continuum of affordable housing, from disaster recovery to homeownership.

# 13 years of leadership:

## An impact that multiplies for generations

When she announced her retirement, Susan Haigh said, "Habitat is so special because it is a place where we can live out our values." She's right. It's a special place—and it's grown ever more special since she joined in 2005.

While leading Twin Cities Habitat as President & CEO, Sue has lived out her values of generosity, gratitude, humility, and compassion. When she retires in June of this year, she'll leave behind a legacy of innovative

thinking, commitment to partnerships, and passion for mission. More importantly, she leaves an impact on the Twin Cities community that multiplies for generations.

But none of this is possible without YOU. Sue's impact is your impact. You, too, live out your values through Habitat. You bring your generosity and passion to our build sites and ReStore, to the Hard Hat & Black Tie Gala, and to dozens of happy home dedications each year.

In partnership, you and Sue have set up Twin Cities Habitat—and so many families—for success as we head into the next chapter of our history.

Now, you are key to how far we go. Your support determines our growth and our impact. Give a gift. Volunteer. Attend an event. Every time you show your support, you build stability in our community that multiplies for generations.

### UNDER SUE'S LEADERSHIP...

**681 families** achieved affordable, stable homeownership through Habitat in 58 cities in our region.

**1,449 homeowners** regained housing stability through A Brush with Kindness paint and repair services.

**2 ReStore outlets** were opened. They now generate \$1.7M in gross revenue each year for our mission.

**\$2,859,721 in contributions** to Habitat for Humanity's global mission.

**150,000+ volunteers** contributed time, skills, and knowledge in meaningful ways to build and repair homes, run our ReStore, plan successful events, and more.

**\$98M in affordable mortgages** secured through a historic partnership with Bremer Bank, making your philanthropic gifts go even further.

Ponder the words of Mary Oliver: "Tell me, what is it **you** plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" I hope you will commit your wild and precious life to love and treasure every child. Through Habitat, you create the wonder, comfort, and safety of home—which every child deserves. In the end, it is only the love we give and the good we do that matters.

**Sue Haigh**  
President and CEO, 2005-2018



Photo by Andrea Cole Photography

# A Legacy of Service

## TESTIMONIALS

*“In 13 years you have made quite an impression  
Even on us old homeowners without question!  
Ask any Habitat homeowner around and you’ll see  
They’ll tell you, how their American Dream came to be.  
With your hard hat on and your hammer in hand  
Thank you for helping so many communities stand!”*

**Juanita Jensen, Jacques Simmons, and family**  
*Habitat homeowners since 1995*

“Her visionary leadership led to Habitat and Bremer Bank developing the largest and most innovative banking partnership in Habitat’s history, driving impactful change in our community. Sue is a gifted and passionate leader and she leaves Twin Cities Habitat in a position of tremendous strength.”

**Jeanne Crain**  
*CEO, Bremer Bank*

“Sue’s leadership and commitment to the Habitat mission is most evident at home dedications where she willingly shares her heartfelt thoughts and vision about how homeownership positively changes a family’s life trajectory.”

**Lou Cristan**  
*3Mgives Project Coordinator*

“We thank Sue for the profound impact Habitat has had on the lives of so many families under her leadership. We also wish Sue and her family the very best in retirement and promise to carry on the mission.”

**Jay and Gail Lund**  
*CEO, Andersen Corporation*

“I have been a volunteer at Habitat for almost 25 years. I have been fortunate because my desk has been close to Sue Haigh’s office in the old building as well as the new one that Sue worked so hard to get built. She is leaving a strong and vibrant organization and I will be one of many who will miss her.”

**Carroll Rock**  
*Office Volunteer*

“Sue Haigh is the embodiment of servant leadership. She demonstrates remarkable leadership skills, while devoting her energies to improving the lives of our citizens through political engagement, fair treatment, and hope. She can be credited with endless lives which are better because of her care and engagement—but most of all she is a “good person” doing great things.”

**Richard Davis**  
*Executive Chairman, U.S. Bank*

“Anywhere Sue Haigh is, is a place I want to be.”

**Sondra Samuels**  
*President and CEO, Northside Achievement Zone*

“Everyone who knows Sue recognizes her as a caring community leader. She is also incredibly strategic and innovative. She leaves Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity in position to more than double the number of opportunities for families to become homeowners each year of the next several years.”

**Dave Kvamme**  
*CEO, Wells Fargo Minnesota*

“Sue Haigh has devoted her career to building vibrant and healthy communities. Through her dedicated public service as Chair of the Metropolitan Council and President & CEO of Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity, Sue has improved the lives of many Minnesotans. Our state has benefited greatly from her outstanding leadership.”

**Governor Mark Dayton**



## Buffy's story of strength and resilience

"I was born in St. Louis, Missouri. I moved here in 1995. At that point, I found myself—for lack of a better word—homeless."

Buffy was in a tough spot. Facing homelessness with several young children was daunting, to say the least. There was constant anxiety about where her babies would lay their heads that night, or the next.

But Buffy is strong. She sought out emergency shelters. From there, she connected with a transitional housing program, and was able to live in transitional housing for a few years. But she longed for that stable place to live. And with her five rambunctious kids, she longed for a home.

"I think I actually googled low-cost homebuying programs, and Habitat was one of the ones that came up," Buffy says. She applied—and couldn't qualify because her income wasn't high enough.

But Buffy is resilient. She went back to school, earned her associates degree, found a better job, and re-applied to Habitat. This time, she was accepted.

# From homelessness to homeownership

Before she knew it, she was hurtling toward her dream of homeownership. She worked on getting her finances in order. She took homeownership classes on topics like "home maintenance and repair." And she started doing her sweat equity volunteer hours on her home.

She liked meeting volunteers like you and learning new construction skills, especially when she got to work on what would be her own home. Her kids even helped by shoveling driveways of Habitat homes under construction when it snowed, earning more hours for mom.

"To see all the groups that volunteered...to see all these people who I had no connection to whatsoever that just wanted to do something good, that just wanted to help—that was just awesome to me."

After working hard alongside supporters like you, Buffy was opening the door on her Habitat home. They didn't have beds those first few days, so they slept on the floor like a slumber party. But they couldn't be happier. No more shelters, no more uncertainty.

"I want people to know when they make a donation to Habitat, it actually goes to help real people accomplish real things."

**Buffy Moore**

*Homeowner since 2003*



Buffy kissing one of her "glam-babies," as she affectionately calls her grandkids.



Photos by Andrea Cole Photography

Buffy's home will always be a solid home base for her kids, even as they grow into adults (left). You might have seen her sharing her story at Habitat events, like the Women of Habitat Hope Builders Luncheon (right).

"Having that type of stability just radiates into other areas of your life," Buffy says. Her home has been a stable home base for her kids, and for anyone else who needed it.

Now, Buffy's giving back. She works for the Hennepin County Department of Economic Assistance, helping people with disabilities navigate affordable housing options. She joined

the board of the transitional housing program where she once lived. And she shares her story with anyone who will listen.

"I want people to know that when they write a check or make a donation to Habitat, it doesn't just go into some random air space—it actually goes to help real people accomplish real things and meet real goals."

- Make a positive difference
- Make life-long friends
- Learn new skills
- Earn an education award

Serve for a year or a summer, in the field or in the office. Learn more at [tchabitat.org/amicorps](http://tchabitat.org/amicorps)



# Now Recruiting!



## every volunteer makes a difference

**Jim Wehri** describes himself as “kind of a do-it-yourselfer.” So, when he retired in 2009, he was looking for a volunteer opportunity to do something worthwhile – interesting work that would enable him to meet new people. He joined the **South Metro Regular Crew** and found that it fit his needs very well. He believes that Habitat is filling a need in our society that is not met sufficiently by the economy.

“The longer I work in Habitat, sometimes side-by-side with the new homeowners, the more aware I have become of the need for affordable housing,” he says.

# every donation builds homes

Let Habitat's ReStore home improvement outlets help with your spring cleaning. You'll be glad you did. Drop off your new or gently-used donations at our Minneapolis or New Brighton locations. Or, schedule a pick-up. It's that easy. Each donation brings a family one step closer to buying their own Habitat home. Donate today.

## EACH YEAR AT OUR STORES...



**50,000**  
shoppers



**15,000**  
donations



**5,000**  
volunteers



**5**  
Habitat Homes sponsored



**1,000**  
tons diverted from landfills

shop.  
donate.  
volunteer.

## Habitat on the Hill

April 26, 2018

Join us at the State Capitol to show your support for affordable housing policy in Minnesota!

- Meet your legislators
- See the Capitol
- Share your passion for Habitat
- Make a difference

Sign up at [tchabitat.org/advocate](http://tchabitat.org/advocate)



Twin Cities  
**Habitat**  
for Humanity®

**ReStore**  
Home Improvement Outlet

Get **25% off** your next purchase

Limit one per customer. Not good with any other offers. Valid at the New Brighton and Minneapolis ReStore locations, through April 30, 2018. CODE: SPRINGCLEAN

# Hard Hat & Black Tie

SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 2018 AT *THE Depot*  
EST. 1899  
IN MINNEAPOLIS

## GO NUTS AT THE GALA

that's a little less formal,  
a lot more fun!

[tchabitat.org/2018hhbt](http://tchabitat.org/2018hhbt)



## AUCTION PREVIEW



Autographed Stefon Diggs jersey



Week stay on Island of Kauai, HI



Polaris *Slingshot* three-wheeler