

Habitat

HERALD XXX - Number 2 Summer 2019

Naja's Story

The American dream, made possible by you! 4-5

Photo by Dennis Chick

every child
deserves a stable home.

PLUS

- Learn how you can host your own Habitat Build Day 3
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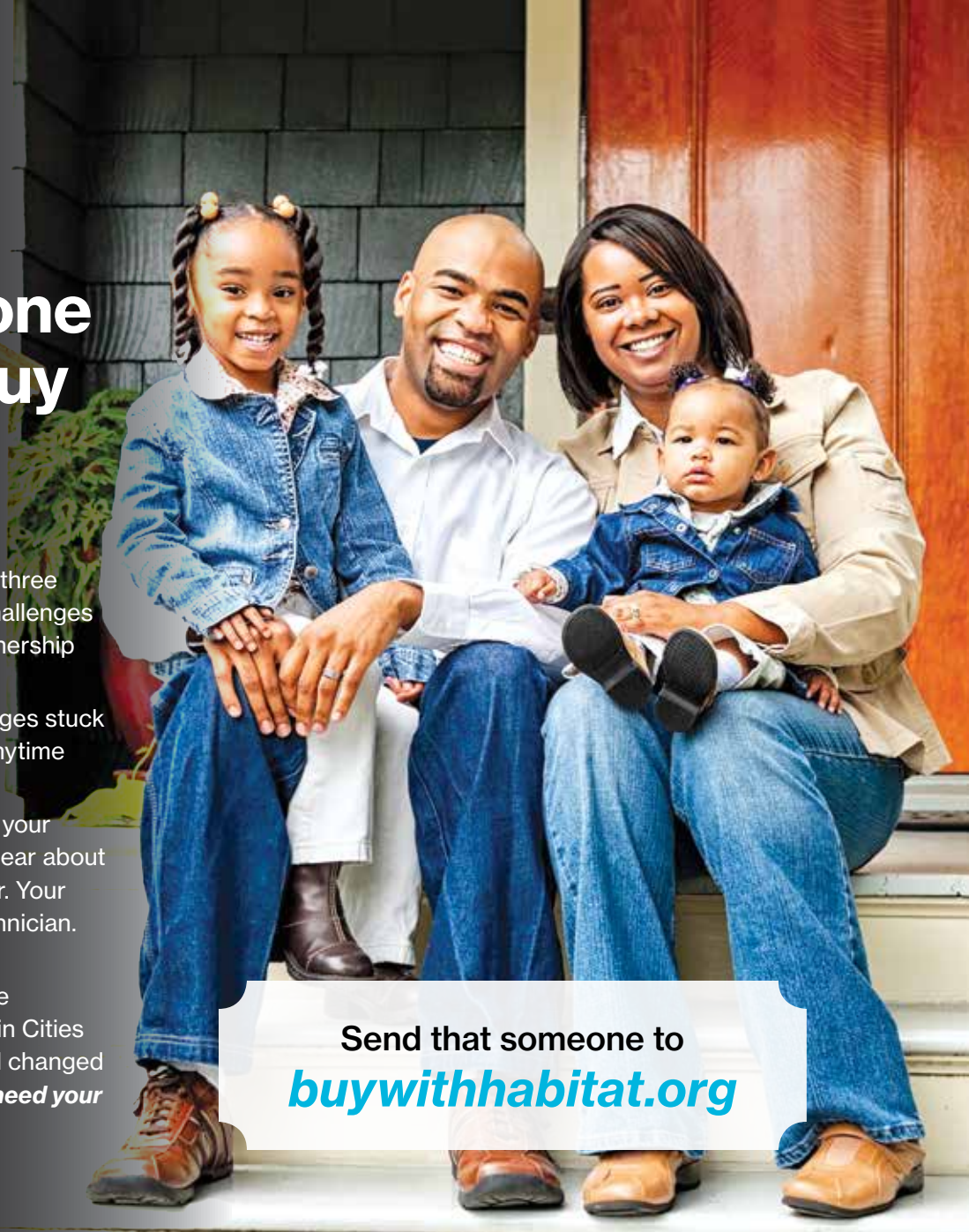
You already know someone who could buy with Habitat

Know someone who rents? One in three Twin Cities renters face housing challenges and would qualify for our Homeownership Program. One in three!

With soaring housing costs and wages stuck in the mud, it's not getting better anytime soon. Unless we act now.

Think about your networks. Maybe your friend or family member needs to hear about Habitat. Maybe it's your hairdresser. Your child's teacher. Your pharmacy technician. Maybe it's you.

Word of mouth has always been the strongest source of referrals to Twin Cities Habitat. Since we've expanded and changed our Homeownership Program, *we need your help to reach a broader audience.*



Send that someone to buywithhabitat.org



Housing costs continue to rise, while wages stay flat.



Paying too much for housing puts pressure on everything else.



Inspired by the **Multiplying the Impact** campaign, Catina Koenig led a build day, crewed by her team at Baird Private Wealth Management and clients.

Photo by Christy Ohlogge

Build.
Laugh.
Love.

VOLUNTEER

Our five-year, \$55 million fundraising campaign to double Habitat homeownership opportunities for local families, **Multiplying the Impact, is right on track.** If you've donated or volunteered, you're part of this campaign. *Thank you.*

It's going to take you, me, all of us digging deeper to reach our goals. A great way to do that is to lead your very own Habitat build day.

Sound scary? It's not! Just ask Catina Koenig. Inspired by the campaign, she decided to lead her own build day—even though she had volunteered with Habitat just once before.

Catina invited her work team from Baird Private Wealth Management, clients, friends, and family. She had no problem finding enough people.

"A lot of people want to do this, it just needs to be put in their lap," Catina says.

"Everyone got along so well! There were tons of laughs, lots getting done, and a feeling of giving

back and being part of something bigger. It's cool to see people coming together and getting dirty—and to see the softer side of everyone."

Our volunteer coordinators will walk you through the process of planning your build day with step-by-step guides.

Get started at tchabitat.org/volunteer/groups

MULTIPLYING THE
impact

Campaign Progress

through April 30, 2019

\$40.1M of \$55M raised	195 families in Habitat homes	554 children growing at home
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YOU GAVE. Now Naja Gives Back.

On a hot summer day, you might find Naja out on a Habitat build site with her volunteer crew from Securian Financial.

As she works, she thinks about the kids who will one day live there. She envisions the yard where they'll play, the dining room where they'll share meals, the rooms where they'll study.

She can see these scenes so clearly because she was one of those kids.

Naja's parents worked as much as they could, but struggled to find an affordable place to live for their growing family. They moved often. Then they found Habitat.

"I remember coming to see the home for the first time and all the Habitat volunteers were there," Naja says. "They were lined up on the sidewalk to welcome us into our new home. There were lots of smiles, lots of congratulations, lots of 'thank-yous' from us."

Once they moved in, Naja felt the difference. Donors like you unlocked the financial stability of an affordable home. That allowed Naja's parents to stop working around the clock. Now, one parent could always be home with the kids.

Naja's parents, and supporters like you, inspired her.

"Knowing that my parents struggled so much—if they were able to buy a home, how could I not have done it also? If I couldn't get a home, then I am not my mother's daughter," Naja said with a smile. "I was really determined."

Naja wanted to buy a home before she and her husband had children. They worked hard and made it happen. Now, their son (and future children) will only ever know the stability that comes with a forever home. And it comes full circle when Naja's out on a Habitat build site, raising walls alongside future Habitat homebuyers and supporters like you.

Thousands of people have been impacted by a Twin Cities Habitat home—homeowners, their children, and their grandchildren. Thousands more are ready and eager to buy a home with Habitat. You can unlock all that potential with a gift to Habitat today.

DONATE

Build strong families and thriving neighborhoods!
tchabitat.org/give



ABOVE LEFT: Naja volunteers on construction sites with her volunteer crew from Securian Financial.

INSET: Naja's family, in front of their Habitat home in the year they first moved in.

ABOVE RIGHT: Naja and her husband worked hard to buy a home, now shared by their happy, healthy son.

RIGHT: Your impact ripples through the lives of Naja and all her siblings.

Photography by Dennis Chick



"Knowing that my parents struggled so much—if they were able to buy a home, how could I not have done it also? If I couldn't get a home, then I am not my mother's daughter."

Naja
Second Generation Homeowner



Development on Maryland Avenue

From brownfield site to affordable homes



Despite its overgrown weeds, the three-acre site had so much potential. In 2017, Twin Cities Habitat acquired land along Maryland Avenue in St. Paul's North End. We made plans to build 11 high-quality, single-family homes for Twin Cities homebuyers.

But things don't always go as planned. As we prepared to develop the site, we uncovered decades-old construction debris, including wood, bricks, concrete, and asbestos. Thankfully, the community collaborated

for a solution. Just like volunteers coming together from across the Twin Cities to build one Habitat home, the city, county, and federal governments all contributed to remove more than 900 truckloads of contaminated soil.

Ecolab provided a grant to construct a public alley and storm water retention pond and install sewer and water connections.

Now it's up to you. Sign up to volunteer at tchabitat.org/volunteer.

A rendering of the site Twin Cities Habitat will be building 11 homes on through 2020.

More at tchabitat.org/willow-reserve

Rendering by Mark Rice



Twin Cities Pride Festival

June 22-23

Stop by our booth in Loring Park from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. for some cool Habitat swag, games, and good times. You can also sign up to volunteer and build with pride at **Rainbow Build**, July 29 through August 9!



Photo by Andrea Cole

Raise the Roof

Sponsorship opportunities are available for our 24th annual golf tournament on Monday, August 12, at Olympic Hills Golf Club.

Contact us at events@tchabitat.org or visit tchabitat.org/golf.



Shattering Records

Thanks to sponsors and more than 1,000 attendees at the **20th Annual Hard Hat & Black Tie Gala**, we raised more than \$1.1 million in one night for local families!

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Mortenson*
Ovative Group
Polaris
Renters Warehouse
Shakopee Mdewakanton
Sioux Community
Shaw Lundquist*
Sunrise Banks
US Bank
Western National*



Photo by Jeff Schad

Dear Friends,

June is National Homeownership Month. We're celebrating in a big way: we're on track to have more than 100 families buy homes with Twin Cities Habitat within a year for the first time.

Our work is more important now than ever. **In Minnesota, three in four white families own a home, while only one in four black families does.** That gap didn't just happen – discriminatory policies created it. In the last century, thousands of racial covenants prevented people of color from buying homes in neighborhoods across the Twin Cities. In black neighborhoods, redlining prevented people from getting good mortgages, and construction of our interstates bulldozed thousands out of their homes.

At Twin Cities Habitat, 91% of homebuyers are people of color. We're working hard so everyone can share in our region's prosperity. It's time to get to work.

Gratefully,

Chris Coleman, President & CEO
Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity

Read more at tchabitat.org/chriscolumn



If you join the **ReStore VIP Club**, you'll receive one to three texts a month about ReStore sales and insider deals. **Become a VIP any time before July 17**, and you'll immediately receive a **30% discount** good on one purchase until July 20!

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Photo by Paul Dinndorf

The ReStore Home Improvement Outlets take your donated home improvement products and sell them at a discount to the public.



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