

everyone

can multiply the impact

Buffy's Story

See the ripple effects of your support. 6-7



Twin Cities
Habitat for Humanity

Habitat

HERALD

XXIX - Number 4 Winter 2018

Buffy
Homeowner since 2003

Photo by Dennis Chick

PLUS

Learn more about the campaign to double homeownership opportunities 2-3

MULTIPLYING THE impact

A five-year \$55 million fundraising campaign to double Habitat homeownership opportunities for local families.

We're in an affordable housing crisis here in the Twin Cities.

Rents and housing costs are skyrocketing while wages are flat. One in four Minnesotans spends more than 30% of their income on housing, leaving less for healthy food, school supplies, and savings. Thankfully, that leaves three in four Minnesotans who can help—including you.

The challenge is big, but there's strength in numbers. A community of generous Minnesotans are joining Twin Cities Habitat's *Multiplying the Impact* five-year campaign to turn the tide.

Right now, your support of Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity goes further than ever before. You can double the number of families who have the foundation of a good home—from **50 families to more than 100** each year.

**your gift
+ your actions**



THE FAMILIES SERVED

Join the movement today at
tchabitat.org/multiply



At our Multiplying the Impact party on November 12, the community rallied together to take action for local families. Hundreds of people committed to make financial gifts and get their friends involved in the campaign. And no Habitat event is complete without swinging a hammer and making a difference.



Chris built alongside community leaders this fall at the 17th Annual CEO Build.

Photo by Dennis Chick

Dear Friends,

Community is a core value here at Twin Cities Habitat—and wow, have I seen that every single day since I started as CEO in June. I've seen a dozen people raising a wall at a new Habitat home in St. Paul. A family sharing laughs, tears, and food at their home dedication in Blaine. A crew of high schoolers hauling in donations at our ReStore in Minneapolis. Community is deeply embedded here.

And when our community faces a challenge, we don't sit on the sidelines. We draw up our plans—and we **take action together**. That's what this *Multiplying the Impact* five-year fundraising campaign is all about: neighbors coming together to make sure everyone in the Twin Cities can flourish.

Before “affordable housing crisis” was a household term, the Habitat community was taking action. And right now you can **take a bold stand for your community**.

Together, we can double the number of Habitat homeownership opportunities. It's all hands on deck, so come multiply the impact with us. Become a recurring monthly donor. Bring friends to volunteer with you at a Habitat build. Sign up to take advocacy actions. **Join the movement** to build stronger communities and brighter futures.

I hope to see you out there.

Chris Coleman, President & CEO
Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity

Volunteers like Hank are the lifeblood of Habitat's mission. In fiscal year 2018, 15,654 volunteers contributed 206,182 hours of their time to Twin Cities Habitat.

Photo by Matt Haugen

every volunteer builds thriving communities

Back in 2010, Hank asked Twin Cities Habitat for help repairing the roof of his double-wide mobile home.

Hank is retired, has a back injury, labors to breathe, and moves slowly with a walker. But he's got a big heart and a magnetic personality. Lots of people love Hank and seventeen of them showed up to build his new roof. He paid them in pizza, smiles, and karma.

"I'm poor as far as money goes, but I feel rich when it comes to family and friends."

Here's the twist. Hank is a master woodworker who can build anything in his cozy in-home workshop. And since 2010 he's donated an estimated \$20,000 worth of labor annually to Twin Cities Habitat.

"I can only work for about 30 minutes at a time, but do that two or three times a day and I get things done."

Hank's friends call him "Sawdust." He gets a lot done. Hank makes furniture for friends and family, and he surprised a neighbor kid with a new skateboard after his was run over. For Twin Cities Habitat he builds vanities, trim, and lots and lots of windows.

One of his first windows was for a home Jimmy Carter worked on in St. Paul back in 2010. Hank came to watch and was impressed with the former President's spirit to work. We feel the same way about Hank.

Thanks Hank and thanks to the 15,000 other people who volunteer each year.

Join us at tchabitat.org/volunteer

WINTER WARRIORS

Hope doesn't take snow days.

Winter Warriors are our hardest volunteers who continue to help out, even as the temperatures drop and the snow falls!

Become a Winter Warrior this December through February. All "Warriors" will receive a Habitat for Humanity scarf as a thank you.

There's a few ways you can get involved:

- Volunteer at least three times between December 1, 2018, and February 28, 2019
- Keep an eye out for Winter Warrior Volunteer days – bring a group of five to volunteer one of these days, and you'll all become Winter Warriors
- Don't forget to sign in on site so we can keep track of how many times you've volunteered

Visit tchabitat.org/winter to get started.



Last year's Winter Warriors kept the cold at bay with their cold-weather caps. This year's gift will be a scarf to match!

The Ripple Effect of Home

Buffy's journey to homeownership was just the beginning.

Like a stone skipping across the surface of a lake, a stable home sends out ripples that affect everything. Health. Education. Finances. And the impact spreads through generations.

No one knows it better than Buffy.

Buffy's grandchildren lovingly call her "glam-ma," because Buffy says she's too young and glamorous to be called "grandma." And Buffy's six "glam-babies" continue to feel the impact of her safe, stable Habitat home.

Over 15 years ago, Buffy and her five kids were experiencing homelessness. But she was determined to create a better life for them. First, Buffy found shelters to live in. Then they secured a spot in supportive housing. More than anything, Buffy wanted to take that final leap into homeownership.

How did she get there? Resilience. Determination. And partners like you.

Buffy partnered with Twin Cities Habitat. She took homeownership courses. She raised walls alongside volunteers. Finally, she bought her Habitat home that is kept affordable because donors like you chipped in. But that was just the beginning.



"I have expectations for my kids that they do great and they be great. And if something were to happen, I need them to know that they always have a home," said Buffy.

All photos this spread by Andrea Cole Photography.

Buffy had started working for Hennepin County just before she closed on her Habitat home, and sixteen years later, she still works there. The stability of her home has helped her advance at work and take on more responsibility. She now helps others find affordable housing through a county program. She knows what her clients have gone through, because she's been there herself.

Two of Buffy's kids have asthma, and immediately after moving in she made some changes. No smoking. No carpet. Replace the furnace filters regularly. It helped immensely. She also has a son with sickle-cell anemia. Having a home meant she could have her mom stay with the rest of the kids while she brought her son to the hospital when he was in pain.

Buffy's kids have grown up. Her son Darrel is in nursing school and comes home on the weekends with his children. Her daughter Danielle and her two kids are living with Buffy while Danielle plans for the

future. Buffy's children know they can always come back home if they need to.

"I'm hoping that the stability I created is going to trickle down—not just to my children, but to my grandchildren and maybe even to my great-grandchildren."

That's the ripple effect of home. You create those ripples whenever you partner with Habitat. When you raise a wall alongside a future Habitat homebuyer. When you set up a recurring monthly gift from your checking account. When you sign up for Habitat's homeownership program.

Buffy sums it up: "Having a stable home just radiates into other areas of your life. And I don't think you realize how big of a difference that makes...but when you have a stable home base, it's easier to build on that base, it's easier to look into better jobs, better education...it makes everything so much easier when your home is stable to begin with."

Make more big waves for families! Make a gift now at tchabitat.org/give



strength in numbers

You're part of something BIG.

With every dollar you gave and wall you raised in the last year, you made history. You show what's possible when we come together to build stable homes and brighter futures. Here's a glimpse of your impact over the last year.

Thank you.

92 families
BOUGHT HOMES WITH HABITAT

61 Habitat-developed | 31 Open-market

2x the previous
year and the
most in our
history

198 families
prepared for a
mortgage

8 Habitat
homeowners
paid off their
mortgages,
joining 104
others



59
six

A Brush with Kindness
home repair projects
completed to preserve
homeownership

projects occurred in
Habitat's Neighborhood
Revitalization focus areas:
JORDAN, MINNEAPOLIS
and **FROGTOWN, ST. PAUL**



56
non-Habitat
homeowners
received
counseling
to prevent
foreclosure

To see more, check out our Annual Report at tchabitat.org/numbers

There are many ways you can share your love of Habitat with your family this holiday season.

Here are a few!

Home for the Holidays



Start a conversation.

Winter holidays are a wonderful time to foster gratitude for the warmth of home. Here are a few conversation starters you can use with your family:

- What's a favorite memory of home from your childhood?
- What does home mean to you?
- What can we each do to ensure everyone in our community has a home?

(Ideas at tchabitat.org/multiply)



Give the Gift of Home.

Shake up your gift-giving routine:

- Challenge yourself to donate half of what you'd spend on Christmas gifts
- Instead of a physical gift, make a donation to Twin Cities Habitat in honor of someone, and we'll send them a card
- Instead of a family gift exchange, pool your money to help another family buy a home
- Visit tchabitat.org/gift



Volunteer together.

Set up a volunteer day with your family! There are plenty of volunteer options available—either indoors at a Habitat build site, at the ReStore Home Improvement Outlets, or in the office.

Visit tchabitat.org/volunteer



Craft together.

Check out our DIY page for countless craft projects, like creating decorative Christmas trees out of building materials. Then, head to the ReStore with your family and pick up the materials you need for cheap. Our staff are full of helpful ideas if you need inspiration.

Visit restore.tchabitat.org/restorediy

Thank You, Home Sponsors!



Last year, Twin Cities Habitat built **51 ENERGY STAR homes**. According to ENERGY STAR, that's the equivalent to reducing CO2 emissions by **74 metric tons**, or growing 1,887 tree seedlings for 10 years.

To date, we have built **472 ENERGY STAR homes** in our region and continue to be the largest ENERGY STAR builder in the state!

Legacy - \$150k+

3Mgives Habitat Project
Andersen Corporate Foundation
Entrepreneurs House
Ryan Companies US, Inc.
Thrivent Financial
Wells Fargo
Women Build
(Hugh J. Andersen Fund
& Wells Fargo)

Keystone - \$100k+

General Mills Foundation
Target

Cornerstone - \$75k+

Holy Hammers
Travelers
United Properties

Sustaining - \$50k+

Ameriprise Financial
Bank of America
Cisco System & Optum
Technology
Dominium Foundation
Ecolab Foundation
Prime Therapeutics
St. Andrew's Lutheran Church



Habitat on the Hill

April 16, 2019

Join us at the State Capitol to raise your voice for affordable housing in Minnesota!

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

Learn more at tchabitat.org/advocacy



Cut Loose

*at the party that's
a little less formal,
a lot more fun.*

Hard Hat Black Tie &

20th ANNIVERSARY EVENT

Saturday, May 4, 2019 at Hilton Minneapolis

Build **strong foundations** for local families.

Make a gift before **December 31** and your gift will be doubled!
Start a *recurring monthly gift* and your gifts will be **tripled for a year!**



tchabitat.org/donate »