



# HABITAT herald

OFFICIAL QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER • FALL 2016



The South Minneapolis ReStore is just north of Lake Street and connected to the Midtown Greenway. It's the perfect place to shop, donate, or volunteer and support the mission of Twin Cities Habitat. Learn more online at [restore.tchabitat.org](http://restore.tchabitat.org).

*Image courtesy of RSP Architects*

## Second ReStore to Open in September

You're invited to the grand opening of the newest Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity ReStore at 2700 Minnehaha Ave. S. in Minneapolis, September 15–17.

ReStore is a discount home improvement outlet that sells donated items to the public in order to fund Habitat projects. The first ReStore, located at 510 County Road D in New Brighton, passed \$1 million dollars in sales last year, helping sponsor the construction of six Twin Cities Habitat homes.

The Twin Cities' own Amy Matthews, host of DIY Network's *Sweat Equity* and *Bathroom Renovations*, and HGTV's *Renovation Raiders*, will be at the new South Minneapolis ReStore on Saturday, September 17 to meet fans and share do-it-yourself project ideas.

ReStore carries new and gently used building materials, cabinets, appliances, furniture, flooring, plumbing, hardware, lighting, tools, and more, all at 50–70% off retail prices. Sign up for the *ReStore Hot Deals* email online to be the first to know about sales.

To make the new store a success, ReStore needs your stuff! Individuals or businesses can drop off unneeded materials and supplies at either ReStore location. If you've got bigger items, like your old cabinets and appliances, you can visit [restore.tchabitat.org](http://restore.tchabitat.org) to request a free pickup.

Volunteers at ReStore help with donations, pricing, merchandise displays, and checkout. Volunteering at ReStore is a great, stress-free way to work with fun people, stay active, and help your community. ➔

# Dear Friends,

People love volunteering with Twin Cities Habitat because they see the immediate impact their labor has on creating a good home for a family to buy.

You may help raise a wall, hang a door, or paint a room, and at the end of the day you can step back and smile at what you've accomplished. Thank you!

But that wall, that door, or that room is just the beginning. The impact of your support begins to multiply once that family completes their sweat equity hours and homebuyer trainings, and signs their affordable Habitat mortgage. That's the start of a special partnership that lasts for decades, and is only possible with your support.

I am thrilled that we have a plan to multiply these opportunities for families in the years ahead. See the details online at [tchabitat.org/impact2020](http://tchabitat.org/impact2020).

Community is one of our core values. We bring people from all walks of life together in our work. When you spend a day building alongside someone—covered in sawdust, sweating, and laughing—our perceived differences vanish. We instead see the commonalities that we all share.

The color of your skin, your politics, how you worship, or how much money you earn doesn't matter. What matters is that we all believe every child who grows up in an affordable and healthy home has a greater shot at success in life. You bring your many talents and gifts to us, because a healthy community and home matter to you.

I am overwhelmed by the generosity of the volunteers and donors who support our mission each day as well as through special projects like the Jordan Week of Kindness in Minneapolis (see pages 4–5). You are breaking down barriers and building a stronger Twin Cities community for all of us.



Sue Haigh and Chad Bouley, Vice President of Homebuilding at Twin Cities Habitat, volunteering together on a Habitat home in North Minneapolis.

We will be hosting an important discussion with community leaders on Tuesday, October 4 at the Women of Habitat Hope Builders Luncheon about the link between success in school and stable, affordable housing.

A recent Wilder Research survey of Habitat homeowners found that in 92% of Twin Cities Habitat homes, one or more adults started, completed, or plan to start higher education or training programs. I hope you will join us and add your voice to this conversation.

On behalf of all Habitat partner families, thank you for your gifts of time, treasure, and love.

Gratefully,

*Sue Haigh*  
Susan Haigh  
President and CEO



IN THEIR OWN WORDS

AFTER

Your gift helps A Brush with Kindness keep aging homeowners in the homes they own and love.

## Homeowner Grateful to Remain in Home

My husband and I are 60 and 56 years old. We have no children, but are close to our families. Shortly after I turned 40, my health began to deteriorate. I am now disabled and in constant pain. My husband is my full-time caregiver and can no longer work outside of the home.

In 1995, we bought our first house in an historic St. Paul neighborhood. My husband worked hard to keep the house in good order, but as my disabilities increased, more time was spent caring for me and less time was spent on the house. Our once beautiful home became an eyesore.

In mid-2015, A Brush with Kindness (ABWK) staff and volunteers painted our house. One morning, I awoke to the sound of 25 to 30 cheerful women laughing outside our bedroom window. Their joyful voices belied the fact that they were working hard in the hot sun.

They lifted our spirits and the spirits of our neighbors. They improved the appearance of the neighborhood and inspired others to repair and paint their own homes.

Thank you to Habitat and ABWK. All the volunteers were angels and we will never forget them or their kindness. Their hard work changes people's homes and lives for the better and makes those of us in need stand a little taller and feel a little prouder.

Sincerely,  
C and B



BEFORE

Even small gifts can have a **big impact**. Your support of the A Brush with Kindness program is critical to so many families in our community.

Give today at [tchabitat.org/donate](http://tchabitat.org/donate).



Thrivent Financial, which sponsored the Jordan Week of Kindness, gave each volunteer a T-shirt with the very appropriate phrase "Live Generously" printed on it.

## Great Jordan Week of Kindness

From July 9–16, enthusiastic Twin Cities volunteers took action that demonstrated what Neighborhood Revitalization is all about.

They worked alongside residents on repairs that transformed four houses on two blocks in the Jordan neighborhood of North Minneapolis. Other community groups and volunteers did boulevard planting and a 12-block neighborhood cleanup. Homeowners were delighted with the results.

"I feel like I'm in a new place," says Brenda, who owns one of the homes that was worked on. "I feel like I'm in

my home again. The volunteers did such an excellent job. I could go on and on about how they were such a blessing and really fun to be around."

A community celebration on the final day brought everyone together for a picnic and party with a DJ, a bouncy house, and resource tables. By lunchtime, many volunteers were already dancing in the street.

In the afternoon, neighbors met neighbors, organizations connected with residents and told them about services available to them, and police officers introduced themselves.

Minneapolis Mayor Betsy Hodges and Council Member Blong Yang both thanked residents for standing up for their neighborhood.

Cathy Spann, Executive Director of the Jordan Area Community Council, spoke about the outpouring of love in the neighborhood and encouraged residents to take pride in the positive things happening all around them.

Support more neighborhood revitalization efforts by making a gift at [tchabitat.org/donate](http://tchabitat.org/donate). 🗳️



# Every Vote Matters on November 8

Tell candidates to make housing a priority!

- When a candidate visits or calls you this fall, share why housing matters to you.
- Remind every candidate that there are over 600,000 Minnesota families paying more than they can afford for housing.
- Remind them that when we can afford housing, we can focus on families, jobs, and education.
- Ask them: What will you do to ensure that all Minnesotans have access to housing that is affordable?

Local elections have big consequences. Habitat's *Housing Heroes* want to elect people who understand the importance of housing, and who will champion the legislation needed to support and create homes that all Minnesotans can afford to live in.

Not sure if you are registered to vote? Don't worry! You can register at your polling place or online at [sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote](http://sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote).



HOUSING HEROES

Habitat Housing Heroes Sharon Mason (left) and Cassie Paulsen (right) joined a housing rally at the State Capitol in May. Become a Housing Hero by visiting [tchabitat.org/hero](http://tchabitat.org/hero). You'll receive action alert emails for easy ways you can increase your impact in the mission to eliminate poverty housing in our community.

## WOMEN OF HABITAT Hope Builder's Fundraising Luncheon

Tuesday, October 4, 2016  
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
Hyatt Regency Minneapolis

Join us for a conversation about the impact stable housing has on the education of children in our community.

Tickets at [tchabitat.org/luncheon](http://tchabitat.org/luncheon)

Join Habitat's Young Professionals Network at

## Raise a Glass for Tomorrow

Saturday, Oct. 22, 4:00–7:00 p.m.  
1954 University Ave. West, St. Paul

Meet great people and support Twin Cities Habitat while enjoying tastings from local restaurants, breweries, distilleries, and wineries!

Tickets at [tchabitat.org/raiseaglass](http://tchabitat.org/raiseaglass)

HABITAT HERALD is a quarterly publication of Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity, located at 1954 University Avenue West, Saint Paul, MN 55104. Editor: Matt Haugen Contributors: John Hagerman and Rebecca Lucero Layout: Erin Ahlstrom



LEGACY CIRCLE

Norm Baer served as Chair of the Twin Cities Habitat Board of Directors from 2010 to 2013. During his tenure, he volunteered on several Twin Cities build sites and participated in a Global Village Trip to build homes in Mozambique.

### Everyone Can Build a Lasting Legacy

Making a planned gift in your will is a meaningful way to support Twin Cities Habitat families for decades to come. Even with a small gift, your impact will multiply with each generation that benefits from the stability of their Habitat home.

The process isn't difficult. Laura Tanner at Twin Cities Habitat can help you get started today. Contact Laura at [laura.tanner@tchabitat.org](mailto:laura.tanner@tchabitat.org) or call 612-305-7137.

"We have included Twin Cities Habitat in our estate plan because 'you can't take it with you' and this life is our only opportunity to make an impact.

It just seems obvious to us that a smart plan will put any remaining dollars to good use supporting a cause that has been a passion during our lives."

**Norm and Kathy Baer**  
Donors since 1992

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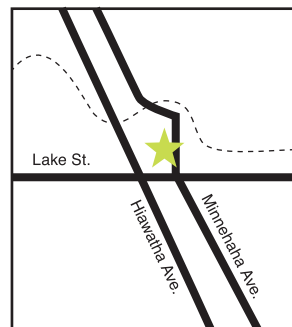
1954 University Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55104

# New Minneapolis ReStore Opening September 15-17

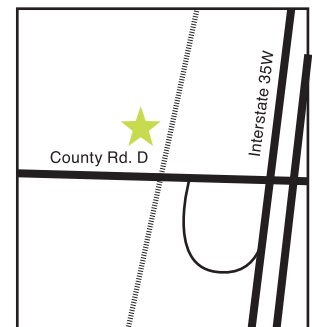
» See more information on page 1

*ReStore sales sponsored six Habitat homes last year.*

**shop.  
donate.  
volunteer.**



2700 Minnehaha Ave. S,  
Minneapolis 55406



510 West County Road D,  
New Brighton 55112

**25% off**  
*your entire purchase*

Valid at both ReStore locations.  
Excludes sale items and other promotions. HH16 - Exp 10/31/16

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