



HABITAT herald

OFFICIAL QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER • SPRING 2016

Join the Carpenter's Club and Your Gifts will be Matched

"This is our dream come true. It's a long process, but so worth it," Hassan said to Habitat supporters at the dedication of his family's Richfield home this past December.

They will now benefit from having a stable monthly housing payment that is both affordable and locked-in for 30 years.

Prior to purchasing their home, both parents put in "sweat equity" by helping build their home, and now their mortgage payments will begin to provide the financial equity in their home. Gifts from you, generous donors who want to invest in families, keep the mortgage payments affordable.

As a believer in Habitat for Humanity and its mission, a great way to show your support is by joining the Carpenter's Club and making a recurring monthly gift toward our mission. It's easy and convenient.

A member of the Twin Cities Habitat Board of Directors is matching a year's worth of gifts from all new Carpenter's Club members — plus gift increases



All Habitat homebuyers complete a combination of sweat equity hours, financial training, and homeownership classes. This preparation — combined with affordable mortgages — ensures families are set up for success.

from existing members! That means your gift will go twice as far in helping hardworking, low-income families buy well-built Habitat homes.

Become a member of the Carpenter's Club and make your first gift today online at tchabitat.org/cc. Current members can make gift increases by calling 612-305-7183. 📞

**Be a Sustaining Donor
Join the Carpenters Club**

www.tchabitat.org/cc

We rely on donors who make a convenient, ongoing monthly contributions as part of Habitat's Carpenter's Club.

Dear Friends,



We build homes all year round, but spring is always an exciting time at Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity! As the snow melts away, new foundations are poured and soon our volunteers, staff, and future homebuyers will be busy framing homes all across the metro.

Spring also means our annual gala. Make sure you join us on Saturday, April 9 at the St. Paul RiverCentre for Hard Hat & Black Tie. You get to wear your most creative construction couture for this party that's a little less formal and a lot more fun. I hope you can join us for a great evening which supports our mission.

And this spring is extra special because we are finalizing the details on a bold new Strategic Plan to guide our work through 2020. I'm thrilled that it will include a significant expansion of our homeownership program.

Today too many lower-income Twin Cities families face an unsolvable math problem when it comes to housing. Their wages aren't keeping up with the

rising costs of housing and there just aren't enough affordable mortgages available for families making between \$30,000 and \$70,000 a year.

At least one-third of low-income families in the Twin Cities spend more than half of their money on housing alone. This leaves them with too little left for things like health care and nutritious food, and makes it almost impossible to save for the future or pay for a college education.

An affordable home is a game changer for individuals and entire communities. It provides the foundation that a family can build upon. I'm so excited that we will soon break ground on a program to help significantly more families prepare for the responsibilities of homeownership and obtain a mortgage they can afford.

Your support is more important now than ever. Your gift is what makes it possible for families' mortgage payments to be affordable. Please join our Carpenter's Club by signing up to make a monthly gift. You are the key to brighter futures.

Warmly,

Susan Haigh
President and CEO

According to Wilder Research, Habitat Homeowners Tell Us...

Our lives are better – 92%

We feel safe – 91%

Our kids' grades improved – 65%

Our kids' study habits improved – 75%

We feel more confident about paying for college – 74%

We get along better as a family – 74%

We feel connected to the community – 78%

We have to go to the doctor less – 41%

We've had a family member get a better job – 35%

Ready for Spring Cleaning? Remember the ReStore

It seems like spring has come early this year. That means spring cleaning can come early too. Now is the time to search those basements, garages, and attics for all the stuff you haven't used in months, or years.

You'll be faced with the question of what to do with unneeded tools, unused building materials, light fixtures, gently-used furniture, and other perfectly good stuff that you just don't want or need. It's time to decide whether to have a garage sale or donate it all.

Garage sales are a lot of time and effort for not much money. Why put yourself through it? This year, do something that can help a family

With a new ReStore location opening, your donations of new and gently-used items are more valuable than ever.

buy a home of their own; donate it all to the Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity ReStore.

It's win-win-win. Your donations may be tax deductible; you win. The ReStore will resell that unneeded stuff at great prices; buyer's win. And all the proceeds go to help Habitat build more homes; families win.

The goal is to help build even more homes for hardworking families, but it can't happen without people like

you. With a new ReStore location opening in summer 2016, there will be even more space to fill, so your donation of items will be more valuable than ever.

For a list of what kinds of things the ReStore can accept, visit restore.tchabitat.org/donate, then bring it all to the store at 510 County Road D in New Brighton, and drop it off. You can schedule a free pickup at restore.tchabitat.org/schedulepickup for larger items like cabinets or appliances. 🚚

CONTRIBUTED BY JOHN HAGERMAN

ReStore

Home Improvement Outlet

Watch for our new location, opening summer 2016!

Your gift of unneeded building materials makes the future brighter for families! To schedule a free donation pickup for larger pieces, visit tchabitat.org/pickup.

25% off
your entire purchase

Excludes sale items and other promotions. HH16 - Exp 4/30/16



510 West County Road D, New Brighton, 55112
Tuesday–Friday 10 – 6 p.m. / Saturday 10 – 4 p.m.

restore.tchabitat.org

Revitalization Efforts at work in MPLS' Jordan Neighborhood

Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity has a long record of building and repairing homes in the Jordan neighborhood on the Northside. Today it is one of two communities where additional Habitat work is being done under the umbrella of Neighborhood Revitalization (the other neighborhood is Frogtown in St. Paul).

GOALS

- Expand our traditional model of focusing on one family/home at a time
- Build relationships and trust with community
- Partner with residents to improve overall quality of life
- Concentrate our work to see a greater impact
- Partner with residents to support and strengthen community-led initiatives
- Integrate feedback to improve our services

IMPACT

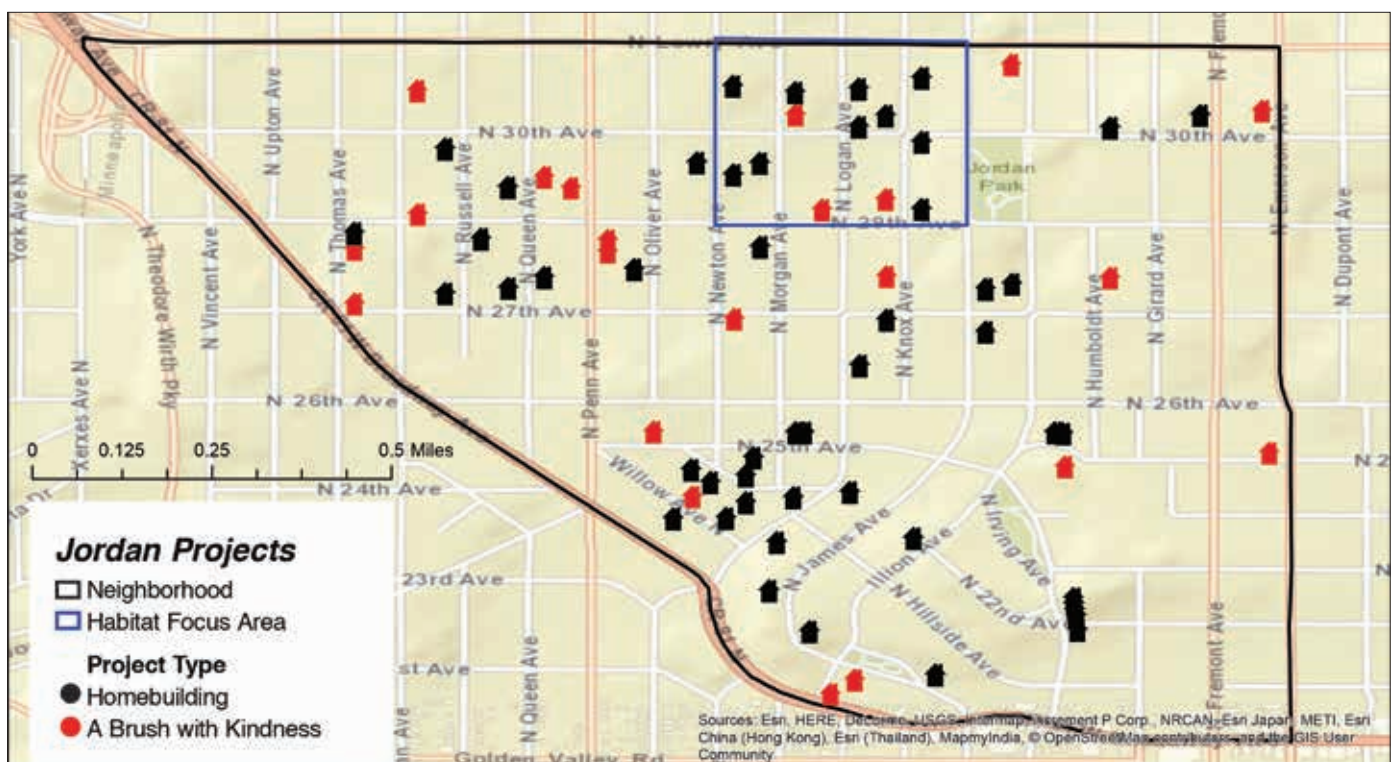
In 2012, prior to neighborhood revitalization, there were thirteen vacant lots in the focus area. Today, only five remain. We have built 50 homes and completed 22 repair projects.

We hosted many events that gave neighbors a chance to connect to each other, and community resources. The largest of these were the Rebuilding Block Party celebrating Jordan Neighborhood's recovery from the 2011 tornado, and Heroes for Habitat—highlighting the partnership between the police, fire departments, and the neighborhood, resulting in a reduction of crime.

PARTNERS

Key partners in the Jordan neighborhood work included the Jordan Area Community Council and the Northside Achievement Zone. Lasting bonds were formed with community residents as well.

The entire area is being improved in terms of safety, property values, and most importantly, the building of community connections that will continue to positively impact the neighborhood for years to come. None of these outcomes would be possible without dedicated partners, generous sponsors, committed volunteers, and dedicated homebuyers. 🏠





2015 Women Build volunteers in St. Paul check the angle on roofing work. Inset: Sharon Mason doesn't just build with Habitat; she attends fundraising events like Hard Hat and Black Tie, and the annual Hope Builders Luncheon, and travels for Global Village projects abroad.

Women Take Lead in Jordan Neighborhood Home Build

Each year a group of energetic and committed women take on building two new homes and repair another through A Brush with Kindness.

Recently this group completed building a home in the Jordan neighborhood of Minneapolis. It was the twenty-fifth home built by *Women Build*.

Sharon Mason, a Women Build Crew Leader has been involved with Habitat for fifteen years. Sharon believes women should give their time, talents, voices, and resources to strengthening their communities.

“Women Build is an inspiring example of what can happen when a community of committed

people come together to make a difference. It's a mirror of the partnerships that have made the Jordan Neighborhood Revitalization successful,” Sharon said.

Sharon admires the way that women collaborate through Women Build. She's inspired by the volunteers' energy, creativity, and willingness to take on tasks they may never have attempted before, to get the job done.

“The fact that we are building a home and lending strength to a family resonates with women. To see that finished house, ready for a family, constructed by teams of women is just magnificent and uplifting!”

For Sharon and other Women Build volunteers, substandard housing is

unacceptable, and negatively affects entire communities.

“Together, we are able to drastically alter the landscape to the point where everyone has access to decent, affordable, safe, and healthy housing,” Sharon says.

Sharon, Women Build, and Neighborhood Revitalization are examples of how partnership and commitment can fulfill hope for families in our community.

To learn more about Women Build, visit tchabitat.org/womenbuild. 📍

CONTRIBUTED BY JOHN HAGERMAN

Thanks for “Living Generously!” Thrivent Sponsoring 9 Homes

Minnesota-based Thrivent Financial is the #1 all-time sponsor of Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity homes. They believe in giving back to Minnesota communities and in helping people “live generously.” Last year Thrivent members stepped up to be the primary sponsors of eight homes with Twin Cities Habitat. In 2016, they are doing even more.

Thrivent Financial is investing more than \$800,000 to sponsor nine homes this year through Thrivent Builds.

They’ve also committed additional gifts through Thrivent Builds Repairs to fund the repairs on a number of other homes and to support local efforts for Neighborhood Revitalization.

From the partnership’s inception in 2005, local Thrivent gifts have provided homes for 80 families with 300 children. Internationally, Thrivent and its members have now committed more than \$226 million and more than 4.7 million volunteer hours. Thanks, Thrivent! ➔



THRIVENT CHOICE PROGRAM

Thrivent works differently than most financial institutions. Eligible member-owners (those 16 and older who have Thrivent life insurance, health insurance, or annuities or who participate in Thrivent Financial volunteer leadership) have input into where some of Thrivent’s philanthropic dollars go, through the *Thrivent Choice* program.*

Last year, member-owners directed \$50 million in grants to communities across the country, using Voting Events and using Choice Dollars.®

* You can learn more at thriventbuilds.com

Volunteering AND Financial Donations Key to Success

Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity can fulfill its mission of eliminating poverty housing in the metro area through the support of sponsors and committed volunteers like you.

Many businesses and faith groups sponsor a Twin Cities Habitat home so their employees or members can spend a day, a week, or several weeks building or repairing a home. They contribute between \$1,500 for a single day to \$8,000 for a full week.

This generous level of support isn't enough to fully cover the cost of building a Habitat home. Every day on a homebuilding site requires more than \$2,000 worth of materials. That's why we need to find funding sources above and beyond the volunteering sponsorships.

Making that happen is something you can do. We love it when you and your co-workers and friends volunteer on a build or repair project, and we thank you for that.

Consider becoming a donor, as well as a volunteer, by joining the Carpenter's



If every volunteer gave \$10 a month, we could help dozens more families buy homes each year. Visit tchabitat.org/cc to do your part!

Club. Not only would you be helping fill the construction costs gap, you would be helping even more families to buy a home of their own.

For membership information visit us online at tchabitat.org/cc. 📍

Some Costs Your Monthly Gift Could Fund

\$5 per month can pay for all the **drywall screws** in a home

\$10 per month can pay for all the **ceiling light fixtures** in the home or **all the nails** used to build a home

\$25 per month can pay for a **bath tub and a kitchen sink**

\$50 per month can pay for all **interior doors** in a home

\$125 per month can pay for all **laminat flooring** in a home.

Be a Housing Hero!

It's easy, empowering, and you can have a huge impact. **Join us April 27 for Habitat OFF the Hill.** Every voice counts. A big crowd means big results.

Also, be part of our April Challenge and spend one day at the State Capitol advocating for housing.

Take action now!

tchabitat.org/advocate





1954 University Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55104



A technical line drawing of a hard hat and a power drill. The hard hat is shown from a side-top perspective with various parts labeled with numbers: 15A, 15B, 16A, 24, 25, 26, 29, 31, 33, 34, and 13A. The power drill is shown from a side-bottom perspective with parts labeled: 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11.

Hard Hat & Black Tie

April 9 at the St. Paul RiverCentre

The gala that's always a little less formal, and a lot more fun!
Bid on fabulous live and silent auction items, enjoy a delicious dinner, and dance to the beat of *High & Mighty* in your construction couture.

 Tickets available at tchabitat.org/hhbt2016.

 tchabitat.org/HHBTFacebook  [#HardHatGala](https://twitter.com/HardHatGala)



A technical line drawing of a bolt with a hexagonal head and a threaded shaft. The parts are labeled with numbers: 31, 32, 33, 34, and 35.