

June 2019

We Have Broken Ground for Home # 18

Groundbreaking is a celebration for us. It renews our mission to eliminate substandard housing one home at a time. Groundbreaking exhilarates us like flying kites. Official groundbreaking of our eighteenth home, located at 741 18th Avenue S., Wisconsin Rapids, took place on Sunday, May 19, 2019.



Meet the Meza Family



First and foremost, my family and I feel extremely blessed for this opportunity! We come from a strong Catholic background and are just living a modest life. I moved to Nekoosa, Wisconsin about 25 years ago from the south side of Chicago, Illinois. At first the transition was hard, but as time went by I adjusted to the smaller community and I love it here. People are so friendly, welcoming and it is also a good area to raise a family.

I graduated from Nekoosa High School and had the chance to attend Mid-State Technical College. I have worked different jobs such as restaurants, cranberry marshes, the Rainbow Casino, Ho-Chunk Head Start and currently at JCPenney. It has been 18 years since I started working for JCPenney, and the past 2 years have been very tough.

Unfortunately, the store in Wisconsin Rapids closed and I have been struggling to commute to Appleton. My car is unreliable most days, but I just pray to God that I make it back home safely. It is a sacrifice, but I must provide for my family and haven't yet found employment in town.

I am a single mother of 4 wonderful children and in 2016 suffered life-threatening conditions and was in a coma for about a week. This was an awakening that life is short, and I would like my kids to have a home to make long-lasting memories. Three of my children attend Assumption High School and are active in the community. My eldest graduated from Assumption High and also received a Bachelor's Degree from St. Norbert College.

We may not be financially stable, but we make the most of what we have; and the great love for each other is something money cannot buy. We are very grateful for this opportunity and appreciate this organization because, throughout the struggles, my dream is becoming a reality by my becoming a homeowner. Thank you for the support and all that you do for the community.

God bless! *Alma Meza*

A Shout Out to Mount Pleasant Lutheran Church Habitat Group

Mount Pleasant Lutheran Church in Hudson, WI selected WR Habitat for Humanity to be the recipients of their annual service project: the building of the walls of our next home. The church group plans to build the walls in their church parking lot, transport and assemble them at the new lot site on 18th Ave. S. This generous gesture includes all costs including lumber, materials, construction, transportation, and installation of the constructed walls. We are so blessed and we extend our deepest appreciation for this generous gift. We also wish to thank Assumption Catholic Schools for partnering with us to provide lodging for the church group of 20-30 volunteer workers for one week, the last week in June.

VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT

We welcome daily volunteers and/or weekend crews. If you or your organization would like to participate, give us a call. Volunteer helpers ages 16 - adult are always welcome. There will be an orientation for all volunteers regarding the day's work. Habitat requests that a waiver form be completed by each volunteer. All volunteers are provided with lunch and beverage.



The building schedule is Tuesday through Friday each week from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and some weekends. Whether you have a few hours or all day, we would enjoy working with you. You don't need to be an expert builder to help! The Habitat superintendents will be onsite to help put your skills to good use! Contact Larry Davis at 715-423-3856 or Chuck Green at 715-451-8466. They would be happy to help you schedule a date and put your skills to work! For weekend hours, contact either Larry or Chuck.

If your garage or toolbox is cluttered, Habitat is looking for donations of the following tools: hammers, battery/cordless drills, saws, compound miter saws, table saw, and general hand tools. Or, if you wish to donate the money to help us purchase tools, you can send monetary donations to WRAHFH, P.O. Box 1134, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494.

Your Skills Are Needed!

- Wisconsin Rapids Area Habitat for Humanity is in need of a **volunteer/s with the skill set of a Contractor**. This person or persons would be called upon during the home building project scheduled for the spring of 2019. The volunteers would be asked to assist with the actual building project. If interested, please contact Chuck Green at charles.green111@yahoo.com or 715-451-8466. You may also contact Larry Davis at larrygsp@solarus.net or 715-423-3856.



- Wisconsin Rapids Area Habitat for Humanity is also seeking a **volunteer In-Kind Coordinator**, one or more people who have the gift of finding inexpensive or free building materials. They would, when time permits, use their skills to make connections with local contractors, businesses, or the general public to locate building materials that would be used by Habitat to keep the cost of home building down. If interested, please contact either of the above people.



Planning to Go Digital

In the near future, our goal is to communicate via a digital newsletter. We NEED YOUR HELP to move us in that direction. By doing this, the money saved will go into our building fund to build more houses. Going digital is free. We promise we won't spam you, nor sell your name. All information will be kept confidential. Please take advantage of this opportunity by going to our website (wrahf.org) and joining our mailing list online so that we can create our database. This will ensure that you will continue to receive our newsletter. We intend to keep you informed about all future news, volunteer opportunities, and special invitations.



How Do Partner Families Qualify?

Partner families have been encouraged to apply for a Habitat home by others: faith-based friends or church leadership, relatives, neighbors or close friends. Who do YOU know that may benefit from applying for a home?

Application Process:

- Every family must complete an application for home ownership.
- Any questions about the application should be directed to a WRAHFH board member at 715-422-1808 or 715-422-1925.
- The application is reviewed by an established Selection Committee who personally meets with and interviews prospective homeowners.
- A criminal background check of family members is required.
- Selection takes place only as land, funds, and materials for building the house are available.
- The house is sold to the homeowner at no profit, and no interest is charged over the term of the mortgage.
- Each adult family member is required to provide 250 hours of labor toward building a WRAHFH house. This “sweat equity” helps build ownership in the house.

Once selected, adult family members must agree to attend financial counseling, arranged and paid for by WRAHFH.

Applicant Qualifications:

Current Living Conditions

This is not limited to, but may include unsafe structural conditions, plumbing, heating, overcrowding, etc. of rental property.

Financial Need

The applicant may not be eligible for a conventional mortgage through a private lending institution, but eligible through WRAHFH.

Income

The applicant must have a steady income to make monthly mortgage and escrow payments. The maximum yearly family income ranges from \$23,950 for a family of two to \$45,150 for a family of eight.

Personal Traits

The applicant must demonstrate dependability, responsibility, care and concern for the maintenance of a home, and the ability to work well with others.

Criminal Activity

An applicant convicted of a drug offense within the last 4 years may not be eligible. A convicted sexual offender or a parole violator is not eligible.

Residency

The applicant must be a legal resident of the U.S. and preferably a resident of the Wisconsin Rapids area for a minimum of two years.



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**A hand up –
not a hand out.**

Habitat for Humanity Mission Statement

Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.

**In Appreciation**

The Habitat Board of Directors is thankful for the following:

- The continued financial support for our building projects
- Community support for our recent fundraiser at McDonald's
- In-kind donations from area businesses
- Volunteers from throughout the community and beyond
- The provision of meeting space and newsletter support from First Congregational Church - United Church of Christ
- The dedication and service of each of the Board of Directors

Local businesses and craftsman sponsor Wisconsin Rapids Habitat by donating building supplies, appliances, and their professional labor skills.

Please remember to buy locally and support them in return!

We appreciate your ongoing financial support.

Please send your **tax deductible** contributions to:

Wisconsin Rapids Area Habitat for Humanity

PO Box 1134

Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495-1134

Phone: 715-422-1925

Email: webmaster@wrahfh.org

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Thank you for your support!

