

Wisconsin Rapids Area Habitat for Humanity

May 2023

Family Purchases Affordable New Home Thanks to Wisconsin Rapids Area Habitat for Humanity and Selfless Volunteers

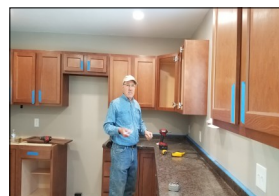
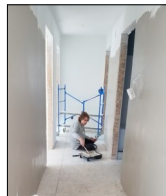
A family in Wisconsin Rapids has a new reason to celebrate. On March 19, 2023, they were presented with the keys to their new home built by the Wisconsin Rapids Area Habitat for Humanity. This home, which was built with love and dedication over several months, will provide a safe and comfortable living space for the family for years to come.

The process of building the home was a true community effort, with volunteers from all walks of life coming together to lend their time, energy, and expertise. From experienced builders to students and first-time volunteers, many people contributed to the project in their own way, whether it was by painting walls, installing flooring, or simply helping to clean. "The volunteer work has helped me learn new ways of doing things. I find it an enjoyable experience working with the other volunteers who make it fun. I have been involved in building six Habitat houses. The families know they are getting a quality house, and that's a good thing for the family and Habitat," said Ed Kreckler, long-time WRA Habitat volunteer.

Many local businesses also contributed materials, resources, and labor for free or at a reduced cost. We encourage you to patronize these community-minded businesses, which can be found listed on our website at wrahhf.org. "The first day I came to the site to work, everyone was so welcoming and became immediate friends. All are there for the same goal of building a house that will become a home for the deserving family," said Keith Hansen, newcomer WRA Habitat volunteer and Board member.

The family who will be living in the home also played an important role by contributing hundreds of hours of their "sweat equity" by working alongside volunteers to build the home. This not only helped reduce the costs, but also allowed the family to become a part of the process and experience a sense of joy and accomplishment as they became personally invested in the building process. "Habitat for Humanity Project 19 was my first experience building with Habitat. I was excited to join Habitat and the experience did not disappoint. Seeing a high-quality house built by volunteers and working alongside the future homeowners was even more rewarding than I anticipated, and I made lots of great friends in the process," said Chet Price, WRA Habitat Board member and volunteer.

For a family who purchases a Habitat home, the experience is life changing. To go from inadequate housing to affordable home ownership is obviously a transformative blessing. "When I retired in 2008, Ken Schuetz approached me about volunteering for Habitat, and I have been helping to build houses since then. I keep coming back because I get a lot of satisfaction knowing that I can help someone who needs an affordable house," said Jim Zwicke, frequent flyer volunteer for WRA Habitat.



Wisconsin Rapids Area Habitat for Humanity Receives Incentive Grant

Our affiliate was the recipient of an Incentive Grant, plus funding from two additional donor advised funds, for the purchase of safety equipment. In the past, our construction team has had to borrow safety equipment from other builders in the community. Often, the equipment would be on a short-term loan basis; however, now we will have some of our own safety equipment and have it on hand when needed. Habitat International is a very safety conscious organization with on-site supervisors needing to complete safety training. We thank Incentive for their continued support with our building projects and mission.

Reflections of a Partner Family Mom

"When we began this process we didn't know Habitat for Humanity, other than by name. Our pastor felt God was calling us to pursue becoming a partner family, and my response was 'surely there is someone else who needs it more than we do.' I had assumed this was for disabled people or those with no source of income. I didn't know the aim was to give a boost to families who were ALREADY working at improving their situations.

We relocated from Northern WI to the Wisconsin Rapids area for a job opportunity that would greatly help our family. After about 18 months, things changed. My health declined, COVID came, income was lost. We didn't know we would lose our home while at the same time face multiple operations to restore my health. We blindly put our lives in God's hands through the amazing board members with WRAHFH. There was something beautiful about knowing God had control of where we would live, who our neighbors would be, what features the home would have, and who we would meet along the way.

We faced many obstacles with our rental situation, COVID and building prices, new requirements by the city, the size of our family, Despite all these things, the blessings flowed and progress was made on a steady basis. We all enjoyed our time with the various volunteers, whether it was clearing brush and taking out trees, putting up the walls and siding, picking rock, hanging drywall, or going through the many, many, many colors of siding from which to choose.

I find myself reflecting on the new way of life and the peace it has brought to our lives. There is less anxiety about daily life. We can drink water from the tap, there are no drafts coming through the doors and windows, we have steady heat and locking doors. Living closer to school and work has cut down tremendously on the amount of time we spend in the car and money on gas. This all has given our children a sense of security that they had been lacking. God put us right where He wanted us. We have great neighbors - other partner families. Our children are already friends and anxiously await when they can play basketball, draw with chalk, and jump on a neighboring trampoline. Our older boys have been helping neighboring partner families with heavier yard projects and small engine repairs. It just feels like we were meant to be here. It feels like home. Our communities need this type of support, restoring so much of what has been lost. WRAHFH is making miracles happen. The ripple effect will go on for generations and we are honored to be a part of that!"

2023 Board of Directors

Guadalupe Ancel President

Larry Turba Treasurer

Brenda Walczak Secretary

Chuck Green Building Superintendent

Dennis Gaskill Webmaster

Members At Large:

Beatie Brandt

Keith Hansen

Christine Kinzel

Mary Wright—Financial Secretary (non-voting member)

Tess Schoff

Mary Rehhan

Cheston Price



We Welcome our Two Newest Board Members:



Tess Schoff joined the board in March, 2023, and brings to the table her background in banking. She was encouraged to become a board member knowing how much her skills would be utilized with every new partner family.

Keith Hansen became a board member in April, 2023, bringing with him a knowledge and experience of home construction as well as a willingness to help partner families own an affordable home of their own.



Thank You for Your Support

The Board sincerely thanks the following individuals, families, and businesses for their generous support towards helping us to accomplish our mission: ***Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities, and hope.***

Vendors

Advantage Plumbing
Badger Land Surveying
Carpet City
Chad Statz –House Plans
City of Wisconsin Rapids
Crockett Septic
Current Technologies
Doorworks
Eagle Construction
Gift-in-Kind Habitat International
Gollon Services
Haas Builders
Lyon Inc.
Northwind Solar
Oscar's Drywalling
Rapids Sheet Metal

Donors : Monetary

Ancel, Joe/Guadalupe
Grace Lutheran
Incourage
Mauston ReStore
Neidhold, Jon
Turba, Larry/Nancy
Walmart
Dominos
Website Donors



Adopt-A-Saturday Work Crews:

Alliant Energy

Grace Lutheran Church

United Methodist Church

Individual Donors: Labor

Ancel, Guadalupe
Bartosh, Dick
Beilke, Brock
Chase, Jim
Collins, Gary
Craig, Lucille/Sophia
Dove, Sam
Espinosa, Javier
Franse, Adam
Gacsko, Robert
Golatz Family
Gonzalez, Florentino and crew
Grant, Steve
Green, Chuck/Carol
Hansen, Keith
Huerta, Jacob
Kinzel, Christine
Kreckler, Ed
Landsuerk, Daniel
Nesaro, Lox
Price, Chet/Adam/Sarah
Rebhan, Mary
Saramandich, Carol
Schneider, Tom
Sullivan, Mike
Volano, Rod
Walczak, Brenda
Zwicke, Jim
WRH4H Board of Directors



How Do Partner Families Qualify?



Application Process for House #20:

- Every family must complete an application for home ownership. See our website at www.wrahhf.org to print a copy.
- Any questions about the application should be directed to a WRAHFH board member at 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.

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

Please remember to buy locally and support them in return!

ReStore accepts:

Furniture, books, building materials, electrical items, household goods, exercise equipment, antiques/collectibles, DVDs, toys, tools, outdoor furniture, working appliances.

For free pickup of donated goods, call 608-847-2000

Habitat for Humanity Mission Statement

Habitat for Humanity works in partnership with God and people from all walks of life, to develop communities with people in need by building and renovating houses so that there are decent houses in decent communities in which every person can experience God's love and can live and grow into all that God intends.

Check Out our New Website:

www.wrahfh.org

We've redesigned our website!

- It's more colorful,
- easier to read,
- easier to navigate, and
- more informative with several new articles:
 - ⇒ tips for homeowners,
 - ⇒ how Habitat benefits the community,
 - ⇒ the personal benefits of volunteering,
 - ⇒ information on ReStore,
 - ⇒ slideshows of previous Habitat built homes and more.



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!

Visit us at www.wrahfh.org

