

Habitat for Humanity®

Wisconsin Rapids Area Habitat for Humanity

November 2019

Counting Our Blessings!



Official groundbreaking of our eighteenth home, located at 741 18th Avenue S., Wisconsin Rapids, took place on Sunday, May 19, 2019. Through the dedication, sweat, and love of our local admirable volunteers Charles Green, James Zwicke, Edward Kreckler, and Julian Meza, Alma Meza and her children Jessica, Eddie, Alex, and Alexis, the structure became a home. Our list would not be complete without giving great accolade to a great team of volunteers from Mount Zion Lutheran Church in Hudson, Wisconsin. The group blessed us with unfounded generosity during the last week in June. They became a caravan of generosity by building all the walls and trusses in Hudson, donating and transporting all the materials to Wisconsin Rapids, erecting the interior and exterior walls, erecting the trusses, capping and shingling the roof, and wrapping the exterior walls in weatherproof insulation. Their collective giving spirit was also seen at a dinner hosted by Grace Lutheran Church. Each member of the Alma Meza family received a handmade quilt; each Habitat board member and every volunteer received a special t-shirt with the following expression: **We are Rapid builders. Mt. Zion Habitat Goes To Wisconsin Rapids 2019.**; and our local Habitat affiliate received a very generous monetary donation. Several of the youth in their group spent an afternoon donating their services at the Boys and Girls Club located at the Pitch School site. Our Hudson friends arrived as strangers at the beginning of their work week and left as good friends with lasting memories.





Family Received Keys to New Habitat for Humanity Home



On November 9, 2019, Wisconsin Rapids Area Habitat for Humanity celebrated the culmination of the construction success of its 18th home at a Home Dedication Ceremony. The festivities began at 1:00 p.m. at 741 18th Ave. S., Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495. The public was welcome to attend the ceremony as another family received keys to a new Habitat home. Invited guests included local dignitaries, clergy and church groups, Habitat Board members, local business sponsors, volunteers, and the Meza family. The program included prayer, a history of Habitat, recognition of volunteers, a welcome to the community by Mayor Vruwink, receipt of a check for the first mortgage payment, and presentation of house keys and a Bible to the family. The new homeowner, Alma Meza, thanked all those who worked so hard to make this dream, home ownership, become a reality. After the ceremony, light refreshments were served and tours of the house were given.

To purchase this home, Alma and her family had to apply to Habitat and meet all the necessary requirements in addition to performing hundreds of sweat equity hours. Their monthly mortgage payment will purchase the home with Habitat's zero-percent mortgage and no cash down-payment requirement. The family assumes a thirty-year mortgage, insurance, and property taxes. Their mortgage payments will be used to build more Habitat houses in the area.

Habitat's goal is to assist families in the community to build and purchase affordable homes that they would not otherwise be able to afford. Habitat offers families a hand-up, not a hand-out.



Wisconsin Rapids Area Habitat for Humanity is seeking a **Volunteer In-Kind Coordinator**, one or more people who have the talent for finding donated building materials and items such as new appliances, fixtures, or paint. 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 Wisconsin Rapids Area Habitat for Humanity at 715-422-1925 or 715-423-3856.



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.



Board of Directors:

Larry Davis: President

Guadalupe Ancel:
Vice President

Brenda Walczak: Secretary

Larry Turba: Treasurer

Dennis Gaskill: Webmaster

Charles Green: Building
Superintendent

Members at Large:

Mary Rebhan

Beatie Brandt

Mary Wright: Financial
Secretary



**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 MEMORIAM**

The Board of Directors wishes to fondly remember two of its former long-time board members who passed away this year:

- Glenn Knorr - Glenn joined the Wisconsin Rapids Area Habitat for Humanity Board in 1994, shortly after it was chartered in 1993. Throughout his active involvement and after retirement, his company, Wisconsin Valley Concrete, supported Habitat's home building projects through monetary donations, in-kind donations, laying of concrete for basements and driveways, and storage space for various trailers containing Habitat building equipment and supplies.
- Ken Schuetz - Ken joined the Board in 2007 and was a very integral part of the building of Habitat homes each year thereafter. He was noted for his attention to detail, following city and state codes to the letter so that the final product was a well-built home. He will be remembered for his seriousness when it came to building homes, but his humor reflected in his choice of t-shirts and jokes shared in conversation.

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!

