

TELL YOUR OWN STORY

One of the opportunities of grassroots lobbying is human connection. A face-to-face (or video) meeting with your legislator allows you to connect with them as a person. Use this moment to inspire them and help illustrate why you care about housing and homeownership. We all have our own story of home. (See examples from Habitat homeowners and staff [here](#), [here](#), or [here](#).) Use this worksheet to help you tell your story of home effectively.

Note: Many Habitat homeowners have powerful stories. If there is a Habitat homeowner joining your meeting, ask if they want to share their story. If not, you can tell either your own story or the story of someone you know. Remember to keep it brief – two minutes or less! Practice aloud and time yourself.

Context: Introduce the main character of your story with a few details, including their name.	Example: I want to tell you about my friend, Sara. When she moved to Minnesota a couple years ago, she worked as a nurse and had three kids with her husband, Roger.	Your Story:
Challenge: Every story includes a primary tension or conflict. In the story of home, this is a challenge that you faced.	Example: Although Sara and Roger both worked full-time, they often struggled to afford their rent. They had to choose between necessities, such as paying utility bills on time or buying healthy food for their kids. They knew they wanted to own a home someday, but they didn't know how they could ever afford it.	Your Story:
Choice: This is the central turning point in your story. To overcome your challenge, you had to make a choice. What was that choice, and does it relate to Habitat?	Example: Sara and Roger heard about Habitat from a neighbor. They decided to apply for Habitat's homeownership program. The next month, they found out they'd been approved. They learned about home maintenance, attended homebuyer classes, and spent over 100 hours helping to build their home.	Your Story:
Outcome: How did your choice affect you? Where are you now?	Example: Today, Sara and Roger are thriving. The stability of owning their own home has allowed their family to flourish. Their kids are excelling in school, and their home has become a regular gathering place for their extended family and community.	Your Story:
Connection: How does this story relate to your asks?	Example: Sara and Roger's story is just one example of the importance of home. By investing in home, you can help multiply the impact of stories like these. We would like to ask you to.... [<i>pivot to legislative asks</i>]	Your Story: