

**Riding it out at home**

Your support helps families like Juanita's stay strong through COVID-19 ..... **2-3**

**INSIDE**

**The Hard Hat & Black Tie Gala** is going virtual, and you're invited to the big event!.....**4**



Juanita's home office setup.

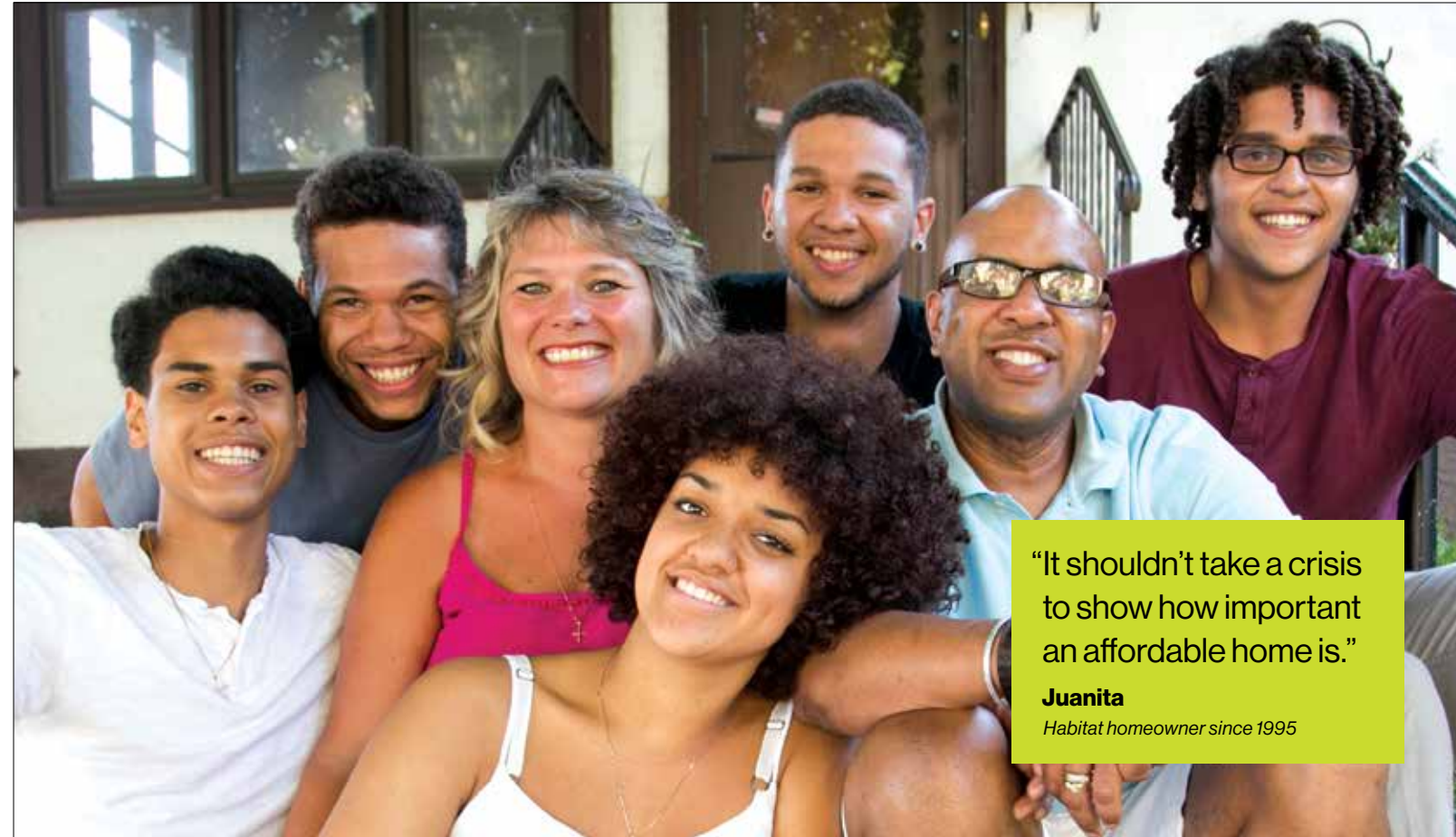
## Juanita's Family Weathers COVID-19 in their Habitat Home

In 1995, Juanita, Jacques, and their family moved out of a cramped fourplex and into their Habitat home. It's one of thousands of homes across the Twin Cities built or preserved thanks to your support.

For 25 years, that home has been a safe harbor for the family. Today, it's where they're weathering the health and economic crises brought by COVID-19.

Juanita and her oldest son both work at the University of Minnesota. Thankfully, they can continue their important work remotely and Juanita has a stable place to set up her home office.

But others in her family are unable to work from home. "Our family has two 'essential workers' who work in healthcare,"



"It shouldn't take a crisis to show how important an affordable home is."

**Juanita**

*Habitat homeowner since 1995*

*Photo by Andrea Cole Photography*

Juanita shares. Her husband, Jacques, works at the Minnesota Veteran's Home. Since the Veteran's Home isn't allowing visitors, healthcare workers like Jacques provide the only in-person comfort for patients going through a tough time—on top of their essential duties.

Juanita's youngest son works at North Memorial Hospital in Environmental Services, and he's busier than ever.

"Everyone is healthy at this time. Between my son and my husband, I'm always praying for them."

That's two frontline healthcare workers under one Habitat roof. Juanita's glad they have a stable home where they can find much-needed rest and respite when they're off the clock.

But it's not only healthcare workers on the front lines. One of Juanita's sons works at SuperValu. He normally works the night shift and now he's adding tons of overtime. And social distancing presents new problems. His home used to be quiet during the daytime for needed sleep. But with his roommates working from home, and a little child now present, it's harder to get good rest.

Juanita's daughter lives in Chicago and is suddenly dealing with an upended job search due to COVID-19.

Despite all the unknowns, one thing is certain: they have a safe, stable home. It's a big relief.

"My home is open to anyone in my family who needs a place. It's always here."

If her daughter needs to move back for a while, or her son needs a quiet room to sleep during the day, Juanita's Habitat home is there for them.

"That comfort, that security, that reliability, knowing that this is still home no matter what—it's huge. It's a safe place. We have our roof over our head, we're safe from the elements, we have food in the refrigerator, we can still do things to help others."

Like you, Juanita believes in supporting her community and paying it forward. She urges you and the rest of our community to help more families experience what she has—the firm foundation of a stable, affordable home.

"It shouldn't take a crisis to show how important an affordable home is for the ability of a family to grow and thrive. The necessity is greater now than ever. We need to make our voices that much louder for affordable housing."

## Protect Homeownership

**Your voice is needed!** Through simple actions, you can help ensure affordable housing and homeownership is a priority for our political leaders when responding to COVID-19.

Learn more at [tchabitat.org/advocate](https://tchabitat.org/advocate)

### TOP 3 AT-HOME ACTIONS

#### 1. TAKE THE CENSUS ONLINE

The U.S. Census determines representation in congress and how billions of federal dollars will be allocated. If you take the Census now online, you'll prevent Census workers from coming to your home in the coming weeks—critically important during this time of COVID-19. Complete your Census at [my2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov)

#### 2. DO SOME FUN DIY PROJECTS

You'll find many blog articles and videos for home organization and DIY projects at [tchabitat.org/diy](https://tchabitat.org/diy). As you organize your home, set aside items that could be donated to our ReStore Home Improvement Outlets. To receive ReStore updates (like when we reopen), text the word RESTOREVIP to the number 51555.

#### 3. CREATE A WILL ONLINE FOR FREE

Many folks are using the time at home to take care of things we all want to do but rarely have time for. Habitat has partnered with *FreeWill* to bring you a free online tool for creating Wills and Advance Healthcare Directives. You can do it all from your own home. Get started at [tchabitat.org/freewill](https://tchabitat.org/freewill)

## Dear Friends,

I hope you and your family are safe and healthy.

Right now, I'm inspired by the many Habitat homeowners who are the heroes working the front lines to keep us safe. Healthcare workers. Janitors. Delivery drivers. Their work is critical to our community. But so many are facing lost incomes and uncertain futures. For families still in need of a stable, affordable home, it's even worse.

So much is uncertain, but we may be facing a greater recession than in 2008—with the wave of foreclosures to follow. I do know this: with your support, we're going to make it through this *together*.

We're taking immediate action by launching the *At Home Fund* to get through this unprecedented time. Your investment in the fund will:

### 1. Protect Homeownership

No one should lose their home because of COVID-19. Your gift helps us do everything we can to support Habitat homeowners as they face lost jobs and illness.

### 2. Multiply Habitat Homeownership Opportunities

We believe a safe, stable, affordable home is more critical now than ever before. We'll continue to multiply our impact through our homeownership program.

Eventually we'll be able to bring back volunteers, reopen our ReStore Home Improvement Outlets, and gather for events. Right now, you can make a big difference with a financial gift.

Send your most generous donation to the *At Home Fund*. The quickest way is to go online to [tchabitat.org/athome](https://tchabitat.org/athome). You can also use the enclosed envelope.

You've stepped up in the past. I know that we'll pull through this together.

Be well,



Chris Coleman



P.S. Shortly after the outbreak started in Minnesota, **we donated 8,000 n95 respirator masks** to local hospitals (see *below*) so they would be better prepared. Our *At Home Fund* will similarly help local families be prepared. Please give if you can at [tchabitat.org/athome](https://tchabitat.org/athome)



8,000 N95 respirator masks on their way to local hospitals.

**HARD  
HAT &  
Black  
Tie**



## Gala going virtual

When: Evening of **Saturday, May 2**

Where: Your place!

Create homes for families from the comfort of yours. Go all out with your construction couture outfit, or get comfy in your PJs. Don't miss our most unique gala to date, featuring virtual live and silent auctions, a fun program, and more of your favorites!

Get ready to party at [tchabitat.org/2020hhbt](https://tchabitat.org/2020hhbt)