



Twin Cities
Habitat for Humanity®

Habitat

HERALD

XXXII - Number 2 Spring 2021

You open

doors

Your support opens doors for local families. Read Angel's story 6

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Volunteer Update

Most volunteering is paused, but we can't wait to welcome you back *safely*.

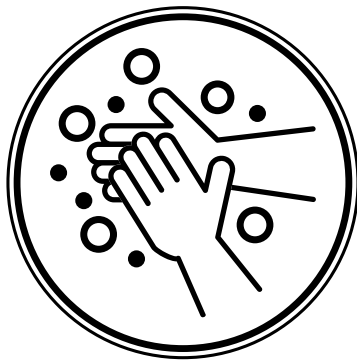
Volunteering hasn't been quite the same over the last year. Thank you for rolling with the changes and remaining committed to serving with Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity.

Thousands of you showed up on construction sites last summer, stuck to our COVID-19 safety guidelines, and kept building homes for Twin Cities families. *Amazing.*

We've started to invite our consistent regular crews and volunteers back to help our staff and AmeriCorps members on site this spring. We hope to invite all volunteers back safely this summer.

When the time is right, we'll need your help! Be the first to know about opportunities by joining our Ready-to-Build list at tchabitat.org/ready.

You'll hear details about all our safety protocols when you sign up to volunteer.



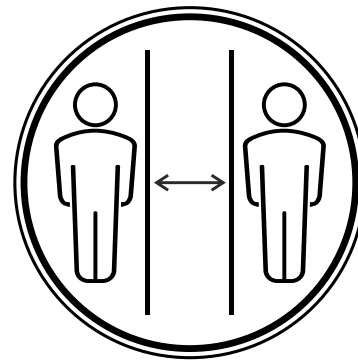
HANDS

All sites have handwashing stations



FACE

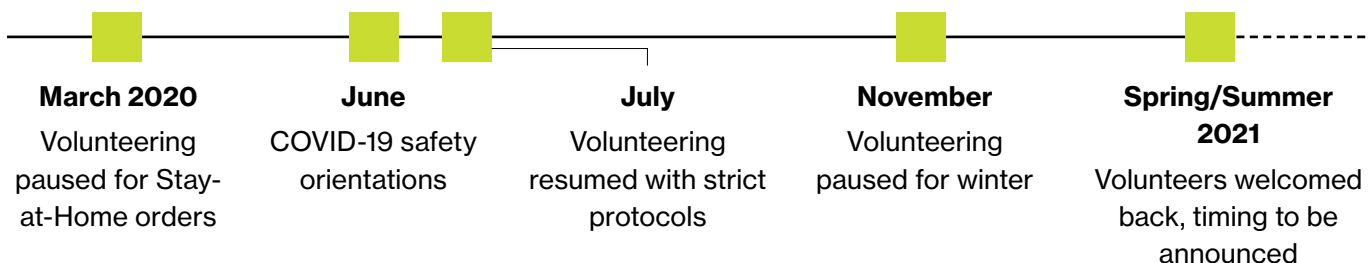
Masks must be worn at all times



SPACE

Maintain social distance

Your Flexibility is Key



As a long-time Habitat supporter and volunteer, Barry Mason started the Third Act regular crew in February 2019. He wanted to build a crew of people just starting retirement.

Photo by Dennis Chick, from 2019

The Third Act

The name comes from the concept of a three-act play to describe the three stages of life. The First Act is the Educational/Personal Growth Act. The Second Act is the Professional Act. *The Third Act* is the Post-Professional/Retirement Act.

The Third Act crew provides a sense of community and purpose for its members, all while doing good work for others.

Barry keeps coming back day after day for many reasons. At the top of the list is the excitement of a new build starting and the feeling of finishing a project, because he knows it will positively affect others in his community.

Volunteering with a **Regular Crew** offers many benefits. You have a chance to be more physically active. You develop bonds with a group you see and interact with regularly. And you have a sense of purpose during a time when helping others is more important than ever. You also learn some new skills! Even volunteers without previous experience in homebuilding are welcome to join.

If you're eager to start building when volunteer opportunities open, join our Ready-to-Build list at tchabitat.org/ready.

Giving is a Win-Win

The Olsons fully sponsored a Habitat home and brought their friends and family to volunteer. Everyone loved the experience.

Giving back is a strong value for David and Karen Olson. “It was a part of our growing up that you always helped somebody that didn’t have as much as you did,” said Karen.

As they approached retirement several years ago, they knew they wanted to spend more time volunteering and giving back. So they started volunteering with Twin Cities Habitat. During a Builder’s Circle Build Day, they met someone who shared his story of fully sponsoring a Habitat home.

“We weren’t aware that you could do that until that day,” Karen says. “That opened our eyes. We thought, *maybe we could do that!*”

The more they thought about it, the more excited they got. They knew this would be a great opportunity to invite their friends and family to volunteer together.

“We really did want to get children and grandchildren involved in giving,” says David. “Giving is a win-win situation and they need to experience that.”

From top to bottom, this has been a very rewarding experience for Karen and David, their family and friends, and everyone involved. They are so glad they made the leap to home sponsorship and recommend it to other Habitat supporters who might be considering it.

“We are so impressed with Habitat as an organization,” says Karen. And it’s not just the building of homes that impresses them. It’s the careful preparation families receive to be successful homeowners. And it’s the generous community coming together to build brighter futures for their neighbors.

Learn more about sponsorship opportunities at tchabitat.org/sponsor



Karen and David were looking for a way to give back more in retirement. When they realized they could fully sponsor a Habitat home, they jumped at the chance. They brought their family and friends together to volunteer, sharing their value of generosity. It was a win-win for everyone.

Photo by Dennis Chick, from 2019

“It was a part of our growing up that you always helped somebody that didn’t have as much as you did.”

Karen Olson

Habitat Volunteer and Donor

Why does giving feel so good?

It turns out the warm fuzzy feeling you get when giving back is a boost to your health and wellbeing. Here are three ways giving back is good for you.



Greater Happiness

A study asked participants how they rated their happiness. The study found that those who spent money giving to others had higher happiness levels than those who only spend on themselves – regardless of their income!



Increased Health

Giving has been shown to release “feel good” brain chemicals associated with lower blood pressure, less depression, and lower stress levels. Giving could lead you to have a stronger immune system and longer life.



Strong Community

When you donate or volunteer, you join a community that shares your values and passions. You also create a ripple effect of generosity that can inspire others to do the same. A stronger community is better for everyone!



Tax time is the perfect time to put together your will.

Create your will for free!

Twin Cities Habitat has partnered with **FreeWill** to give you a tool to create your own will online for free. It's our thank-you gift to you for your generous support.

Get started today at tchabitat.org/freewill

With FreeWill, you can create:

- a last will and testament
- advance healthcare directives
- financial powers of attorney
- a legacy that multiplies for generations

Home is Transformational

Your support opens doors to stable, affordable homes where families can thrive. This is Angel's story.

Angel cannot name any single moment when she remembers being most grateful for becoming a Habitat homeowner. "It's like all the time," she said. "I'm always thinking about it. I thank God for opening this door in our lives."

Angel is an office manager and special projects associate at a Twin Cities nonprofit. Before Habitat, she shared a two-bedroom apartment in North Minneapolis with her three children, Don, Aja, and Zyana. The apartment complex was noisy and there was very little privacy in their small space. She knew she wanted to buy a safe, stable home, but didn't know how.

Habitat was her first call. It turned out to be perfect.

She worked with a Habitat homeownership advisor to develop her financial path to homeownership, and in a year she was ready. This is the power of your support. Your gifts don't just buy the lumber and nails to build and rehab homes. You help prepare local families for success in homeownership.

Right away, Angel found a home she loved—a Brooklyn Park Habitat remodel with bedrooms for each of her kids, a bedroom and bath for her, an extra family room, and a big backyard. They moved in toward the end of 2019.

Their home purchase came at the perfect time. When Angel contracted COVID-19 in April 2020,

she was able to quarantine in her bedroom/bath suite while her mother cared for the kids.

"I'm not sure what we would have done if we were still in our tiny apartment," Angel said.

Angel believes that for her kids, the biggest benefit of having their own home is that they're able to open up more and be themselves.

"I thank God for opening this door in our lives."

Angel

Homeowner since 2019

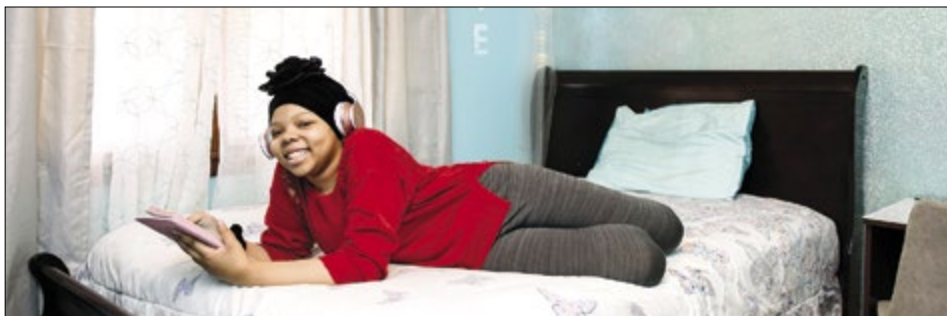
"Now that they're in their own space, I see more and more who they are," Angel said, "and we're learning more and more about each other, because we're in a quiet space without so many disruptions."

Now that her kids have seen what their mom can do, they're starting to aim for goals of their own. Her son Don, now 14, surprised her recently by asking if he could open a savings account. Angel credits Don's interest in saving money to seeing his mother set a goal of owning a home and doing the financial management work to make it happen.

When you support Habitat, you unlock the transformational power of homeownership for local families. *Thank you.*

Photos this spread and cover by Bruce Silcox

When Angel caught COVID-19, she had the space in her Habitat home to quarantine apart from her kids. And she's seen her family become closer—they especially love family dinners.



At Home Fund

Your gifts are essential to fueling Habitat's *At Home Fund*, that:

- **protects homeowners,** because no one should lose their home from COVID-19
- **expands homeownership,** because home has never been more important.

Give now! tchabitat.org/at-home

Bring the Hill Home!

This year's Habitat on the Hill advocacy day is going virtual! Come engage with housing advocates and state leaders about affordable homeownership. You'll learn about housing issues, the impacts of COVID-19 on Minnesota homeowners, and how you can advocate to make a difference.

In Minnesota, 1 in 9 households spends more than 50% of their income on housing. And the COVID-19 pandemic has forced many to choose between paying for housing and things like food, healthcare, and other basic necessities. Joining this virtual conference will give you the tools to advocate for these issues in your own community.

You'll also have the opportunity to meet and talk with your own state lawmakers!

Bring Minnesota's Capitol Hill home this legislative session and use your voice to advocate for local housing needs. We hope you'll join us!

Virtual Hill Day - Friday, April 30

11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Learn more and sign up at [**tchabitat.org/advocate**](https://tchabitat.org/advocate)



**Raise your voice for
affordable housing
from the comfort of
your own home!**

*Photo by Dennis Chick,
from 2019.*

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your resilience, commitment, and optimism through more than a year in the pandemic. And I especially want to thank the donors and volunteers like you who have continued giving of your time and treasure to support your neighbors during this difficult time.

As part of this very special Twin Cities Habitat community, you play a vital role in our big, bold strategic plan that we'll announce later this year.

One of our top priorities is to transform into a champion for racial equity through housing. I want us to move from an organization that cares about equity toward being an equity organization.

Our team took an important first step by introducing a new organizational mission, vision, and values:

Mission: *Bring people together to create, preserve, and promote affordable homeownership and advance racial equity in housing.*

Vision: *An equitable Twin Cities region where all families have access to the transformational power of homeownership.*

Values: *Rooted in faith and community. Inspired by hope. Committed to anti-racism. Driven to innovate.*

These statements are both aspirational and true to who we are at Habitat today. They will guide our current strategic plan and will shape how all of us at Twin Cities Habitat think and act every day.

I hope you're as excited as I am about this direction for Habitat.

Warmer, brighter days are ahead. Please stay tuned for more details about volunteering safely this summer. Be the first to know about opportunities by joining our Volunteer "Ready-to-Build" list at tchabitat.org/ready.

Thank you for the many ways you support local families through Habitat.

Gratefully,



Chris Coleman, President & CEO



Photo by Dennis Chick

Race & Housing Series

Minnesota's racial disparities in housing didn't happen by accident. Racist policies created them. Take time to learn about racial covenants, redlining, and other harmful practices by reading our Race & Housing series at tchabitat.org/race-series.

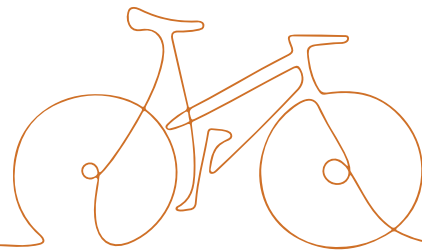


Raise the Roof GOLF TOURNAMENT

MONDAY, AUGUST 2

Have 18 holes of fun with friends at Minneapolis Golf Club while raising funds for Habitat's mission at the 26th annual Raise the Roof Golf Tournament!

Reserve your Eagle Sponsorship now at tchabitat.org/golf21



Habitat 500: Bike@Home!

You can bike in your own community while raising funds for Habitat through the Habitat 500: Bike@Home bike ride! Simply register, pay a registration fee, and cycle as many miles as you'd like between now and September, while joining other riders virtually for programs and activities.

For information, visit habitat500.org



Now Recruiting AmeriCorps!

Be the greater good. Join AmeriCorps with Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity.

You or someone you know could be the perfect AmeriCorps candidate—whether you're in college, nearing retirement, or anywhere in-between. You'll find positions in the field and in the office, for a full year or for the summer.

Learn more at tchabitat.org/ac

Member Perks

- Earn living, cell phone, clothing, and tools allowances
- Receive a Segal Education Award
- Learn new skills
- Join a community making a difference



Odds are you know a renter who could buy with Habitat

Do you know someone who rents? Buying a home with Habitat might be a perfect next step for them!

One in three Twin Cities renters face housing challenges and would also qualify for Habitat's homeownership program. *One in three.*

Maybe your friend or family member needs to hear about Habitat's homebuying program. Maybe it's your hairdresser. Your child's teacher. Your pharmacy technician. Maybe it's you.

Habitat is here to help first-time homebuyers unlock their potential. Get started at tchabitat.org/buy

Reduce. Reuse. Recycle.

One great way to be environmentally friendly is to follow the classic rules of reducing, reusing, and recycling. Habitat's ReStore Home Improvement Outlets are here to help! When you shop or donate to ReStore, you are also helping our community. Proceeds from sales go right back into the Twin Cities Habitat mission.



Donate furniture, tools, cabinets, and more.



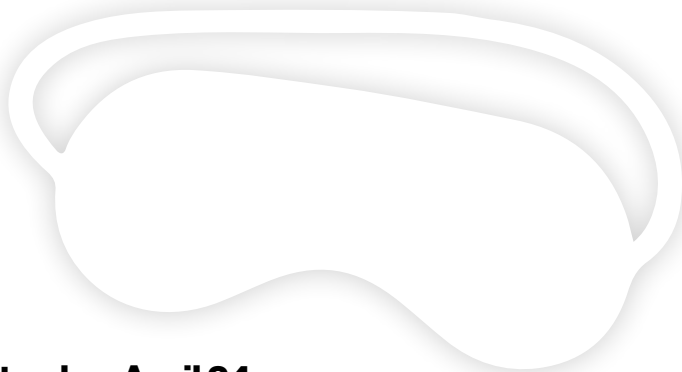
Transform things you already have into something new.



Shop and save 35% OFF through April 30, 2021.

Excludes red tagged items. Limit one coupon per customer, one coupon per purchase. Valid ONLY at New Brighton and Minneapolis locations.
Code: **SpringHerald**

restore.tchabitat.org



Saturday, April 24

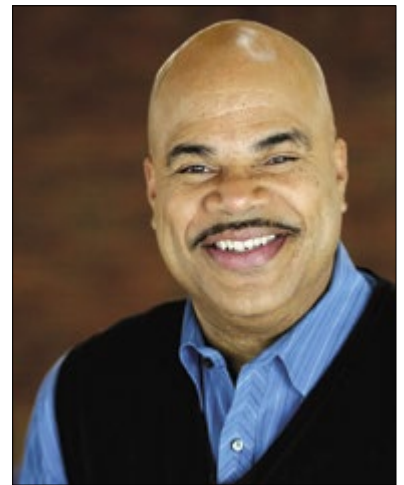
sLumber Party!

*a little less formal,
a lot more fun!*

**HARD
HAT &
Black
Tie**

Go all out with your construction couture outfit or get comfy in your finest lumberjack flannel PJs. You won't want to miss the best virtual gala of the year, featuring online live and silent auctions, an inspiring program, a rocking after party, and more. And it's **free**—all you need to do is register online!

tchabitat.org/hardhat21



Master of Ceremonies
T. Mychael Rambo



Exclusive Auction Item: Hawaii Trip