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blooms.

Twin Cities
Habitat for Humanity®

Habitat

HERALD

Vol. XXXI #3 **Summer 2021**

Julia had just finished pulling weeds in the yard of her Habitat home in the Jordan neighborhood of North Minneapolis. Sitting on nicer furniture than she's owned before and practically surrounded by potted plants, she said she never thought she'd love yard work so much.

"I haven't had to do that since I was a kid," she says with a smile. Recent spring rainfall meant she had her work cut out for her, which is just as well—she's got plans for the yard. *Her yard.*

Before finding Twin Cities Habitat, Julia had known "home" a lot of different ways. She moved a lot growing up. At one point, she experienced homelessness.

As an adult, she knew she wanted her young son to know the comfort and stability of their very own home. But her college loans hurt her credit score, making homeownership seem impossibly out of reach. Moving from place to place continued.

A turning point came in 2017 when she lost her job while also fostering her niece.

"The shock of losing a job, of not having savings... it flipped my whole mindset," she remembers. "I said, 'I've gotta get it together. I've got kids depending on me. Where do I see myself in the future? Where do I see my son? Is this where I want both of us to be?'"

Julia became more determined than ever to find a place to settle down. She started by tackling her credit score with a local financial wellness nonprofit.

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"It gives me a lot more space to be creative. Space where I can sit back and enjoy my kid playing in the yard."

Julia
Homeowner since 2020



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Julia

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By early 2020, she qualified for Habitat's Homeownership Program.

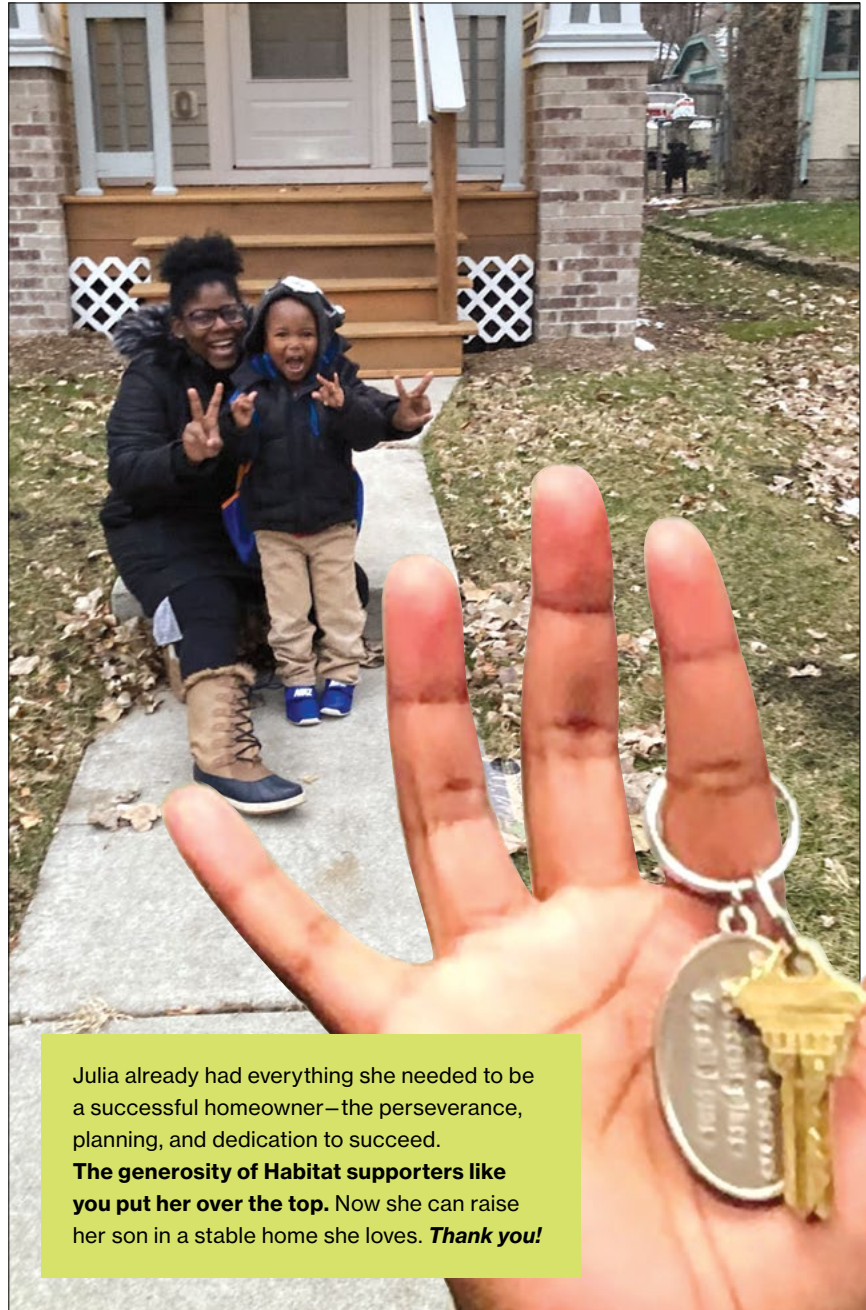
"The first-time homebuyer class is what encouraged me most," Julia says. It taught her how all the pieces of homebuyer readiness fit together. And she really did her homework: "Even though I'd read every portion of the website, the instructor was able to give me many more answers to my questions."

Things were coming together for Julia's family—and it all became real when she saw her home for the first time.

"I can see my peace here," she remembers thinking. Even before she knew it would be hers, she could clearly envision her life in this home: she saw her son playing in the backyard; she saw backyard hangouts with family and friends; she saw garden boxes brimming with flowers. After years of nomadic living, Julia saw home again.

Finally, on November 17, 2020, the house became Julia's home.

With the comfort of home and the confidence of ownership, Julia is finding time to live more of the life she wants. "I'm just looking forward to making [my home] my own outside," she says. "It gives me a lot more space to be creative. Space where I can sit back and enjoy my kid playing in the yard"—and it starts with those weeds.



Julia already had everything she needed to be a successful homeowner—the perseverance, planning, and dedication to succeed.

The generosity of Habitat supporters like you put her over the top. Now she can raise her son in a stable home she loves. **Thank you!**

At Home Fund

Your support during the pandemic has fueled Habitat's *At Home Fund*. Here's what you've accomplished since April 1, 2020:

- **161** Habitat homeowners received **mortgage relief**
- **90** families **bought homes** with Habitat
- **37** families **preserved homeownership** through the *A Brush with Kindness* home repair program

Learn more about the *At Home Fund* at tchabitat.org/at-home

Welcome back, volunteers!

The busy construction season is in high gear. After months of stops and starts, all of us are thrilled to welcome back our fearless and faithful volunteers.

Would you join us on site to swing a hammer, raise walls, and build community?

Round up a group of friends, family, or colleagues and spend a day with us. Or sign up as an individual and meet new friends on site. Either way, please join us to help create safe, stable, affordable homes for your neighbors this summer and fall.

Right now, dozens of local families are preparing for homeownership through Habitat. But it will take the entire Habitat community working together to get their homes move-in ready.

If building homes isn't for you, consider signing up to volunteer your time at one of our ReStore Home Improvement Outlets or for a home repair project. You'll find available volunteer slots and more details at tchabitat.org/volunteering. If you don't see an opportunity that works for you, rest assured there will be plenty of openings this fall and winter.



Photo by Dennis Chick

Habitat site staff, AmeriCorps members, and regular crews worked hard this spring to continue building homes for local families. Now we're welcoming volunteers back and need your help over the coming months.



Photo by Dennis Chick

Your safety is always our top priority.

When you sign up to volunteer, you'll receive detailed information about current safety protocols. When you arrive for your volunteer day, site staff will give you all the information you need to have a safe and productive experience.

Women of Habitat

Hope Builders Fundraising Luncheon

**Thursday, October 7
Hilton Minneapolis**

Save the date for our annual fundraising luncheon. You'll learn about the intersection of homeownership and health equity while supporting Habitat's mission. More details coming soon!

Raise the Roof**19th Hole Happy Hour****Monday, August 2, 4:00 p.m. at Minneapolis Golf Club**

Join Habitat supporters at our first in-person event of 2021! Whether or not you're golfing in our *Raise the Roof Golf Tournament*, you're invited to the 19th Hole Happy Hour at 4:00 p.m. You'll get a Habitat update from President & CEO Chris Coleman, hear an inspiring story from a Habitat homeowner, and bid on fabulous auction items!

The event is free to attend, but reservations are required. Learn more and RSVP at tchabitat.org/happy-hour



ReStore Donation Drive

Donating to ReStore Home Improvement Outlets is a triple win!

When you drop off things you no longer need, you prevent items from being thrown into landfills, you free up space in your own home, and you fill the stores to help fund our mission.

You can help by joining our Donation Drive:



1. Review our acceptable items list at tchabitat.org/guidelines
2. Drop off your donation at one of our two convenient Twin Cities locations
3. Mention **Herald Donation Drive** at dropoff for an exclusive offer of **35% OFF!**

Needed Items

- Appliances like refrigerators, stoves, washers, and dryers under 10 years old
- New building materials leftover from a remodel project
- Chairs, couches, side tables, dressers, dining tables, and desks
- Kitchen cabinets less than 20 years old
- Patio furniture and yard tools
- Chandeliers, sconces, and other lighting
- Power tools, hand tools, and aluminum or fiberglass ladders

**** Check guidelines before dropoff to make sure donations will be accepted at tchabitat.org/guidelines**