

Your gifts affect families in more ways than you imagine.

Thank you for creating home when it's needed most.

Photo by Dennis Chick

Last December, with your support, Brittany bought a home with Habitat. As she walked in the front door, she was filled with relief and gratitude that she and her son Ayden finally had a stable home they loved. When COVID-19 hit three short months later, her gratitude intensified.

“I am just so grateful to Habitat and all of the employees, volunteers, and donors that have been able to make this happen... My son and I now have a place we can call home and that affects us in more ways than you can imagine.”

Prior to Habitat, Brittany and Ayden rented a small two-bedroom apartment, and several family members lived with them.

“I can't even imagine what it would have been like living there when COVID hit,” she says.

Brittany always dreamed of being a homeowner. As a Financial Education Supervisor, she keeps her finances in tip-top shape. Despite doing everything right, our

region's housing crisis means homes on the conventional market are out of reach for single parents like Brittany.

But with Habitat, Brittany could reach her homeownership dreams.

“After I met with my advisor for the first time, I was so excited to run, not walk, towards homeownership... The down-payment and closing costs would be affordable to me, and best of all, I could purchase a home on the open market in any area I wanted.”

*Continues as **Brittany and Ayden on 2** »*

“I am just so grateful to all the volunteers and donors that have been able to make this happen.”

Brittany

Homeowner since 2019

Twin Cities
 **Habitat for Humanity®**

Habitat

HERALD Vol. XXXI #2 **Summer 2020**



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Learn how you can volunteer safely. We'd love to see you out on a construction site soon! 3



Photo by Dennis Chick

Brittany and Ayden

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Brittany says Habitat made buying a home a wonderful experience. She'll never forget the guidance she received every step of the way. She's even working with her brother to get his finances ready for homeownership.

"Once he's ready we'll definitely have him go through Habitat's homeownership program because it was phenomenal and I wouldn't have him go anywhere else."

Today, eight months into homeownership, Brittany's house really feels like home. She painted the walls and plans to build a pergola with her dad in the backyard. Ayden loves playing basketball and biking outside. During the day, Brittany works on the main level and Ayden plays or does schoolwork downstairs.



Photo by Dennis Chick



Ayden loves his new home so much that he entered a photo (left) into Habitat's photo contest about education and won second place! Here's Ayden's own words (summarized by his mom):

"Having a home has impacted my education because I don't have to ever worry about having to move again. I can relax knowing I have space to grow and do all of my schoolwork and random projects. I can use the space to explore my curiosity. I can even yell as loud as I want! I have a place to call home and I feel like I am more a part of a supportive community which in turn helps me embrace my education."

Race and Housing

Habitat for Humanity was born at Koinonia Farm in rural Georgia. There, Black and White Americans worked side by side, sharing all they had, amidst fierce opposition in a deeply segregated place.

In that spirit, we're examining how Minnesota became home to some of the widest racial disparities in the country—especially in housing—and what we

can do about it. This much is clear: Our disparities didn't happen by accident. Racist policies created them. And we need to be as intentional in closing our disparities as we were in creating them.

Join in learning this history to build a better future at tchabitat.org/race

Volunteer *Safely!*

Volunteers like you are crucial to building Habitat houses for local homebuyers. Safety is always our top priority, and we have new COVID-19 protocols to provide you with a safe, engaging, and meaningful volunteer experience.

This summer, there are more opportunities for you than ever!

One great opportunity for you is Women Build. You can get a group of friends together for a day of volunteering. Or sign up as an individual and meet new friends. We can't wait to see you on site this summer!

New Safety Protocols

- **Shorter days.** Sites are open 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. to allow more time for deep cleaning.
- **Smaller crews.** Each site has a limit of 6–8 volunteers and social distancing measures are in place.
- **Masks required.** Please bring your own if you have one, otherwise they'll be available on site.
- **Wash hands.** Handwashing stations are on all sites. You're encouraged to wash hands often and avoid sharing tools.

Visit our website at tchabitat.org/volunteer for full safety protocols for all volunteer opportunities.



Photo by Paul Dinndorf



Photo by Christy Ohlrogge

Virtual Women of Habitat Hope Builders Fundraising Luncheon

When: **Tuesday, October 6**

Where: Your place!

Join Twin Cities Habitat supporters for an enlightening TED-talk style discussion on race and housing.

Save your spot at tchabitat.org/luncheon

Now ReOpen: **ReStore Home Improvement Outlets**

If you've got new or gently-used home improvement items and furniture, now's the time to bring them to ReStore! Or, if you're tackling a home improvement project, stop by ReStore to find the tools, cabinets, light fixtures, or other supplies you need.

After months of work, our New Brighton ReStore is completely remodeled. It's now 50% larger, has more parking, and is ready for shoppers and donors like you.

In honor of this exciting news, **all customers get a 20% off discount through Labor Day** (excluding red tagged items). Every ReStore purchase and donation supports Habitat's work to create and preserve homeownership.



Photo by Paul Dinndorf

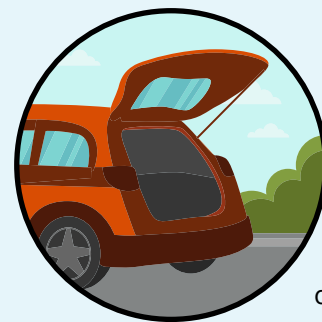
Your health is our priority.

Follow these protocols when you visit to assure the safety of staff and other guests.

Learn more at restore.tchabitat.org



Wear a mask while shopping.



Stay in your car while donating.