Looking ahead to 2019

As we celebrate all the accomplishments of 2018, including two new families in Habitat Homes, and a permanent home for our office, we are not content! The need for affordable housing is even greater as housing costs have increased significantly. In the last two years, the appraised value of a Habitat home has gone up by 33%! Thankfully the Habitat strategy is to create a mortgage that is no more than 26% of the families’ income. This also means the our affiliate assumes more of the cost in a forgivable mortgage. It’s a strategy that has allowed us to build 38 homes for families in Goodhue County. We want to exceed 40 families served in 2019. By this time next year we are planning on housing three more families in affordable durable, energy efficient Habitat homes. We know that a place to call home changes lives, and twenty-five years of building affordable homes means that we have changed hundreds of lives, not just the families, but the ones who labor side by side. They are changed as well. The challenge remains to find families, volunteers, money and land to be successful, but the miracles continue to appear. What a blessing it is to those of us who labor in this ministry, to see the selfless acts that occur on a weekly basis from the many volunteers and donors who give of their time, talent, and money to help make affordable homes a reality. We could not do it without your help, God bless you all.

When you choose joy, you feel good & when you do good, it reminds others what joy feels like & it just might inspire them to do the same.

Peterson First Christmas at Home

McKinley First Christmas at Home

GC Habitat Heroes of The Season!

Tim Sloan donated all his labor to build the walks for the McKinley home.

Gilbertson Plumbing came out on the Saturday before Christmas to help with a plumbing emergency.

Did you know?

Our 2018 build season brought out 358 Volunteers who donated 5,085 hours to help house two families.

Build Update

We are starting rehab work on our 21st. property in early Feb. and will be introducing the partner family that has been approved and has chosen this site as their new home. Two more projects will be undertaken in the coming build season. Stay tuned!

Come and visit us!

614 Plum Street
Red Wing, MN 55066
Tel: (651) 327-2195   Email: gchfh02@gmail.com   Web: www.gchabitat.org
Up Coming Events

1. **Homeowner Informational meeting** in Cannon Falls Jan 21st 7:00 PM at St.Ansgar’s Church Cannon Falls

2. **Financial Peace University** On going for 9 Tuesdays at 1st Covenant Church in Red Wing.

3. **Family Fare - Spartan Nash Scan:** February 6-17, Red Wing and Cannon Falls. Donate at the Till.

4. **Volunteer Brunch:** March 9th at United Lutheran Church in Red Wing at 10:00 am.

Like us on Facebook

I’d Like to Help!

- I will donate construction materials
- I pledge ___$25____ $50____ $100 ___Other
- I would like to volunteer with Habitat
- I would like to talk to someone about donating property
- I will pray for Habitat
- I will put Habitat in my will

Name__________________________________________________________________________
Address________________________________________________________________________
City______________State________Zip___________
Phone Number ______________________________
E-Mail ____________________________________

Clip and send:  
Goodhue County Habitat for Humanity  
614 Plum Street  
Red Wing, MN 55066  

Call Jodi at 507-403-7868 to Volunteer!

A Word From our Partner Family

When we were first presented with the idea of applying to become a Habitat for Humanity Partner Family, I will be honest, I struggled with the thought. I thought we didn't have a good enough "story" or our circumstances weren't "that bad". I was worried that opening up our family to publicity would be too invasive, and it made me uncomfortable. I was hesitant to spend my summer, while my older kids had their summer break, making appearances while youth groups were working on our home. After much resistance, a lot of prayer, seeking Godly counsel, and choosing to follow my husband's leading, we applied and the ball toward home ownership began to roll. While I wouldn't say walking the path of Habitat for Humanity was simple and easy, I will say it was so very worth it. My concern over our worthiness melted when we met with the Family Selection Committee, and they helped me realize that Habitat for Humanity loves families and is dedicated to providing adequate housing for as many families as possible, within their reach. We didn't need to be anything more than The Peterson Family, because Habitat welcomed us just as we were. As for the publicity, it turns out that there is something incredibly comforting and welcoming to have the community where we live surround and support us as we progressed towards our goal of a new home. In addition, to see our children's schools support them, by sending teachers as volunteers, not only blessed Zachariah and myself, but also spoke volumes to our kids about their value in the eyes of their teachers. As for spending my summer "making appearances" to youth groups, this wrecked me in the best way possible. These teens and their adult leaders were faithful, hard-working, accepting and meeting each person literally changed my life. To see the teens patiently help my two year old to hold their hammer for a few minutes, or to listen to my 8 year old tell a story that lasted forever, touched me to my core. These people, the volunteers from youth groups, churches in the local area, businesses, and many other groups, showed up to help build our home, simply because they have a heart to serve people and for that I'm forever grateful. Alongside these volunteers, Bob (Goodhue County Habitat for Humanity's Construction Manager), and Ross (Goodhue County Habitat for Humanity's Project Manager), we both saw our home built, and we learned how to build with them. I can confidently say that each member of our family has been changed for the better by our Habitat for Humanity experience, and if we had to go back and do it again, the only thing I would change is waiting so long to dive in and join this amazing organization as a Partner Family.

Elisabeth Peterson