



Wild Rivers Habitat for Humanity is actively seeking homeowners who can benefit from the Home Preservation and Repairs program, also known as "A Brush with Kindness." This initiative supports the organization's mission to preserve affordable housing and improve living conditions in northwestern Wisconsin. The program also provides opportunities for volunteers to get involved and make a positive impact. Homeowners interested in applying can visit [wildrivershahabitat.org/home-repairs](https://wildrivershahabitat.org/home-repairs) or contact Wild Rivers Habitat for Humanity at (715) 939-1390 for more information.



## **Wild Rivers Habitat for Humanity Receives \$100,000 Grant for Home Repairs**

Wild Rivers Habitat for Humanity has been awarded a \$100,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development's Housing Preservation program to provide essential home rehabilitation and repairs in Washburn County and the surrounding counties of Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Polk, Price, Taylor, and Rusk. The funding will help income-eligible homeowners in rural areas by making necessary improvements to their homes, such as exterior painting, accessibility upgrades, window and door repairs, weatherization, and roof maintenance. This initiative is part of the Biden-Harris administration's broader effort to ensure that rural communities have equitable access to essential infrastructure and economic resources.



Congratulations to our Executive Director, Jennifer Johnson, who has been appointed to the board of directors for the national Coalition for Home Repairs! This prestigious appointment highlights Jennifer's commitment and leadership in advocating for safe and affordable housing. We look forward to sharing more details about this exciting opportunity and its impact on our work as additional information becomes available. Stay tuned for updates in our upcoming newsletters and communications!



## Hours:

**Wednesday - Saturday:  
9am - 5pm**

**Sunday-Tuesday:  
CLOSED**

**Phone:  
(715) 635-4771**

**Donation hours are by appointment. To schedule an appointment, please call the ReStore during business hours. We are unable to schedule pick-ups of donated items.**



## Office Hours:

**Monday- Friday:  
8am-4pm**

## Located At:

**1357 North River St.  
Spooner, WI 54801**

## With major holidays coming up kitchen safety is important now more than ever.

With two major cooking holidays coming up, kitchen safety is more important now than ever. It's essential to keep your kitchen safety knowledge up to date to prevent accidents and keep your home safe.

First, make sure you have a working smoke alarm near your kitchen. Test it once a month and replace the batteries at least once a year (American Red Cross, n.d.). When cooking, avoid wearing loose clothing or jewelry that could catch on objects or pose a fire risk (American Red Cross, n.d.). If you're frying, grilling, or broiling food, never leave it unattended and keep children and pets out of the kitchen to avoid accidents (American Red Cross, n.d.).

Keeping your cooking area clean is also crucial. Make sure it's free from grease buildup, and keep flammable items like potholders, oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, paper bags, towels, or curtains far from heat sources (American Red Cross, n.d.). If you're using the oven, set a timer to remind yourself to check on your food regularly (American Red Cross, n.d.).

In case of a grease fire, don't panic. Fires need three elements to form: oxygen, heat, and fuel. Grease fires occur when the oil you're cooking with gets too hot and ignites (Weiss, 2016). To put out a grease fire, never use water, as it will cause the grease to spread and make the fire worse. Instead, carefully cover the pan with a lid to smother the flames, pour salt or baking soda over the fire, or if you have a fire extinguisher, aim it at the base of the fire and use it as directed (Weiss, 2016). Interestingly, if you don't have much salt or baking soda but have a cat, you can use cat litter to smother the flames.

Following these tips will help you stay prepared and keep your kitchen safe this holiday season!



## Leaves are falling, and it's time to get your lawn ready for winter!

While raking is the traditional go-to for clearing leaves, a leaf blower can be a more efficient way to gather them in one area. But the real challenge often comes with getting rid of the piles afterward. Luckily, there are some easy and even enjoyable ways to handle leaf disposal.

If you live near a wooded area, you can blow the leaves into the woods, giving them a natural place to decompose (HouseLogic, n.d.). This approach mimics nature's own way of recycling organic matter and adds nutrients back into the forest floor. A shop vac can also be handy for vacuuming up the leaves and then emptying the collection bag (HouseLogic, n.d.). It's a great option for those who prefer a more controlled and contained method of leaf removal.

For a more eco-friendly approach, composting your leaves in a bin provides nutrient-rich material for your garden (HouseLogic, n.d.). The decomposed leaves, known as "leaf mold," can improve soil structure and increase moisture retention, benefiting your plants in the long run.

Lastly, if it's safe and allowed in your area, having a bonfire is a fun way to dispose of leaves while enjoying the crisp fall weather (HouseLogic, n.d.). Not only does it clear your yard, but it also creates a cozy atmosphere for gathering with friends or family.

These tips will help make leaf cleanup less of a hassle and leave your lawn ready for the first snowfall!



### Citations:

American Red Cross. (n.d.). 10 holiday cooking safety tips from Red Cross. American Red Cross.

<https://www.redcross.org/local/dc-va-md-de/about-us/news-and-events/press-releases/10-Holiday-Cooking-Safety-Tips-from-Red-Cross.html>

HouseLogic. (n.d.). How to dispose of leaves. HouseLogic. <https://www.houselogic.com/by-room/yard-patio/how-to-dispose-leaves/>

Pexels. (n.d.). Home repairs [Photographs]. Pexels.

<https://www.pexels.com/search/home%20repairs/>

Tim Douglas. (2020). Woman in red long sleeve shirt holding a roasted chicken [Photograph]. Pexels.

<https://www.pexels.com/photo/woman-in-red-long-sleeve-shirt-holding-a-roasted-chicken-5847698/>

Weiss, M. (2016, September 14). How to safely put out a grease fire and prevent them altogether. Food Hacks.

<https://food-hacks.wonderhowto.com/how-to/safely-put-out-grease-fire-and-prevent-them-altogether-0152942/>



## Upcoming Events

World Habitat Day, on October 7, raises awareness about the need for safe, affordable housing. Join Wild Rivers Habitat for Humanity in making a difference by volunteering, donating, or spreading the word. Together, we can build stronger communities!



### Giving Tuesday 2024

Tuesday Dec. 3rd **habitat.org**  
*Build strength, stability, and self-reliance through shelter.*



Giving Tuesday, a global day of generosity, is the perfect time to support Wild Rivers Habitat for Humanity's mission to provide safe, affordable housing. Whether you donate or volunteer, your contribution helps build stronger communities. Let's make a difference together!



### Cars for Homes 2024

Ongoing|**habitat.org/carsforhomes**  
*Build strength, stability, and self-reliance through shelter.*



The average cost to build a home is \$150 per square foot, with labor accounting for 40% and materials for 60% – and these costs rise further due to climate factors. Your support is crucial in helping Wild Rivers Habitat build sustainable, affordable homes. Make a lasting impact in your community – donate today!



Proudly Serving the Communities of Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Polk, Price, Taylor, Rusk, and Washburn counties.

2024

Ongoing Donations|**wildrivershabitat.org/donate**  
*Build strength, stability, and self-reliance through shelter.*



### Rebate Donations 2024

Ongoing|**https://wildrivershabitat.org/donate**  
*Build strength, stability, and self-reliance through shelter.*



Donate your unused rebate receipts to Wild Rivers Habitat for Humanity! Whether from Menard's or other stores, we'll redeem them to buy materials for building safe, sustainable housing. Simply drop them off at our ReStore, and we'll put them to good use!