



May is Older Americans Month, and we're proud to support aging adults through our Housing Plus program. With a Certified Aging-in-Place Specialist on staff and our partnership with the national Coalition for Home Repair, we're helping older adults stay safe and independent in their homes. From accessibility modifications to critical repairs, our work ensures that growing older doesn't have to mean leaving the place you call home.

We're excited to continue momentum from the Washburn County Community First Housing Summit by convening a follow-up discussion in May to move from talk to action. We're also thankful to the Burnett County Tourism Coalition and the many communities who welcomed us to share more about how Habitat supports housing access and talent retention through affordable homeownership and repairs. And finally, we're thrilled to announce a new partnership with Tiger Tech at the Webster School District for their upcoming home project—giving students real-world experience and helping build the future of our communities, one home at a time.

In April, we completed three critical home repair projects—one each in Polk, Bayfield, and Burnett Counties—thanks to excellent work and partnership from Superior Spray Foam, Royal Flush Plumbing, and Window World. Our new home build in Ladysmith is nearing completion, and we're grateful to everyone who has helped us get to this point. We also want to thank Super One Foods and Miners Inc., as well as the generous shoppers who rounded up their purchases—raising an incredible \$8,200 in just two weeks to support our work!

We're also welcoming the next generation of changemakers! Wild Rivers is offering internships this summer in construction, community outreach, Girls Build leaders, and ReStore. It's not too late to apply—interested students can reach out to us directly to learn more about how to get involved and gain hands-on experience while making a difference in our communities and earning college credit.

We're feeling the ripple effects of recent federal funding reductions, particularly to AmeriCorps and the NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) program. Wild Rivers was set to host a NCCC team in July to complete construction on a new home in Webster. These service members have been vital to our mission in the past—helping build homes, support repairs, and strengthen our rural communities. Without these hands-on volunteers, we now face longer timelines and higher costs for projects that serve veterans, older adults, and families in need. We're doing everything we can to advocate for the reinstatement of this critical support while finding new ways to engage local partners and volunteers.

As costs continue to rise, so does the need for safe, affordable housing—and we can't meet that need alone. Every day, our team fields calls from neighbors in crisis: families seeking rental assistance, older adults facing unsafe home conditions, and veterans in need of critical repairs. These are not strangers—they're the people we see at the grocery store, our kids' teachers, the seniors caring for their spouses, the veterans who served our country. They work hard, care deeply, and deserve a safe place to call home.

We're asking our communities to come together—through donations of time, dollars, and support—to help us continue this work. Whether you can swing a hammer, make a monthly gift, or share our mission with others, it all matters. As Desmond Tutu once said, "Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world." Let's keep putting good back into our communities—together.





## 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**



[wildrivershhabitat.org](http://wildrivershhabitat.org)



[mightycause.com/organization/wildrivershhabitatforhumanity](http://mightycause.com/organization/wildrivershhabitatforhumanity)



**EQUAL HOUSING  
OPPORTUNITY**



## You Gave BIG—Thank You!

With rising costs impacting families across our local communities, your support during Give Big Valleys means more than ever. Because of you, we're one step closer to helping more families stay safe, warm, and housed—right here at home. Want to see the impact of your support? Meet Richard, a local veteran whose home was made safe and accessible thanks to donors like you.

From all of us at Wild Rivers Habitat for Humanity, thank you for showing up BIG.



**19 Million  
older Americans**

**live in homes that are in disrepair or ill-equipped to safely meet their needs.**

*Source: Habitat for Humanity*



Serving communities Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Polk, Price, Rusk, Taylor & Washburn Counties since 1997





ROCK THE ISLAND

2nd  
**ANNUAL**  
Tuesday  
May 20, 2025  
10:00 am - 2 pm  
**EVENT**

## What is Rock the Island?

Join us for the second annual Rock the Island, a day of service and community spirit! This year, we're tackling two meaningful projects that will leave a lasting impact:

### Heritage Center Beautification

Help us landscape the Veterans Memorial Garden area and install benches in advance of Memorial Day celebrations, honoring the island's rich history and its veterans.

### Home Repair on Middle Road

Volunteer to help install insulated skirting panels for a local resident – improving comfort, reducing energy costs, and extending the life of their home.

## We Need YOU!

Whether you bring a shovel or a smile, there's a role for everyone. All skill levels welcome. Volunteers will receive a light lunch and commemorative gift. Please bring shovels, rakes and work gloves.

## What to expect?

10:00 am	Welcome & Opening remarks at the Madeline Island Heritage Center
10:15 am	Travel to project sites
12:45 pm	Project wrap-up & return to the Madeline Island Heritage Center
1:00 pm	Volunteer appreciation lunch & wrap up

## Can't Join Us?

### You Can Still Make a Difference!

Your donation helps us purchase supplies, tools, and materials to make these projects possible. Give today or sign up to volunteer at: [www.wildrivershabitat.org/rocktheisland](http://www.wildrivershabitat.org/rocktheisland)

Rock the Island is more than a one-day event—it's an investment in year-round affordable housing solutions. By supporting projects that preserve and improve existing homes, we're helping Madeline Island residents age in place, stay warm through Wisconsin winters, and build stability in their community. Every shovel of dirt, every dollar donated, contributes to a stronger, more resilient community.

# Other News...

## Certified USDA Loan Application Packaging

We're proud to offer this lending tool designed to assist income-qualified, rural applicants in purchasing or building their own homes. Through this program, we provide comprehensive support and guidance, ensuring a smooth and accessible path to homeownership. Whether you dream of owning a home or building a new one, our dedicated team is here to help. Join us on this journey to create sustainable communities and make affordable housing a reality. Learn more about the USDA 502 Direct Loan Packaging Services and start your path to homeownership with Wild Rivers Habitat for Humanity today by contacting the Affiliate office.

## About Us

Wild Rivers Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter in Burnett, Polk, Rusk and Washburn Counties and expanded in 2021 to Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas, Price and Taylor Counties in Wisconsin.

An affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, we build and repair homes using in kind gifts, donations and volunteers to offer a hand up, not a hand out, to those in need of decent and affordable housing. Since forming in 1997, we have constructed 52 new homes and completed over 450 repair projects.

## Cars For Homes

When you donate your old vehicle, you're not just letting go of a car – you're giving families in your community a chance for a brighter future. Not only will your donation qualify for a tax deduction, but it will also directly support our mission of creating affordable housing opportunities for families in need. Learn more about vehicle donations by visiting <https://www.habitat.org/support/donate-your-car>

## Volunteer Opportunities

Spring and summer are perfect seasons to lend a hand! Whether you're handy on a build site, great with a paintbrush, or want to help at our ReStore, we have volunteer roles for all skill levels—sign up and be part of something that builds community. Join us in feeding our dedicated volunteer crew with lunches, snacks, treats or morning coffee (great for those unable to participate in construction because of age or skill), making a difference as a build day volunteer at our Webster project site. Contact our Affiliate office and be part of the positive change.

## Need Help with Your Home?

If you are struggling to maintain the exterior of your home or property due to age, disability, family circumstance, or any number of other reasons, then the Wild Rivers Habitat Home Repair Program might be the hand up that you need. This program helps low-income homeowners that need a little extra help with their owned home, revitalizing the appearance of the neighborhood, strengthening connections within the community and helping to preserve affordable housing stock. Apply today!

## Make Your Tax Refund Count for Good

As tax season approaches, consider using your tax refund to make a difference in your community. A donation to Wild Rivers Habitat for Humanity not only supports families in need of safe, affordable housing but may also qualify as a tax-deductible contribution, potentially benefiting you next year.

By designating part or all of your tax refund as a donation, you can help us continue our mission of building homes, hope, and brighter futures for local families. Whether it's a cash gift, item donations to our ReStore, or other contributions, your generosity will have a lasting impact.

Consult your tax professional to learn how giving now can align with your financial goals for the year ahead. Together, we can turn your refund into something truly life-changing!

Scan Here to Donate!

