

# Habitat Happenings

AUTUMN 2019



## **VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT**

Wild Rivers Habitat for Humanity spotlights Jim Brande this issue!

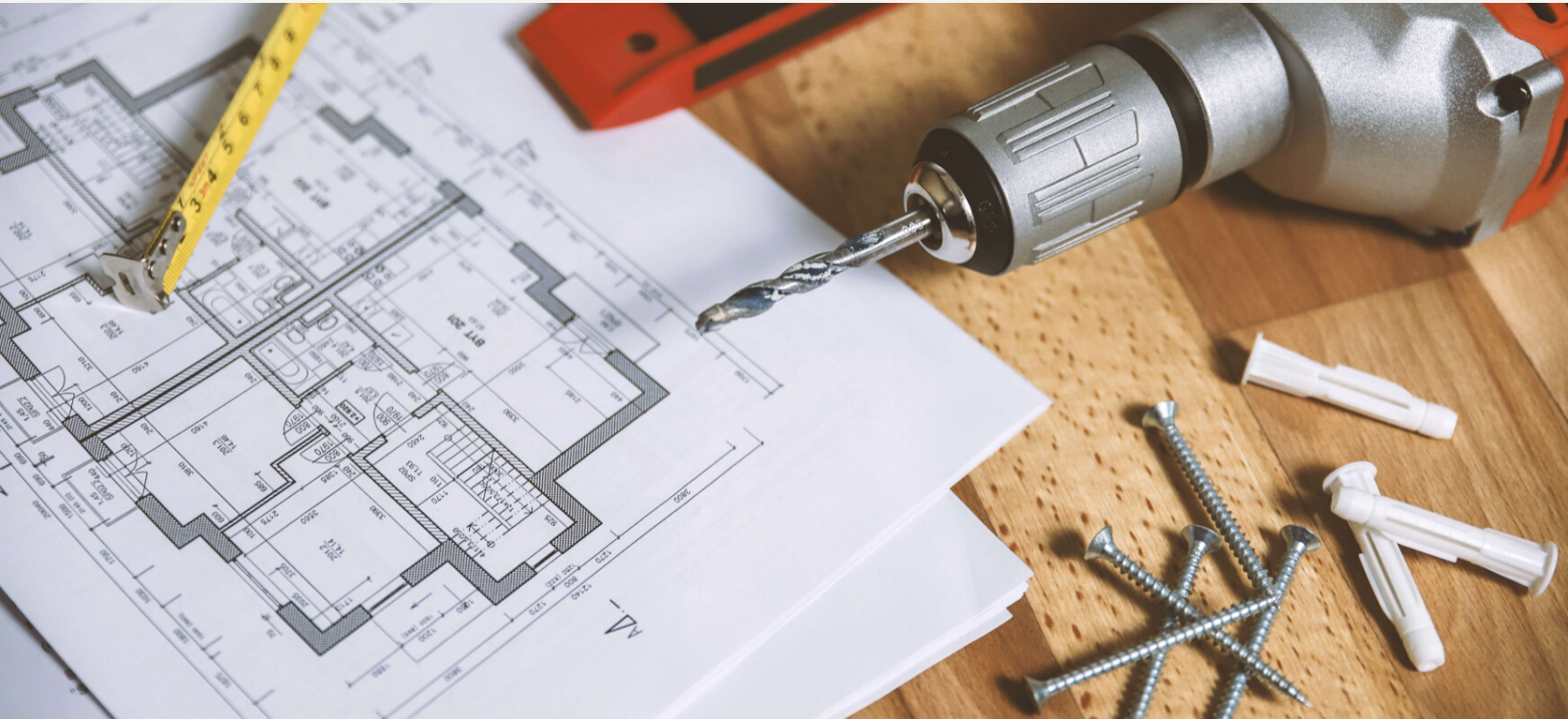
## **IN THE COMMUNITY**

Celebrate Ladies Night Out at the Spooner Restore!

## **DONATION HIGHLIGHT**

Learn about an 80-year-old Pyrene pump fire extinguisher!

# Wild Rivers Habitat for Humanity



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# A Message From The Team

We hope you appreciate the revamped Habitat Happenings newsletter as much as we enjoyed creating it for you! Our newsletter will now arrive quarterly and will be filled with new features such as our volunteer spotlight, news in the community, donation highlights, home tips and much more! Sign up to receive the newsletter directly in your inbox at [www.wildrivershabitat.org](http://www.wildrivershabitat.org) or pick up a printed copy while supplies last at the St Croix Falls or Spooner ReStores. During the past three years, many advances and changes have taken place at Wild Rivers Habitat for Humanity. From new members joining our experienced & dedicated team of professionals, program expansions, construction activities taking place in all four counties to new partnerships and website upgrades, a season of growth has begun. As affiliates and ReStores in NW Wisconsin struggle, Wild Rivers remains a fiscally responsible, stable organization. Over the next three years, our strategic plan guides in creating and implementing community education sessions focusing on homeowner maintenance, first time homebuyer finance awareness, and ReStore repurposes among others; expanding our affordable housing advocacy platforms; creating & implementing a homeowner tool lending library; growing our home repairs program to include energy efficiency and safety equipment installs including smart thermostats, smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors; and promoting the construction trades as a viable, family sustaining career. We are currently seeking two families as we partner to build homes in Burnett and Washburn Counties while we

while we continue to expand our home repairs program. We will also explore opportunities to open a third ReStore building on our success in both Spooner and St Croix Falls to further create a presence in the communities we serve. Lots will be happening over the next few years and we look forward to having you join us on the journey.

## Organization News

Denise Van Vleet was recently promoted to Programs & Operations Director. A long term and highly valued employee, Denise will oversee day to day activities in construction programs, volunteer program administration and community outreach.

Lance Ausing is the newly elected Chair of the Board of Directors. Ausing is the Regional Economic Development Director at the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation. His priorities for his term include strategic organizational growth and board leadership development.

## Upcoming Events

- Spooner Ladies Night Out (November 25)
- Small Business Saturday (November 30)
- #givingTuesday (24 hours of online giving)
- Thanksgiving – closed (Thursday and Friday)
- Christmas – closed Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

# Jim Brande

## Volunteer Spotlight

### A "Thank You" to our Volunteers

As an organization that relies so heavily on the volunteer efforts and donor gifts of so many, we often get caught up in the hustle and fall short in recognizing those that give so selflessly to us. This article attempts to bring into focus the stories of the people that help, or helped, keep us going. We hope you will enjoy the stories of others and perhaps you will wish to create or share your own with us.

In this issue's Volunteer Spotlight, we have decided to highlight Jim Brande, a volunteer who has been with us for over a year. Jim told us that what brought him to Wild Rivers Habitat for Humanity was that it brought something good to the community. Jim was originally from Hudson WI and moved to Grantsburg in 1976 to work in the village water and wastewater sector. He moved back to Hudson in 1992, before moving to Spooner in 1997 to be close to family.

Jim is a self-described jack of all trades, having experience as a truck driver, working heavy machinery, building houses and skills in general maintenance. These traits have earned him the unofficial title of "groundskeeper of the ReStores". While his skills lie in maintenance, Jim's heart lies in the people he works with at Habitat. He told us that the reason he continues to volunteer is because of his fellow volunteers and staff, and meeting people who come into the ReStores.



*"I like to buffalo the people who come in." - Jim Brande*

His favorite job is taking donations because this allows him to talk with people, often playfully giving them a hard time. A favorite trick of his is to tell staff he threw away all of the donations. Jim would like people that are interested in volunteering to know that the ReStore helps so many people who otherwise would not be able to get the materials they need to have a decent place to live.

# Board Recruitment

We are looking for dedicated and creative community members to join our Board of Directors. Our board strives to empower and shape local communities by helping to end poverty housing in Burnett, Polk, Rusk, and Washburn Counties. Board members set policies that govern the work and mission of Habitat and help to make major decisions for Wild Rivers Habitat for Humanity. Board members assist in a variety of engaging tasks. The ideal candidate will have a willingness to expand knowledge of board responsibilities through orientation and ongoing education throughout all four Counties, a readiness to represent Habitat to the community, approximately 10 hours a month distributed between board meetings, committee meetings and special requests, and offer a fresh outlook and unique ways to solve issues at hand in their community. To be considered, please send a letter of interest and a short biography to Jennifer Johnson, Executive Director, at [office@wildrivershabitat.org](mailto:office@wildrivershabitat.org), or drop them off at the Wild Rivers affiliate office located in the Spooner ReStore, 1357 North River St. Spooner WI.



*Rick Nelson*



*Brandon Johnson*

## New to the Crew

Wild Rivers Habitat for Humanity is proud to announce and welcome two new members to their team: Rick Nelson and Brandon Johnson. Rick joins Wild Rivers Habitat for Humanity as the construction supervisor. He will lead the construction programs as they continue to focus on home repairs and in preparation for new home construction activities in 2020. Rick has a varied background in construction, landscaping, home repairs, and remodeling

Brandon is joining as the community outreach coordinator, a national AmeriCorps position. Brandon will be responsible for building relationships and partnerships with the organization's stakeholders and will work closely with the construction programs and engage volunteers to support these projects. Brandon is a recent graduate from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and has a bachelor's degree in organizational communication.

# How to Donate

There are many ways to donate to Habitat! The first, and the most direct, is monetary donations to our construction programs giving families in need a decent place to live. We offer many different ways to receive such donations, such as through Thrivent Choice Dollars, Planned Giving, and our online MightyCause platform. Another common way is by donating your gently used furniture, appliances, housewares, building materials and other goods to our ReStores; you can always donate in-person, or fill out a free pickup application. Proceeds from the sales of these items help Habitat's work in our community.

# Apply for Current Projects

The deadline for projects to be completed yet this season under the Wild Rivers Habitat for Humanity's Home Repair program is quickly approaching. If you are a low-income homeowner struggling with improving and maintaining your home for any number of reasons, consider applying. Repairs that the program can help you with are related to poor structural conditions, safety, landscaping and painting, as well as special needs. Projects can include porch and deck, window, roof, gutter, siding and trim, and wheelchair ramp and railing repair or installation.

We are also seeking two partner families for two homes located in Burnett and Washburn County. If you are interested, you can visit our Website for eligibility details and program requirements.

# Volunteer Opportunities

With Habitat for Humanity, you will have the opportunity to be a part of the change you want to see in your community.

The St. Croix Falls and Spooner ReStore are looking for volunteers to help clean and organize the store and merchandise during Wednesday and Friday afternoons, and Saturday mornings. The ReStores are also looking for a donation pickup assistant. By giving your time, you help Wild Rivers Habitat for Humanity do more to support building projects that benefit families in our community and around the world. Interested in volunteering? Fill out an application form at the Restores today!

# 2019 State of Home Affordability in Wisconsin



In Wisconsin, one in eight households spend more than half of their income in housing. The wage required to afford fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Wisconsin (\$872), working 40 hours per week, is \$16.77 weekly or \$34,884 annually. Nearly 30% of all households in Wisconsin cannot afford this. With more than 18 million severely cost-burdened households in the U.S., the importance of advocating for home affordability for homeowners and renters cannot be overstated.

**In the  
Community**

# Spooner Ladies Night



## A Local Tradition

Ladies Night has been a tradition in Downtown Spooner for over 10 years. Its a magical evening to celebrate the retail businesses with special events, music, prizes, demos, drawings, discounts, food, fun, games, and so much more. Ladies Night 2019 will begin at 5pm on November 25th with a Grand Prize drawing held at 8pm at Roundman Brewing Co. Its a great night to visit the wonderful shops in Spooner and support the local food pantry.

## Celebrate Ladies Night Out At The Spooner ReStore

The Spooner ReStore will have multiple special events taking place during Ladies Night Out. Although we typically are closed for business during those hours, the Spooner ReStore will be open for business specially for Ladies Night Out. Donations during this time period will not be accepted. We will have a special Ladies Night Out collection of antique and vintage items available for the first time for sale, and will be doing a host of other drawings and giveaways, including a raffle for a 1/2 carat emerald cut "Past, Present, Future" gold ring! Tickets on sale at the ReStore. Food and beverages will also be available during this night of fun.



# 36th Carter Work Project

## Carter Build

### A Week-Long Endeavor

One former president, one former first lady, three country music stars and 21 future Habitat for Humanity homeowners swung hammers and rose walls for new homes in Nashville during the week-long 36th Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project. Building alongside hundreds of other volunteers, the former president and first lady assisted the construction of 21 new Habitat for Humanity homes. An additional 12 new single-family homes and 26 new townhomes will be constructed by 2021 with support of funding raised for the project. In total, funds raised through the 2019 Carter Work Project will serve 59 Nashville families.

### Committed to Habitat

The Carters were warmly welcomed to Nashville by Trisha Yearwood and Garth Brooks, who built at the Carter Work Project for their 12th year. They first volunteered together with Habitat in 2007 in New Orleans to help build post-Katrina Habitat homes on the Gulf Coast, and since then, have lent their names and support to numerous Habitat events and projects. Along with the Carters, Yearwood and Brooks were recognized as Habitat Humanitarians in 2016. Since beginning their work with Habitat for Humanity in 1984, just years after leaving the White House, President and Mrs. Carter have helped to build, renovate and repair 4,331 homes in 14 countries alongside more than 103,000 volunteers.



*Former President Jimmy Carter begins work at a future Habitat for Humanity home in Nashville.*

Just hours before traveling to Nashville to kick off the first day of the build, Carter suffered a fall in his home while getting ready for church.

"I fell down and hit my forehead on a sharp edge and had to go to the hospital. And they took 14 stitches in my forehead and my eye is black, as you've noticed," he said. "But I had a No. 1 priority and that was to come to Nashville and build houses."

The 36th Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project was generously supported by more than 60 sponsors. Habitat would like to particularly thank the project's two presenting sponsors: the Tennessee Housing Development Agency and the Barnes Housing Trust Fund, which each committed at least \$1 million.



## Donation Highlight

# Pyrene "Copper Pump Tank"



With all of the interesting and vintage items that come through the ReStore on a daily basis, we have decided to launch a new segment of our quarterly Habitat Happenings called "Donation Highlight". This page is dedicated to examining the history behind some of our donations, and for our debut article we are taking a look at a 2 1/2 gallon , copper pump tank fire extinguisher made by the Pyrene Manufacturing Company.

Interested in purchasing this item?  
Visit the Spooner ReStore, but hurry!  
This item will not last long!

## About Pyrene

The fire extinguisher appears to be from the early to mid 1900's, based on a model extremely similar to it appearing in an advertisement the company put out in The Toronto Daily Star on March 13th, 1930. Another clue to its age is the material it is made of; during World War II, copper became scarce and brass was generally used. The Pyrene Company was first established in 1909, when Scottish engineer took his idea for a fire extinguisher to the US after he was unable to get financial backing in the UK. The company would become one of the world's leaders in the manufacture of fire fighting equipment.

Pyrene made a name for itself for the small extinguishers it made to fit public transport, commercial and private vehicles throughout the western world between the 1920's and 60's. Pyrene pioneered the use of Carbon Tetrachloride, or CTC, to extinguish fires. The liquid would be vaporized by the heat of combustion and extinguished flames. At the time it was believed that the gas simply dispersed oxygen in the area near the fire, but later research found that the gas inhibits the chemical chain reaction of the combustion process. However, under high temperatures in air, CTC forms the very poisonous phosgene—a colorless gas used as a chemical weapon during World War I. Because of this, ironically many CTC extinguishers were potentially more hazardous than the fires they were meant to put out, and have since been phased out of use.



# Habitat Ready: Winter Weather

The dangers of winter weather are often overlooked. From extreme cold to ice storms to blizzards, winter weather can knock out heat, power, communications and transportation networks, and can immobilize entire regions. In order to protect your home and family, it is important to be prepared before winter weather strikes. Before winter weather:

- Review your family preparedness plan.
- Establish a family communications plan.
- Assemble a disaster supply kit.
- Insulate walls and attics, caulk and weather-strip doors and windows, and install storm windows or cover windows with plastic.
- Learn how to shut off water valves.
- Clear rain gutters, repair roof leaks, and trim tree branches that could fall on your home.
- Maintain chimneys and heating equipment by having them cleaned and inspected.
- Insulate pipes with insulation, newspaper or plastic to keep from freezing.
- Hire a contractor to check the structural ability of your roof to hold heavy weight from snow accumulation.
- Know the difference between an ADVISORY, WATCH and WARNING.
- ADVISORY: Inconvenient winter weather is possible.
- WATCH: Hazardous winter weather is likely within 36 hours. Stay tuned to a TV or radio for more information, and be prepared.
- WARNING: Dangerous winter weather is expected or occurring. Take shelter immediately.

## Autumn Home Tips

Wild Rivers Habitat for Humanity knows the importance of improving and maintaining a home on a tight schedule. That's why we've put together five helpful tips to keep your home in top shape as the weather starts to get colder and we prepare for winter.

- Before you start the heater, furnace or fireplace in the fall, complete this checklist: Replace batteries in all smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors, and make sure your fire extinguisher has not expired.
- Before winter comes and it's still a warm fall day, put the summer garden hose on an outside deck to soften in the sun. Then the hose will curl easily for storage until you need again come spring.
- Seal around windows and doors in the fall to keep out the cold. Need help finding where air is coming in? Look for spiderwebs. Spiders love to place their webs near moving air, so if you find one, it's a pretty good sign you've got an air leak there.
- Remove screens and wash them with a hose and store them for winter. Your windows will let in more light, then they are ready for spring.
- Don't forget the attic space. Check it at least twice a year and look for water staining, properly connected exhaust hoses and ensure your soffits and air chutes are not blocked.



# YOU DON'T HAVE TO LIFT A HAMMER TO HELP

## RESTORE E-STORE

We're in the process of opening an online storefront so that you can browse specialty vintage items from wherever you are. Keep an eye out for the Wild Rivers ReStore on Etsy.com.

## SHOPPING FOR A CAUSE IS JUST A CLICK AWAY!

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support Wild Rivers Habitat for Humanity every time you shop online at no additional cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll be able to find the exact same great deals, vast selection, and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com with the added bonus that Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases directly to Wild Rivers at no additional cost to you. Simply go to smile.amazon.com from your web browser on your computer or smart device. We recommend adding a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make returning to shop AmazonSmile that much easier every time. It's important to remember that you must shop through AmazonSmile each time for Wild Rivers to be rewarded. On your first visit to AmazonSmile you'll need to select a charitable organization before you begin shopping. Simply type in Wild Rivers to choose us as your donation recipient. Amazon will remember your selection and cause every future eligible purchase made result in a donation. It's really that easy. If you already support another charity but would prefer to switch to Wild Rivers, you can go to "Your Account" and select "Change your Charity" to choose Wild Rivers Habitat for Humanity.

## RESTORE HOURS AND ADDRESS

### ReStore Hours:

Sunday - Monday: Closed

Tuesday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

### Donation Hours:

Tuesday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

### Spoooner ReStore

1357 N. River Street. Spooner, WI

54801

(715) 635-4771

### St. Croix Falls ReStore

2201 US Highway 8 St. Croix Falls, WI.

54024

(715) 483-2700



# Thank You To Our Sponsors



**This spring, Wild Rivers Habitat for Humanity was one of six local nonprofits to be a recipient of a grant awarded by NACF.**



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