

Habitat Happenings

SPRING 2021



Wild Rivers
Habitat
for Humanity®

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

We're covering our 2021 new home build, which is going to be finished right at the ReStore!

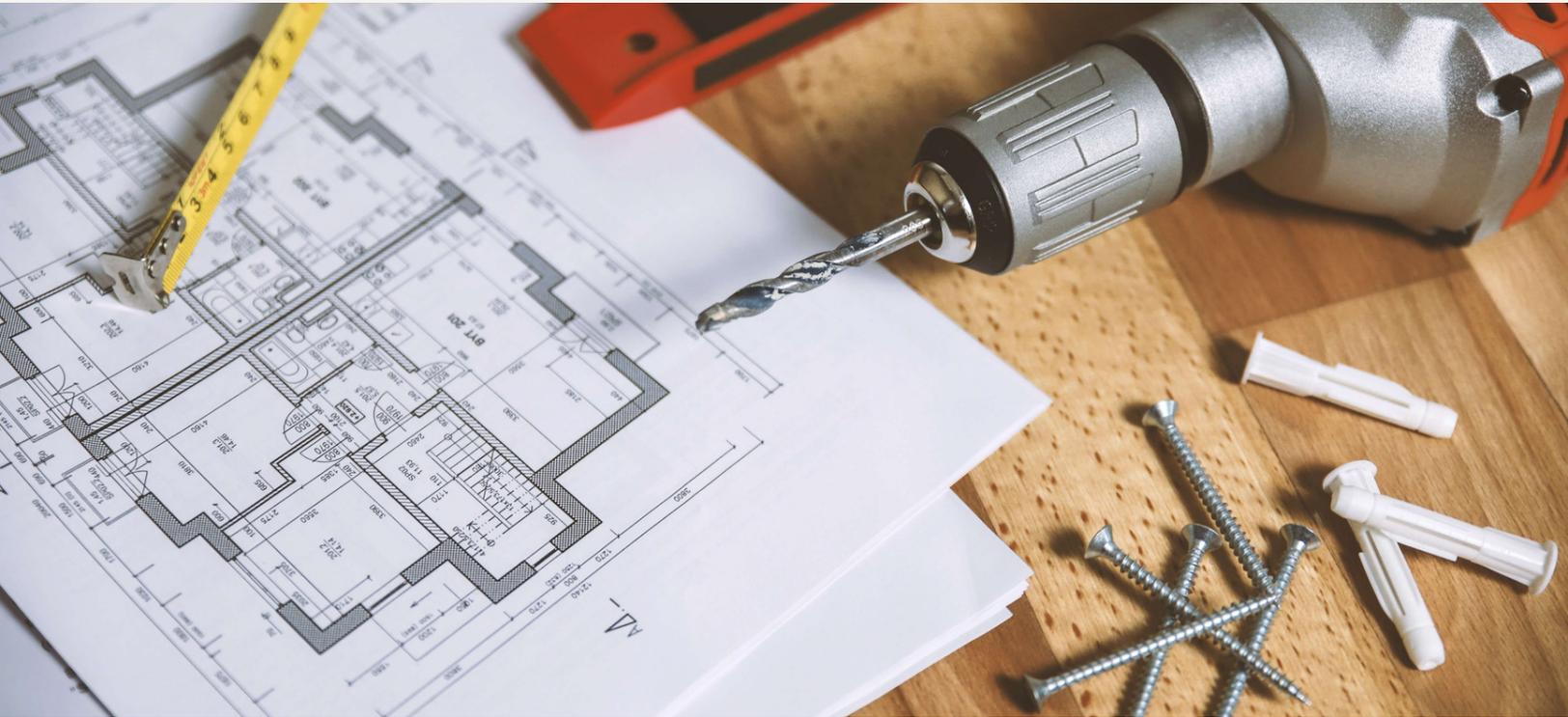
EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

This issue, we have spotlighted three new faces on our team for this Summer!

DONATION HIGHLIGHT

Learn more about the Currier & Ives as we take a look at an interesting ceiling light fixture.

Wild Rivers Habitat for Humanity



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A message from the team

One year later.

We've been reminded that communities around the world have reached the one-year mark of the COVID-19 pandemic that has impacted so much of our daily lives. For us, it has been over a year since we made the difficult (but necessary) decision to temporarily close both of our ReStore locations in wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. As we mark one year since this difficult new way of life made its way to our doorstep, we are proud to say that we made it to the other side and have been able to complete over \$100,000 worth of critical home repairs despite the pandemic.

While the pandemic still looms over our heads, it is starting to feel like the worst might be behind us. But this battle is far from over. In the wake of this national nightmare, issues have been brought to light that will need to be addressed in the future: that nearly one-third of people cannot afford all of their needs, that people of color are effected by economic instability at a disproportionate rate, and that many members of our own community do not live in adequate enough housing to safely shelter in place. This pandemic has exacerbated an already desperate housing crisis, so our goal has been to emerge stronger than ever before. These are all issues that demonstrate why organizations like us are needed.

We are encouraged by new vaccines and falling numbers of people who are sick, and we pray that we will be celebrating soon. But we must hang on a little longer. For many of us, one of the saddest aspects of being a part of Habitat during COVID-19 is that we haven't been able to experience the mission directly. We hear so many people say they can't wait to get back on the worksite.

We would like to recognize the countless family members and friends who did not survive the pandemic, the bravery of essential workers like grocery store employees and nurses, and all of our neighbors who have been suffering from the effects of prolonged stress during these unfathomable times. We would also like to thank everyone who has supported us through the years and who will continue to support us into the future.

Our work is far from over.

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10



Girls Can Build 2021 Summer Camp



Women account for less than 10 percent of all U.S. construction workers and 12 percent of repair and maintenance workers, according to a 2018 report by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. This could be because they are not typically encouraged to pursue the trades, or because they do not have proper mentors if they do. It could also be the fact that these industries are often wrongly portrayed as nothing more than messy, physical, unskilled labor. At a time when women account for a fraction of the workforce in fields like construction, plumbing, and automotive repair, Wild Rivers Habitat for Humanity has created a new program, Girls Can Build Summer Day Camps, to help get more women into the skilled trades.

The camps will be organized so that participants tackle hands-on projects with the help of female mentors. In addition, we want to ensure to cater the camps to younger girls ages 10-14, so they will have plenty of time to get acquainted and perhaps even fall in love with this type of work long before they've made any major career choices. These camps are also about empowering girls to interact with the physical world and learn that they can decipher the mechanics of a broken tool and tackle

fixing it on their own. Campers attend workshops, icebreakers and team bonding games, so girls can get to know each other, and build together better. Each weekly day camp is led by two instructors and girls are given their own hard hats, safety glasses and ear protection to take home. Campers will build small projects to take home, as well as work on one large group project to be donated to a Habitat for Humanity home repair project or our 2021 new home build.

Camp will last for one week, Monday - Friday, from 8am - 2pm. The camps will be held at our Spooner and St. Croix Falls ReStore locations: the camp in Spooner will start June 21st, and the camp in St. Croix Falls will begin on July 19th. Sign ups will begin on May 1st and can be found on our website (<https://wildrivershabitat.org/girls-can-build-camp>). If you would like to register, please fill out the registration packet on our site and pay a \$25 registration fee in advance (two weeks before the camp start date). Registration fees will cover the cost of light breakfast, lunch, and materials.

These camps are made possible by the generous donations of the Bernick Family Foundation.



2021 New Home Build

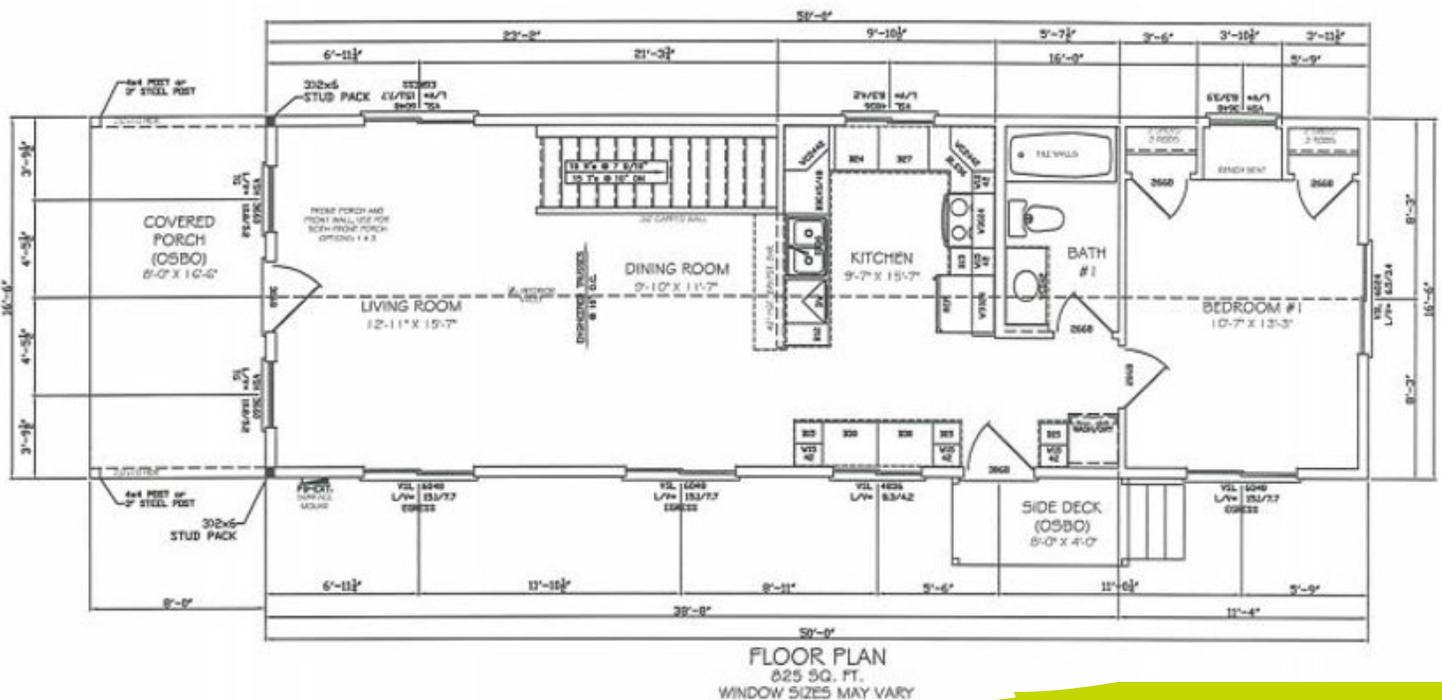
Project Spotlight

Construction to begin in May

We are thrilled to announce that we will be constructing a new home this year in partnership with Dan Buchmann's Tech-Ed class in Rice Like High School. This project-based service learning endeavor will engage students in a variety of skills, and will provide hands-on opportunities to learn about construction safety standards and work with the tools and materials needed to successfully execute a residential construction project. The students will build the home in panels, and assemble the completed project at our Spooner ReStore location. From there, our team will finish the interior of the build on-site, and we anticipate having volunteer opportunities

in June through July to help with this. COVID-19 friendly procedures will be followed to ensure the safety of everyone involved. If you are interested in volunteering, please fill out our Volunteer Watch List on our website. (wildridershabitat.org/volunteer)

This home will be approximately 800 square feet when finished and feature one bedroom and one bath. This home is a modular style and will be ready to move to a homeowner's location when construction is finished at the end of August. We are currently searching for families and individuals who have an interest in owning a Habitat home for this new home build. Please visit our website to apply.



Elizabeth, Brian, and Derek

Employee Spotlight

New to the Crew

Three new faces have joined our team as we look to expand the number of programs offered and the scope of those programs. Brain Huynh and Derek Millard will be joining us this summer to be site supervisors on numerous construction projects we have planned for this year.

Derek is currently attending the University of Wisconsin Stout and is majoring in Construction Management. Derek was born in Duluth Minnesota but has lived for most of his life in Tomah, Wisconsin. After his internship with Wild Rivers Habitat for Humanity is finished, Derek is interested in working near the twin cities with either commercial or residential construction. Derek enjoys weightlifting, bow hunting, and fishing in his free time.



Brian is currently attending the University of Houston and is majoring in Construction Management. He was born in Arcadia, California before moving to Houston, Texas. After his internship with Wild Rivers Habitat for Humanity is finished, Brian hopes to find a full-time position with us and continue to leave his mark and help people find a decent place to live. Brian enjoys gardening in his free time and is currently growing chili peppers and strawberries.



Elizabeth Kevan joined our team as the coordinator for our 2021 Girls Can Build summer camps. She is from Spooner Wisconsin and have lived here since 2008. She is hoping that this opportunity can give herself and others a chance to learn and grow, and to watch others succeed. In her free time, Elizabeth enjoys spending quality time with her daughter, listening to music, painting, and trying creative things every day.

New Board Officers

We are pleased to announce the election of the new Wild Rivers Habitat for Humanity Board: Amber Zubik, a small business owner, will be serving as our board chair; Scot Kelly, district administrator at the Northwood School District in Minong, will serve as vice chair; Donald Strunk Jr, vice president and branch manager of Shell Lake State bank, will serve as secretary; and Ken Pearson, loan fund manager at the Northwest Regional Planning Commission, will serve as the treasurer.

“I am pleased to welcome these outstanding individuals to our board,” said Jennifer Johnson, our executive director. “Every one of them brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise in areas that will support Habitat’s vision where everyone has a decent place to live.”

giveBIG 2021

It's a fact: no state has an adequate supply of affordable rental housing for the lowest income renters. The U.S. has a shortage of 6.8 million rental homes affordable and available to extremely low-income renters. In Wisconsin, only 37 affordable and available rental homes exist for every 100 extremely low-income renter households, and 65% of extremely low renter households have severe cost burden. These problems are why Habitat affiliates like us are working to push this issue at every level, whether it's by partnering with families directly to build them safe and affordable housing, or whether it's advocating for policy changes in Washington and making sure the voices of our neighbors are heard.

This might seem like a big problem, but big problems can be fixed if enough people take a lot of small actions. One of these actions can be donating to organizations who you support, and there's no better day to donate than giveBIG St. Croix Valley. giveBIG St. Croix Valley is an extraordinary day designed to bring our communities together in 24 hours of giving to raise money and awareness for nonprofits. Thanks to generous sponsors, there is a pool of \$10,000 in cash prizes for nonprofits like us during giveBIG St. Croix Valley on Tuesday, April 27th. Your donation, no matter how small, can help us take home a piece of the \$10,000 prize pool.

This year, if you donate to Wild Rivers Habitat for Humanity, your donations will go towards our new home build that we are doing in partnership with the Rice Lake High School, programs like our upcoming tool lending library and our home repair program, and education initiatives like our Girls Build Summer Camp. You don't have to hold a hammer in order to help our mission in giving everyone find a decent place to live.

Click or scan the QR code below to donate to your favorite local nonprofits.



Currier & Ives Ceiling Fixture

Donation Highlight



About Currier & Ives

Our item to be featured in this edition of our “Donation Spotlight” segment is a six paneled bent glass Currier & Ives ceiling fixture. Many may not know the names of Nathaniel Currier and James Merritt Ives, though their magnificent prints dating back to the mid 19th century are recognizable to nearly everyone today.

For close to 30 years, Currier worked alone as a lithographer until hiring his bookkeeper as his business partner, James Merritt Ives. In a time yet before photography, lithography was a very common printing process. Similar to the printing press, lithography uses a flat plate of stone lined with grease or oil that creates the image of the print. Unlike the printing press, this requires no reproductions, so every print is considered original.

In 1835, Currier discovered that there was a high demand for lithographs covering current news and events. Before gaining fame as a reputable

lithographer, Currier sought to cover disastrous events, both locally and nationally. After only doing so for five years, Currier’s printmaking firm quickly transitioned from job printing to independent print publishing.

Throughout the first 72 years of operation, the Currier and Ives printmaking firm published 7,500 lithographs. These prints, also known as folios, were typically printed in three sizes: small, medium and large. As the company grew successful, more artists joined the firm and would produce two or three prints a week. Most employees were admirable artists at the time, such as George H. Durrie--who created winter scenes, or Frances Flora Bond Palmer--who created panorama landscapes found in America.

At the firm’s prime, smaller folios were sold for five to twenty cents, whereas larger works would sell for nearly \$3. Currier and Ives are well known for creating images that depicted the history and customs of the American people and included themes of historical senses, rural scenes, still lifes and more. These lithographs were able to provide a snapshot of a historical time in American history that led to pave the way for modern news photography as we know today.

Unfortunately, as photoengraving and offset printing improved in the early 1900s, the once famous lithographs owned by thousands of Americans soon became obsolete. Although Currier died in 1888, Ives continued to run the firm for seven years before his forlorn death in 1895. Both owners’ sons took over the business, which ended up being liquidated in 1907.

(continued on next page)

Donation Highlight (continued)

Though a century has passed since the height of Currier and Ives' lithographs, these prints are still very prominent today. Reproductions of popular folios can be found on lighting fixtures (like our very special donation spotlight), or even Christmas cards. Today, original prints are sought out by collectors and admirers. Astonishingly, some prints can cost up to \$60,000--assuming the condition is fair and well-kept.

This Currier and Ives hanging chandelier features "A Home in the Wilderness," which is a replica of the 1870 original. It is estimated to date back to the 1950s or 1960s. Interested in purchasing this item? Visit the Spooner ReStore, or check out our e-store. But hurry, this item will not last long!

Habitat Ready: Heat Exhaustion and Stroke

With spring and summer around the corner, outdoor projects will soon be in full swing. As the days warm, be mindful of yourself and others as long hours in high temperatures pose an acute risk for heat exhaustion and stroke. Use these tips to minimize the risk and know the signs of these conditions:

- Wear lightweight, light colored, loose-fitting clothing that allows the body to breath.
- Use sunscreen with SPF 30 or higher.

- Drink plenty of water. Electrolyte rich substances like sports drinks can also prevent heat exhaustion.
- If you think a person is experiencing heat exhaustion, get them out of the heat and resting in a shaded area or an air-conditioned room. The person should remove any unnecessary tight, restrictive clothing, drink cool ice water or even take a cool shower or bath. The signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke include sweating, nausea, muscle cramps, dizziness, clammy skin, and feeling very thirsty.

Energy Efficiency at the ReStore

We've made the switch to new bulbs in our St. Croix Falls ReStore location. These lights are all LED with improved lighting and energy efficiency. If you are looking to go green, we can help! We are currently accepting applications for our Home Energy Efficiency program. Currently through this program, we are offering income qualified homeowner applicants the opportunity to replace their current thermostat with a new smart Google Nest thermostat at no charge.



WHY HOUSING MATTERS

The MacArthur Foundation released results from a survey of U.S. adults conducted to inform the work of the Foundation's How Housing Matters initiative. The results of the survey reveals that the concerns and challenges related to affordable, quality housing are very real for many Americans.

tradeoffs

More than half of all adults have made at least one tradeoff in the past three years to cover their rent or mortgage. Tradeoffs include taking second jobs, cutting back on health care and healthy food, and moving to less safe neighborhoods.

challenges

In every region of the U.S., anywhere from 53 to 69 percent of adults classify the purchase of affordable housing as challenging in their community.

limits

Fifty-eight percent of adults say that a family of four with an income of about \$50,000 would have a hard time finding affordable quality housing. That number skyrockets to 88 percent for a family of four with an income closer to \$24,000.

unaffordability

Most believe that friends and family who are getting older will face challenges meeting their housing needs. Sixty-five percent of adults highlight affordability as a top issue, second only to an individual's physical needs as they age.



Wild Rivers
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IMPACTS OF INADEQUATE HOUSING

Housing is central to ending the cycle of poverty and it can play a key role in positively influencing a family's education, employment, and health opportunities.

freedom

Adequate shelter is a critical foundation for breaking the cycle of poverty.

community

Decent shelter contributes to thriving school systems, community organizations and civic activism.

stability

Safe homes and neighborhoods help to build social stability and security.

good for all

Adequate housing is key to the health of the world's economies, communities and populations.

development

Good housing attracts economic investment and development.

resources

Homeownership is a form of wealth accumulation through equity and forced savings from mortgage repayment.

increases

A 2011 study conducted in 44 U.S. cities by The Center for Applied Research at the University of Southern Indiana showed significant increases in Habitat homeowners' self-esteem, well-being, overall family health and neighborhood pride. 90% said they could not have owned a home without help from Habitat.



A Special

THANK YOU

To our 2021 supporters

Including: individual, business and church donors, Habitat for Humanity International, Western Dairyland EOC, Inc., Tattersall Distillery, Kohler, Whirlpool, Tarkett Flooring, Schneider Electric/Square D, Larson Manufacturing, Arrow Building Center - Spooner & Rice Lake, Steve Arnevik, Simpson Strong Tie, Yale, Cree, Luxury Bath Technologies, Broan, Google Nest, the Bernick Family Foundation, Dan Buchmann and the Rice Lake High School Advance Tech Ed class

and YOU!