



Muscatine County Area  
**Habitat**  
 for Humanity®

# Building on Hope in 2024

**August 2024**

**Volunteer**

**Committee:**

- Don Lampe
- Lisa Heckman
- Brenda Christensen
- Paul Kraushaar
- Sami Moody
- Whitney Ruckles

**Finance**

**Committee:**

- Robert Potter
- Jennifer Streck
- Brenda Christensen
- Mike Batenhorst
- Dawn Sturms Dodds

**Marketing**

**Committee:**

- Don Lampe
- Lisa Heckman
- Mackenzie Tetmeyer
- Holly Jurgensen
- Jessica Mineart
- Peggy Gordon
- Kathy Kuhl
- Judy Brotherton

**Family Selection**

**Committee:**

- Judy Brotherton
- Mindy Ross
- Jennifer Streck
- Dawn Sturms Dodds
- Becky Wichers
- Holly Jurgensen

**Construction**

**Committee:**

- Don Lampe
- Gary Lange
- Paul Kraushaar
- Ryan Streck
- Chris Haskins
- Kent Jurgensen
- Tyler Henning
- Robert Potter
- Lisa Smith
- Jennifer Streck



**Family Selection Committee**

- Held a lunch and learn on Wednesday, July 17th at the MCSD School District Office. The event speakers were Muscatine Habitat Director Don Lampe and Habitat Board Members Dawn Sturms Dodds and Brenda Christensen; the Habitat group shared the mission, goals and history of Muscatine Habitat, along with how the attendees could partner with Habitat to help with identifying Family Partners for upcoming builds. Stephanie Dietrich also presented Muscatine County Housing initiatives that the City of Muscatine offers that tie very closely with the Habitat mission and goals. The event was attended by 15

people from various non-profits, banks and mortgage companies and many great comments were heard about the information and what Habitat Muscatine is doing in our community.

- Working on identifying ways we can continue to partner with our families after the build is complete.
- Have talked with a representative from a local bank and Stephanie Dietrich with the City to offer our partner families free financial wellness counseling that includes understanding basic financial principles, how to manage debt, and creating a budget, along with many other things. We have had one family already make contact and set up an appointment.
- We have created a home maintenance checklist that we will be sharing with all families in the next month to help them understand some of the basic home maintenance items that may not be aware need done on a re-occurring basis.
- The committee is working on identifying our next partner family so we are ready to go when the Construction Committee starts the next home.

**Finance Committee**

- Transferring all financial data for 2024 into the online program Quickbooks so that the committee can easily track finances and run reports needed to for the Board to stay up to date on Habitat financials.
  - The ability to run reports as needed will also be very helpful when we apply for future grant opportunities
- The Committee has consolidated current banking accounts to make financial tracking easier
  - This included setting up minimum balances for each bank account to help decide when to access the construction loan for the current home build.
- Tracking and paperwork submission continues for the ARPA/Iowa Home Grant Program that we received a grant for our current home build. Lots of paperwork, but well worth the time.
- Continuing to create processes and monthly notices that will help Partner Families know where they are in their mortgage payment process. A monthly statement form has been created that includes what was paid for the month, how much went to principal vs. escrow and what remaining balance is on their loan. These statements will be sent starting September 1 with August loan/payment information.
- The Committee created a 90-day projection of expenditures to share with the Board. With the home build in progress a lot of money is going out for contractor payments and building supplies. This will help the Board be more aware of current spending.



## Board of Directors Spotlight: Lisa Heckman

Lisa is the Broker & Owner of Real Estate Resource Associates, a Real Estate and Property Management Company. Lisa joined the Habitat Board in 2022. She currently Chairs the Marketing and Volunteer Committees as well as serving as a member of the Executive Committee for Habitat. Lisa belongs to the Muscatine Christian Academy Board as well as the Muscatine Board of Realtors and the Iowa Association Board of Realtors. "The pull to Habitat for Humanity was overwhelming after receiving the invite to join the Board. It was a time in my life that I had the time and resources to give back to my community and I saw Habitat as the way I wanted to do that. I was inspired by the fact Habitat is a 'Hand Up' and not a 'Hand Out' to the families benefiting from Habitat. It provides a hand up to those people that can't qualify for government aid, but also can't walk into a bank and qualify for a conventional mortgage or loan. These are the families that are struggling to provide the best lives for their children and have limited means but are working so hard to get there. These are my People."

