St. Croix Valley

# **W** Habitat for Humanity®



# THIS ISSUE

- A big thank you for a recordbreaking Gala
- Cheers for Women Build Week **Volunteers**
- Letter from our Executive Director, Kristie
- Volunteer Update



#### **LEND A HAND**

Click the link to learn more about our volunteer opportunities:

**Construction Crew & ReStore Retail** volunteering

#### SAVE THE DATE

#### June 19-21

• Pride Build - River Falls, WI

#### July 14th

• Volunteer Appreciation Picnic - Hudson, WI

#### Thank You for a Record-Breaking Gala

St. Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity's 3rd Annual "Steel Toes & Stilettos: All Roads Lead Home" Gala was a smashing success, raising over \$97,000 to build a home for a veteran. Nearly 200 generous supporters gathered at Tattersall Distilling on March 23rd for an amazing evening filled with philanthropy and fun.





## 2024 ANNUAL GALA RECAP

Thanks to the generosity of our caring community, another hard-working family will soon have a place to call home.

#### Thank You for a Record-Breaking Gala!

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Gala attendees were inspired by this powerful video featuring former Marine Corps Sergeant Ron Ramos. The evening also included rousing live and silent auctions, including a custombuilt playhouse from our loyal Tuesday crew of volunteers!



The funds raised will provide the opportunity of affordable homeownership to a local veteran in need of decent housing.

We are so grateful to the sponsors, donors, volunteers, and staff who made this night possible. Your commitment to building strength, stability, and self-reliance through shelter in the St. Croix Valley is irreplaceable.

# **Steel Toes & Stilletos**

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Click here to view rest of gallery

# Letter from our Executive Director



#### Kristie Smith

June is a big month here at St. Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity. We're deep into three builds that got underway this Spring: a rehab project in Somerset, a modular build for a veteran in River Falls, and the first ground-up build on Panther Drive in Ellsworth. Which means if you've got an extra pair of hands, we have a volunteer opportunity for you!

As an affiliate, we are wrapping up the end of our fiscal year by welcoming two new board members to our board of now 17 industry leaders who oversee our growth and development. Welcome Sally Field, who brings extensive Human Resources experience and Jenny Larson, whose mortgage lending work will guide us in our work. FY25 starts July 1. We are excited for what our next year holds.

Construction season also means we get an extra boost from interns. Eliza Tool, an upcoming senior at UW-Madison, is helping with marketing plans and David Van Ort, a senior at St. Cloud State University, is supporting our construction team.

We expect to open applications for our next build projects in late summer. If you know of people looking for affordable housing, please watch our website for more information.

I enjoy the chance to talk with homeowners, community members and visionaries who share our commitment to affordable housing and hope you'll connect with ideas or ways you'd like to help. In the meantime, let's get to summering!





#### WE WELCOME YOUR DONATIONS

Do you have any of these you would like to see reused?

- NEW OR GENTLY LOVED FURNITURE
- TOOLS
- HARDWARE
- BUILDING MATERIALS





Call ahead/or email to pre-approve donations please! **715-318-9122** or ReStore@scvhabitat.org

In-Store Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 11am - 3pm: 749 Ryan Drive, Hudson, WI 54016

#### **CHEERS FOR WOMEN BUILD WEEK VOLUNTEERS**

St. Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity hosted Women Build Week from April 16–20, 2024, along with a half-day extension on April 22. During the five and a half days on site, 50 women from seven area businesses and nonprofits, as well as individual participants, contributed an impressive 277 hours and 50 minutes of volunteer time. Thank you to all who joined us!

The enthusiastic volunteer crews worked alongside JaeMi, Habitat's new Construction Crew Lead, to rehab a home in Somerset. Their hard work resulted in a major garage cleanout, painting, deck repairs, installing new flooring, tiling the kitchen backsplash, installing the kitchen countertop and sink, and cleaning up the yard.



The hardworking, ambitious volunteers filled an entire dumpster in under an hour on the first day during the garage cleanout! A previous volunteer shared advice for future participants: "Do something that makes you uncomfortable." The week emphasized volunteers learning new construction skills and co-learning from each other.

Women Build Week is a dedicated volunteer effort created to empower and educate women in building, investing, and advocating for simple, decent, and affordable housing.

# VOLUNTEER UPDATE

Email us @community.outreach@scvhabitat.org

#### • Update 1: Ellsworth

We're busy on our traditional stick-build home in Ellsworth. This three bed, two bath home will soon be ready for a wonderful healthcare worker and her two kids. Recently, the Facebook group "Frame the World", members of which are all professional framers, came out on site to frame this home. In one Saturday, the site went from cement to roofed, thanks to this great group of framers and to CCF Bank, who brought out delicious lunches from Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery. Volunteers from all over are pitching in to help us get this done!

#### • Update 2: Somerset

We've got a wonderful family with three beautiful kids and a baby on the way who will soon have their first home. We are rehabbing a home in Somerset, which we were able to purchase through a short-sale. The home is nearing completion, after new flooring, updated bathrooms, fresh paint, and landscaping. Watch our website for details on our dedication ceremony!

#### • Update 3: River Falls

With a ground-breaking ceremony and a lot of prep on the crawl space (thanks Steiner Plumbing & Electric), our modular build got underway in May in River Falls. This home is a 2-bedroom, I bath that our recently chosen Army Veteran will soon call his own. The home is built in a factory, the same way a home on site is done. And then delivered in 2 pieces, seamed and landscaped and ready for energy-efficient living. This past week, Wisconsin Lieutenant Governor Sara Rodriguez joined us on site to talk about affordable housing in our communities.













#### **WE COULD USE A HAND**

Check out our website (<u>scvhabitat.org/volunteer</u>), and follow us on Facebook (@scvhfh) Instagram (@StCroixValleyHabitat) for announcements regarding volunteer sign-ups!







#### We welcome your donations!

Do you have new or gently loved furniture, tools, hardware, or building materials you would like to see reused? Call ahead/or email to pre-approve donations please!

> 715-318-9122 ReStore@scvhabitat.ora



#### WHY SHOP AT RESTORE?



We sell a constantly changing inventory of diverse, highquality merchandise at a fraction of the retail price, while diverting reusable household items and building materials from area landfills.



With a small retail shop in our Habitat affiliate building, we are able to help raise funds to support our affiliate's mission to support affordable housing efforts in Pierce & St. Croix Counties.

partner with local families here in Pierce and St. Croix Counties to build, rehabilitate and repair safe and affordable homes—a good deal for you, our communities and the environment.

Sales of donated items help us

Featured in the picture above are three high school seniors from St. Paul Academy donating some service hour time and helping organize our ReStore storage area. Thanks guys!

#### **VOLUNTEER**

## WE COULD USE YOUR **HELP ON SATURDAYS**

Saturdays are our biggest days and we always love some extra hands to help with intake and organizing!

If you need extra volunteer hours for school or work projects, we'd love to welcome you in. Even if Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday work better for you! Our store is open from 11-3pm.

Email Jessie: community.outreach@scvhabitat.org





## BUILDING STRENGTH, STABILITY AND SELF-RELIANCE THROUGH SAFE SHELTER



## ST. CROIX VALLEY NEEDS YOUR HELP FUNDING TO HELP HOUSING CRISIS

Sustainable, environmentally responsible housing that is affordable for our communities in Western Wisconsin is critical. We are completely funded through donations. Please consider a financial gift to help more families change the future for their kids and their kids through safe, affordable shelter.

# recycle your idle vehicle

Donate your vehicle to help a family build a home and attain strength, stability and self-reliance for the future.



To donate your vehicle, call or visit: (877) 277-4344 habitat.org/carsforhomes

#### **CARS FOR HOMES**

Donating your car, boat, motorhome/cycle is a great way to support our work.

Donate your vehicle in three easy steps:

- Call 1-877-277-4344.
- Provide your vehicle information and contact information.
- Schedule your car to be picked up.

Proceeds from the sale of your donated vehicle will help Habitat families build strength, stability and self-reliance in our communities.

Plus, it's fast and easy to do, and **you may qualify for a** tax deduction.

Be sure to specify **St. Croix Valley Habitat** as your recipient.





### **MORE EASY TO GIVE OPPORTUNITIES**

# DONATE SCVHABITAT.ORG

#### YOUR DONATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE

We are proud to be part of a charitable giving community here in Western Wisconsin. This Spring we received grants from Andersen Corporation, Fred C. and Katherine B. Andersen Foundation, Hugh J. Andersen Corporation and Otto Bremer Trust.

We are so thankful for their support and shared belief that we all deserve a safe place to call home.

We are especially grateful for individual donations. Please share a financial gift of any amount by scanning the QR code or visiting our website at <u>scvhabitat.org/donate</u>



# remember your first home?



help deserving families own that feeling.

scvhabitat.org

#### **DIRECT YOUR DOLLARS**

Shop with purpose. SpartanNash stores, like Family Fresh in River Falls, partner with communities.

Through the Direct Your Dollars program, St. Croix Valley Habitat can earn \$1,000 simply by collecting \$150,000 in eligible receipts from participating SpartanNash-owned retail stores and fuel centers.

Receipts can be mailed or brought to: St. Croix Valley Habitat, 749 Ryan Drive, Hudson, WI 54016.



