

Our Plans to Move Habitat's Mission Forward

Building homes

Building hope

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Habitat for Humanity's mission continues to be very relevant in our current times. Our neighbors in need of simple, decent and affordable homes have struggled to meet the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic in overcrowded, unhealthy and substandard living conditions. Four out of the five families who started home building projects with us in 2019 were forced to remain in their current situations as we all shut down in March. You can imagine their joy as we have restarted our building program this June. With proper safety protocols in place, they are working alongside our staff and volunteers to complete their homes this summer. We are displaying God's love with you as we come together once again this summer to build homes, communities and hope.

With your help we are moving forward this summer. We have added three Minnesota Emergency Response AmeriCorps members to the team. Our dedicated staff, skilled volunteer supervisors and AmeriCorps members are bringing back the sound ringing of hammers to our neighborhoods as we once again engage our most valuable resource: you, our community supporters. We are starting with small groups of five volunteers per day in order to keep our total number of people on the build site to ten or less until we can safely have more numbers on site. This will enable us to keep proper social distancing. This measure, along with health safety checks, proper sanitation and hygiene practices will keep us moving the mission of Habitat for Humanity forward.

Two homes in West Eveleth are scheduled to be completed by the end of June. From there we will move on to complete the two 2019 homes that were started last year on 25th St. East in Hibbing. As we close on these homes with our partner families we will also be working to get the 2020 projects underway. Subcontractors are being lined up to do their work on the two rehab projects we will start in Hibbing and Ely. Permits have already been pulled to begin excavation work on two homes in Gilbert. One of these will be started with community volunteers late this summer in a Thrivent Faith Builds initiative. The other Gilbert home and our fifth 2020 home start which will be in Hibbing will be carried out by students from the Hibbing High School, Hibbing Community College and the Mesabi Range Community College. The 2020 home projects will keep us busy all winter and through the spring of 2021 with the goal of having them completed by June right in time to start another building season! As long as the need for housing persists in our Iron Range towns, we will continue to ask God to bless our plans and enable our hands to do this vital work.

Your support as we navigate the next 12 months is critical to our success. We need our trusted friends to carefully reengage with us at the build site. As you feel comfortable, please call us and we will work with you to schedule your time to build. This year is also presenting its challenges in fundraising as our tried and true fundraising events change to meet the current challenges. Your financial contributions are essential investments in our building program.

We are grateful for your continued support. By working together we can further our vision of a world where everyone has a decent place to live. We will move closer to that day - one family, one neighbor, and one house at a time.



Doug Gettle
Board President



Nathan Thompson
Executive Director