



# Habitat HIGHLIGHTS

## MISSION VISION

A world where everyone has a decent place to live.

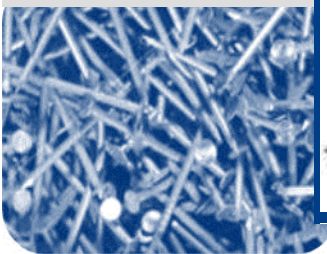
## MISSION STATEMENT

Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities, and hope.

## Inside this issue:

Annual Report Insert	
Hiring VISTA Candidates	2
Ways to Volunteer	
Meet Alice Pelton	
Contributors	3
Gifts in Memory and Special Thanks	4
Habitat 500 Registration Open	5
Construction Update	
Spring Cleaning Wish List	
Did you know?	6

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Spring 2015

Volume XXI, Edition I

## THE ORGANIZATION BEGAN AS A GRASSROOTS EFFORT

Dear Habitat Supporter,

As we approach spring I am excited for the arrival of April. Twenty years ago, on April 13, 1995, North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity filed its articles of incorporation with the State of Minnesota.

A brief history: The organization began as a grassroots effort when community-minded individuals began to meet to address the need for affordable housing in North St. Louis County. It took over a year to establish committees, incorporate and put the necessary partnerships together to build the first home—a rehab project in Eveleth in 1996. A total of 11 homes were completed with an all-volunteer organization. With a desire to further expand the organization's capacity to help more families, the board of directors applied for a capacity building grant through Habitat International to hire the first employee, an executive director, in 2003. In 2010 with help from the United Way of North East Minnesota, the organization was able to hire its first construction manager to help manage the construction of homes, better utilize construction volunteers and improve efficiency in materials and subcontractor management. In 2011 a second capacity building grant from Habitat International was secured to hire its third staff position, a community resources manager. This position helped the organization secure sufficient

funding and volunteer resources to sustain a building program of five homes per year. In 2014 the organization was able to complete construction of a permanent office and warehouse facility to greatly improve its efficiency and effectiveness in helping families.

Results: Over a twenty year period Habitat has been able to change the lives of 72 families through the opportunity to own a simple, decent and affordable home. These are families who otherwise would not have had the ability to own their own home. These are families who were cost burdened by having to pay over 30% of their income for apartments that were inadequate, and in many cases, unhealthy and unsafe.

Outcome: In 2014, through a partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota, North St. Louis County Habitat participated in a state wide Habitat homeowner impact study conducted by Wilder Research. The study showed that Habitat homeownership:

- Contributes positively to young people's participation in school and their academic performance.
- Increases or maintains feelings of financial security for most homeowners, enabling many of them to have more money to spend on their families than they had previously.

- Positively affects feelings of safety.
- Tends to promote greater social connectedness and participation in community activities.
- Is associated with less use of government assistance programs.

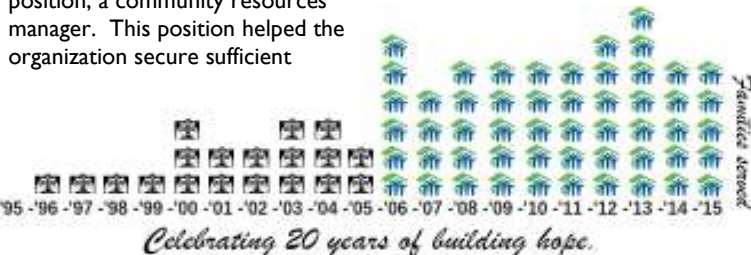
Cost-benefit analysis indicates that all of these positive outcomes for the 2,200 Habitat homeowners in Minnesota amount to a reduction of government assistance needed by \$6.4 million annually.

You have been the driving force for positive change in these families' lives over the last 20 years. When we say that Habitat is changing the lives of families we understand that you, our supporters, our volunteers, our prayer warriors and our community partners are "Habitat." You have positively impacted the lives of 72 families, including 164 children, as you have worked side by side with them to build homes, communities and hope.

Thank you for your support. By working together we can truly envision a world where everyone has a decent place to live.

Sincerely,

Nathan Thompson  
 Executive Director



## HELP WANTED—TWO SUMMER VISTA CONSTRUCTION WORKERS NEEDED

North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity has been blessed over the years with the talent of ten full time and ten Summer VISTA volunteers. These wonderful people have helped our Habitat affiliate grow in the areas of Family Services, Church Relations, Communications and Management of Volunteers on Construction Sites.

We are looking to fill two summer VISTA positions. The Summer VISTA's will work on Habitat construction sites for 40 hours per week during the eight week period of June 15th to August 9th. They will provide great continuity between workdays on the site and help

people get comfortable with the tasks involved in building an energy efficient home. The Summer VISTA's will be supervised by Dave Alaspa, NSLCHFH's Construction Manager.

The position will have a monthly stipend of \$973 per month. There will also be an education award towards college or payment of student loans of \$1,212 upon completion of service. More information is available at our website, [www.nslchfh.org](http://www.nslchfh.org).

This is an excellent opportunity for a high school graduate or college student looking for great work experience

during the summer months or anyone who has the desire to work full time on a Habitat site over the summer.

You or someone you know may be the perfect fit to help further Habitat's ministry this year. Please give Nathan Thompson a call at the office or send an email to [habitat@nslchfh.org](mailto:habitat@nslchfh.org) as soon as possible!



## THE MANY WAYS TO VOLUNTEER WITH HABITAT



Habitat for Humanity works because of its supporters and volunteers who are dedicated to helping families in need of affordable housing. There are volunteers who have been partnering with Habitat since it started in 1995, and new volunteers who have partnered with Habitat in the last month. Volunteering with Habitat for Humanity doesn't

always have to be on a build site. While, yes, we are always looking for dedicated hard workers to help build homes, there are plenty of other ways to volunteer as well.

One way you can volunteer is by helping fold our quarterly newsletter. Every

three months, we gather a bunch of people for the day to help fold our newsletters. It's a great time to catch up with our supporters and volunteers.

If folding newsletters isn't for you, then maybe volunteering on a committee is! We have several committees that meet monthly that help keep Habitat running. Some of the committees are Family Selection, Family Support, and Public Relations. Each committee is committed to helping families end the cycle of poverty by helping them into a new home. If you want to know more about what each committee does, you can call the office at 218-749-8910 or email us at [habitat@nslchfh.org](mailto:habitat@nslchfh.org).

Some other ways to volunteer are: bringing a lunch or snack to a build site, volunteering in the office for the day, creating your own fundraising event, joining the Habitat 500 bike ride or volunteering at the event, and forming a group to help on a build site.

There are lots of ways to get involved, which one(s) will you choose?

## MEET THE NEWEST HABITAT HOMEOWNER—ALICE PELTON

Meet Alice Pelton, our newest homeowner. Alice recently had her home dedication and will be moving into her new home in Virginia (Midway) this month. Alice partnered with Habitat to refresh and move into a home that was generously made available to Habitat by a former partner family.

Other than the kind words of encouragement from people involved with the program, what drove Alice to apply to become a partner family was her desire to support herself no matter what. Alice got to know many of Habitat's volunteers and supporters throughout this process. "I hope they, and everyone in the program know how much I appreciate their help. Without your help none of this would have been possible."

Welcome home Alice and King!



## CONTRIBUTORS

**Thank you for your generous support!** Habitat for Humanity extends a heart felt Thank You to all those who have contributed money, materials, and professional services.

**Donors listed from 8-31-14 thru 2-27-15.**

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The only gift  
is a portion of  
thyself.

-Ralph Waldo  
Emerson

## WEBSITE AND EMAIL

For the latest news on building projects, volunteer opportunities and events please check our website often at:

[www.nslchfh.org](http://www.nslchfh.org)

Donations can now be made online. Check out our website at [www.nslchfh.org](http://www.nslchfh.org)

If you would like to receive email updates on volunteer opportunities and events please send us an email with that request to:

[habitat@nslchfh.org](mailto:habitat@nslchfh.org)

**Love in Action!**  
"My Children, our love should not just be words and talk; it must be true love, which shows itself in action."  
I John 3:18

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If we have missed  
your name, we  
sincerely apologize.  
Please inform us so  
that we can recognize  
you in the next  
newsletter!

## MEMORIALS

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- ◆ Don and Jerry Erickson in Memory of LeRoy D. Mike
- ◆ Gary & Avis Norton in Memory of Dennis Schiebe
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- ◆ William and Gladys Boril in Memory of Nancy Lane
- ◆ William Beste in Memory of Sherman Preble

## GIFTS IN HONOR OF

- ◆ Daniel & Rosemary Skorich in Honor of Debra Warner Williams
- ◆ Edward and Anita Alto in Honor of Sye Mannelin's 80th Birthday
- ◆ Linda Scheuring in Honor of Saima Mannelins 80th Birthday
- ◆ Vivian Williams in Honor of Sye Mannelin and Dr. Garner & Dawn Hipple

## SPECIAL THANKS

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## JOIN THE TEAM ~ HABITAT 500 BIKE RIDE FUNDRAISER SET FOR JULY 12-18

During the week of July 12th, NSLCHFH volunteers and staff will participate in the Habitat 500 to raise funds and awareness for Habitat projects. The key factor in the success of this ride is you, our financial sponsors. The Habitat 500 is the largest fundraiser for NSLCHFH.

I will be riding for my tenth time this year. When I learned about the Habitat 500, it sounded like the perfect combination: a challenging adventure and the opportunity to raise money for affordable housing in our community. During the nine times I have ridden in the Habitat 500, I have met some wonderful people, including riders, support volunteers, Habitat partner families and members of the communities we visit. I have been on roads and trails in Minnesota, which I probably never would have taken by car. I have seen beautiful lakes, statues of fish and Paul

Bunyan, a giant ball of twine, and many other interesting objects.

Habitat 500 riders connect one on one with partner families as they work to raise funds for their homes. When riding conditions are not exactly ideal, or if I am running out of energy, it helps me to remember that my discomfort is temporary. However, I am part of a permanent solution to the housing need of families I have gotten to know.

This year the Habitat 500 route is through southwest Minnesota, beginning and ending in Owatonna. I do not do well in really hot weather, and therefore prefer routes in the northern part of Minnesota, especially in July. This summer I am hoping for cool temperatures. If not I will be thinking a lot about the need for safe and affordable housing while pedaling.

Please consider joining us on this event. You can ride all seven days or come as a tag team member and ride one or more days. If you or someone you know might be interested in joining our cycling team, please give us a call at the office at 866-749-8910. More information can also be found at [www.habitat500.org](http://www.habitat500.org)



Caroline Owens, who has ridden nine times, is ready for her tenth ride!

## STUDENTS WORK TO FINISH TWO HOMES AS THE 2015 BUILDING SEASON BEGINS!



Harold Wentland—volunteer building supervisor and Nathan Thompson—executive director, were honored to accept the 2014 Business Education Partnership award on behalf of North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity. The organization was recognized recently by the Hibbing Chamber of Commerce at its annual dinner for its work in the Applied Learning Institute projects in Hibbing.



The partnership with Chisholm and Hibbing High Schools as well as the Hibbing Community College has had many positive results. 150 high school students and as many college students have been able to learn the construction and electrical trades by building Habitat homes since 2008. Along with hands on learning of valuable trade skills, students have also had the satisfaction of helping eight families build an affordable home.



Students from the Mesabi Community College's second year carpentry class, led by instructor Gary Kangas are also working this year to build the Wallace home in Mt. Iron.

The Hibbing and Mt. Iron student build homes will be completed at the close of the school year in May just as the 2015 building season is set to kick off with the start of five more homeownership projects. Thank You!

## SPRING CLEANING WISH LIST



Spring is just around the corner, which means you might be doing some spring cleaning. If you happen to be cleaning out your sheds and garages, keep Habitat for Humanity in mind. We would love to give your new or gently used tools a new home. Some items that we would greatly appreciate: Hammers, tape measures, speed squares, tool belts, pry bars, retractable utility knives, finish nail guns (16 ga. and 18 ga.), framing and roofing nail guns, air compressors and hoses, shopvac, shovels, rakes, push brooms, etc. A skid-steer or forklift would make an excellent addition to the warehouse if anyone has a good lead on one. If you wish to donate any of these items, call the office! THANK YOU!



North St. Louis County

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for Humanity®

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## DID YOU KNOW?

North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity will honor all donations made in memory or honor of individuals and groups with a card announcement mailed to your designee. To designate your donation, please complete the information and mail it in to the office:

\_\_\_\_\_ In memory      \_\_\_\_\_ In honor      \_\_\_\_\_ Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of honoree: \_\_\_\_\_

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

### Donation by Credit Card:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ VISA      \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Discover      \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Master Card      \$ \_\_\_\_\_ American Express

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

The CVV2 code or Security code on back of card: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date of card: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Card holder's name on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Donation by Check:**  
*Mail your check with this form  
filled out to:*

**North St. Louis County  
Habitat for Humanity  
PO Box 24  
Virginia, MN 55792**

