



Support a Rider . . .



. . . pave the way to a better life!



North St. Louis County
Habitat
for Humanity®

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

Summer 2020

Helping your Neighbor—"Its like riding a bike!"

Dear Friends,

We have all heard the expression, "it's like riding a bike". Once you have experienced it and figured it out you don't forget how to do it. It comes naturally. Yes, there may be some wobbling as you get your balance again but you can do it! We can all acknowledge that this spring has been like no other. Health, economic and social challenges abound. Whether it's getting some groceries for a senior, having conversations about racial equity or getting out to help a neighbor in need, the challenges of the day have not left us powerless. We know how to do this, "it's like riding a bike".

The Habitat 500 bike ride has gone virtual this summer. We have 18 participants who have signed up so far to raise funds and awareness for our neighbors in need here in North St. Louis County. The opportunity to raise funds and awareness for Habitat through this event extends from June to September. I would like to invite you to consider signing up at www.habitat500.org to participate. A \$50 registration fee gets you a t-shirt (always important!) and a DIY web page that you can easily design to use to fundraise with your friends and family. There is no minimum or maximum amount to fundraise just do what you can to help your neighbor. We are hoping you might join in and/or convince a friend to do so.

The inside of this publication also looks different! We have 2019 partner families included. When the pandemic hit in March we were working with four homeowners with the goal of finishing their homes by the end of May. We have just now gotten the ability to get back to work on these homes! It is going to be a VERY BUSY building season as we finish four of the five 2019 homes and start five new 2020 home projects. You can meet the families as you turn the page. Perhaps you want to support or fundraise for one of these families or for all of them? You may have a favorite team NSLCHF Habitat 500 participant that you would like to honor with a sponsoring gift. The need is great and there are lots of opportunities to help including donations, personal fundraising by joining the "ride" and also volunteering on these homes as we've started building with our partner families once again this summer.

I am so thankful for our Habitat 500 riders who have joined me in signing up to raise awareness and funds for our Habitat projects: Rev. Brian Birk, Debbie Bocnuk, David Bergum, Doug and Christy Gettle, Debbie Hultman, Elizabeth Lee, Marnie and Kaitlyn Maki, Hunter Maki, Mary Mills, Abbie Moberg, Joy and Bob Sundquist, Kyle Robey and Sara and Marjorie Thompson. Please consider supporting or joining us in our journey to ride our bikes, or walk, or horseback ride, or(?) to help our neighbors. We would love to chat with you about joining team NSLCHF this summer.



Marjie Thompson, current Hab500 rider, now 21 years old, still's got it after learning to ride in 2004 at age 5!

Together we can help build a world where everyone has a decent place to live.

Sincerely,

Nathan Thompson, Executive Director

Inside:

Meet our 2019 and 2020 families.

A current status update from the board president and executive director.

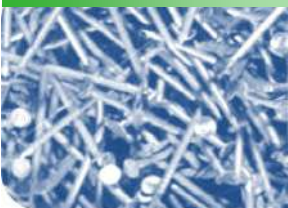
Like Us on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/nslchfh

Call us for the latest volunteer opportunities!

Office: 218-749-8910

Toll Free: 866-749-8910



Our 2019 Families



Amber Strand and her son Austin, age 6, are building their home in West Eveleth. Amber was scared to use a skill saw and then after being encouraged to try it, she “loved it” and knows it will be a very useful skill as a homeowner. Both Amber and son Austin look forward to having a home to call their own and plan to start a garden when they move in. Austin says, “it’s awesome we get our own house!” The word home means security and family to these two. To Amber, this entire process has been surreal and she is extremely grateful to all the volunteers that have helped her build her home.



Naomi Stark and her daughter Kyrie, age 6, are also building in West Eveleth. Both Naomi and Kyrie look forward to decorating their home however they want, something they have not been able to do while renting. Naomi has enjoyed working with our volunteers and learning their stories and backgrounds. She is most excited for in-floor heating! Kyrie, on the other hand, just may get her first pet and is very happy about that. When asked how their lives will change, Naomi said, “Our family will be changed forever. We will be forever thankful and grateful.”



Samantha Grovenburg and her two girls, Yukiko (age 4) and Esmeralda (age 2) are building in Hibbing. Sam has enjoyed working with volunteers and her family on the building she will soon call home. They look forward to gathering around a kitchen table as a family and hosting extended family gatherings. The girls will have a safe yard to play in and can hardly wait for a swing set and a pool! When Sam asked her girls what HOME means to them, they list everyone in their family. Well, Esme sang every name in her family! It’s clear that HOME is wherever they are all together. Knowing that they will be in their home soon, makes us all happy!

Christopher Gray & Jennifer Miller along with their two children, Grace (age 7) and Aydhan (age 5) are also building in Hibbing. This will be the **first** home for all of them. They are looking forward to saying good-bye to apartment living. Home, to them, means a safe, secure and comfortable place to be. They especially look forward to an improvement in respiratory health issues. 57% of Minnesota Habitat homeowners have said that their respiratory illness improved after moving into their home. Chris and Jen are already dreaming about the future and this “new chapter” of homeownership.





Our Current 2020 Families

Hunter Maki and Abbie Moberg along with her daughter Elena (age 3) are rehabbing a home in Hibbing. Abbie is excited to start her project! She wants to learn how to use different tools and how to build in general so that she can do things on her own as a homeowner. Currently, Abbie and Elena share a room and both look forward to having their own space. Home, to them, is all about surrounding themselves with family and friends. Elena simply "loves her home." Abbie and Hunter enjoy meeting new people and are so grateful to Habitat for this opportunity to rehab and own a home.



Benjamin Johnson & Sarah Victor along with their three children Erick (age 12), Ella (age 9) and Elijah (age 4) recently broke ground on their project in Gilbert. Excavation will soon begin and Ben and Sarah are ready to learn more about the build process and gain new skills that will be valuable when they own their home. The entire family looks forward to having a place to call home and more yard space. The COVID-19 pandemic has made them want a safer home more than ever. To them HOME means family.

Brittany Satterwhite along with her three girls Kiersten (age 6), Claire (age 5) and Kaitlyn (age 2) are rehabbing a home in Ely. When asked what HOME means to them, this is what they said:

Brittany: HOME means a safe place. A place that I can raise my children. A place that I can take pride in because I've worked hard to build it up and make it what it is. Having a HOME means I no longer have to worry about when I'll have to move next and my children can build roots. **Kiersten:** I'm happy to have a bed to sleep in, toys to play with, food to eat and I love my mommy. That's what home means to me. **Claire:** A place to keep all my toys that I love and be with my momma. **Kaitlyn:** We stay home and play and go to bed.



Two Families Still Needed for our 2020 home starts!



We are accepting applications for families to build in Hibbing and Gilbert. Applicants are selected based on their need for housing, their willingness to partner with Habitat through the completion of sweat equity hours and their ability to afford Habitat for Humanity's affordable mortgage. You may know our next homeowner and offer that helping hand to your neighbor by encouraging them to apply. Do so today! For more information and to request an application, please call 749-8910 or visit our website at nslchfh.org.

Volunteer this Summer!

We have build site COVID-19 safety protocols in place to safely accommodate groups of five. If you would like to help us build home with our families this summer we would love to have you and need your help! Give us a call to get scheduled in and help a neighbor build hope today. Call Susan Garrett at 218-750-2611



Our Plans to Move Habitat's Mission Forward

Building homes

Building hope

Board of Directors:

Doug Gettle

President

Scott Dane

Vice President

Caroline Owens

Treasurer

Rosalyn Barker

Secretary

Greg Buckley

Amy Crep

Larry Cuffe, Jr.

Pastor John Dietz

John Filander

Shaun Hainey

Paul Knuti

David Langfeld

Nancy Moyer

Mariah Peterson

Jacqueline Prescott

Bob Pugleasa

Julie Spiering

Joy Sundquist

Staff:

Nathan Thompson

Executive Director

Susan M. Garrett

Community Resources Manager

Marnie Maki

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

Meet our Construction Team

Brandon Anwiler, our construction manager, celebrated his ONE year anniversary with NSLCHFH last month. When asked what his favorite part of the job is, he had this to say. "Bringing the community together—complete strangers—to build a home is the neatest thing. The friendships that are made are really neat to see and be a part of." This summer, Brandon is joined by three AmeriCorps Members—Maddie, Jessica and Liam! We are so thankful to have them on our team to help us move our 2019 builds to completion and begin our 2020 builds. They will be with us until August 15th. You can join them on the build site, call us to set up a time to volunteer!



Maddie, a Junior at Liberty University, is studying exercise science. She has served as the president for Liberty's Habitat Campus Chapter for the last two years and has helped build two homes with the Greater Lynchburg Habitat for Humanity. Maddie grew up in Makinen.

Jessica recently graduated for the University of Minnesota and has been accepted into a Master's program for Audiology at a college on the West coast. She'll begin her studies this fall. Jessica also grew up in Makinen.

Liam was already serving in the AmeriCorps program when his time got cut short due to the pandemic. He returned home (Mt. Iron) and was happy to find out that he could continue his serve with us. We are pretty happy too!



Join us for the 2020 Virtual Habitat 500:

BIKE @ HOME



Ride your bike (road, mountain, street, stationary or exercise) to raise funds & awareness for Habitat for Humanity while connecting virtually with fellow riders! Learn more at habitat500.org.



OR COVER THE MILES ANY WAY YOU WANT!

Walk with your dog, your kids, your friends, your spouse or yourself.



Ride your horse.

Roller skate or rollerblade.



Only \$50 registration for the virtual Ride*. Register at <https://p2p.onecause.com/habitat500>. No fundraising minimums. Fee includes rider packet (button, bike plates, safety instructions, and a rider gift); your own peer-to-peer fundraising page on OneCause; resources and guidance on fundraising; access to all virtual events and programs held during July 12-18, 2020.

*Normal registration fee of \$300 waived. However, the time and resources that go into planning the Habitat 500 Bike Ride are substantial and began 9/19. **If you are able to pay it**, this higher registration fee will help Habitat Minnesota cover costs already spent on Ride planning.



PO Box 24, VIRGINIA, MN 55792
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #105
VIRGINIA, MN 55792

RIDING TO BUILD A CYCLE OF HOPE!



Join us for the 2020 Virtual Habitat 500:

BIKE @ HOME

June—September Registration Open Now

Ride your bike to raise funds & awareness for Habitat while connecting virtually with fellow riders and supporters!

Learn more at habitat500.org



The Habitat 500 Bike Ride has gone virtual! Cyclists will embark on a journey in their local community to raise money and awareness for Habitat for Humanity homes.

Join us in this unique opportunity this year! You can make a difference by supporting a rider with a donation or by joining the virtual team, just sign up (all ages welcome) and ride at your pace to raise funds and awareness for families in North St. Louis County.

Together we are:
“Build homes, communities and hope in North St. Louis County”.

