



Habitat
for Humanity®
of Wisconsin River Area

Mission Report 2021

Letter from the President

Dear Friends of Habitat,

As these fall days lead us into the colder winter months, we are reminded of the seasons of thankfulness and giving that are just around the corner. In our faith communities there is talk of stewardship campaigns and the ways we can each search our hearts and commit to ways we can give of our time, our talents and our funds.



Habitat for Humanity of Wisconsin River Area is also in that frame of mind. We are so very thankful for all that together we have been able to accomplish this year. Families in their new homes, veterans helped, elderly folks aided, the ReStores serving our communities and funding our mission. Our hearts are full because of your continued volunteering and generosity.



Marcia & Kay, Able Trek Tour to Galena October 2021

But it's no secret that there is so much need! And those needs can only be met with your help. Our ReStores and our build/repair programs are in serious need of volunteers. If your heart is open to giving back in this way, come on by. Call our office and get signed up. If you cannot give your time, strongly consider supporting us financially. Our goal is to complete 2 home builds in 2022 and for that we will need funds.

There is no question that generous giving is a cornerstone of our Christian faith, and that there is great joy in giving. We are all blessed by the gifts we receive from others, and we are all blessed to be able to give.

Serving along with you,

Marcia Brown, Board President

The Keys to Success

*"The mind is not a vessel that needs filling,
but wood that needs igniting." ~ Plutarch*

Habitat's homebuyer education program has grown!

From offering free financial education for families seeking to buy a home, to mentoring families through their first year of home ownership, Habitat's volunteer family support committee works hand-in-hand with families to provide resources and guidance as they take the incredible



Financial
Education



Home Care &
Maintenance



Landscaping



Green Living



Good
Neighbor




Community
Engagement



Our next step is gathering feedback from Habitat families to better understand the challenges they face.

You are invited to join us as we continue to expand and refine the program so our families can be their best selves.





Vocabulary Test
Circle the word that best describes HOME:
Safe Warm Happy

Homeownership Matters

When we build a Habitat home, we're creating a safe place for the next generation to learn, to play and to dream.

Studies consistently show that children who grow up in stable housing are more likely to succeed:

- *116% more likely to graduate from college.*
- *Earn 24% higher income.*
- *28% more likely to vote and 16% more likely to join a civic group.*
- *4x more likely to stay in a community than renters.*

Homeownership is good for families and good for our community. There's a lot of talk locally and nationally about the housing crisis. Affordable homeownership needs to be part of this conversation.

**Help make the
#CostOfHome something
we all can afford.**

NEW: Housing Plus

In 2019 we launched a home repair program with a simple concept: alongside building affordable homes, we need to provide affordable repairs that preserve our existing housing. The demand was overwhelming and we were proud to make a difference.



Then we learned something shocking: *Wisconsin has the nation's highest rate of deadly falls among older adults, more than double the national average.*

This past year we were honored to be one of four affiliates in the nation selected for a pilot study called Housing Plus. We partnered with Agrace Home Health & Hospice to perform health and safety assessments in seniors' homes. Together we also helped residents connect with area services such as transport and meal delivery.



The funds helped us install critical equipment like grab bars and non-slip flooring so seniors can continue to enjoy independence in their homes.

A few things we learned:

- *89% had waited to do home repairs due to lack of funds.*
- *The major challenges were bathing, using stairs and preparing meals.*
- *67% reported no more falls after the repair.*
- *100% reported improved well-being & sense of safety after repairs.*



Because every older American deserves a decent place to live.

Habitat Veterans Build

“A veteran is someone who, at one point in their life wrote a blank check made payable to ‘The United States of America,’ for an amount up to and including their life.”

On September 11th, the Honorable Patrick Aker, Marine Corps veteran, spoke these words at a ceremony held at the Habitat build site to honor women who’ve served, followed by a day of women vets giving back.



Our Veterans Build program not only helps local veterans gain access to affordable housing and home repairs, it’s a commitment to honor those who’ve served and provide opportunities to engage in their community. We’re proud to be part of their service.



This past year we were fortunate to receive several grants that helped disabled veterans enjoy more independence in their homes. Your support will help us continue this work.

Habitat for Humanity of Wisconsin River Area

Repairs have helped so many people live longer and happier in their homes.

Where we have been so far...



15 veterans can wake up and not have to worry things are falling apart



30 seniors can put off giving up their lifetime homes to live in a care facility



26 people with disabilities need less help or intervention

Waiting for Funding

Waiting for Volunteers

Waiting for YOUR help

Where we need to be going!



More seniors are waiting for simple but meaningful modifications to make them feel safe



More military veterans are showing a brave face when they are not sure how to fix their family home



More people with a disability are struggling to get into a shower or bath without help

What does a Habitat volunteer look like?



Each Habitat home takes more than 100 volunteers giving 1500+ hours of “sweat equity” to build. **Your help is needed.**

We'll supply the tools and the knowledge.

You bring an open heart & willing hands.

Together we'll build hope.

Register online at hfhwisconsinriver.org/volunteer



Shop for a Cause

Every purchase or donation you make at our ReStores in Portage & Baraboo helps us build homes.

Shop online for great deals

Celebrating A Decade of Service



Thank you Tim Schulenburg for all you do.

With gratitude from the board & staff of Habitat





Come Grow With Us!

Habitat is expanding their services and we're looking for people who want to learn new skills or share their talents!



Opportunities are available to learn/lead home safety assessments and energy audits, social media and graphic design, volunteer recruitment, family mentoring and coaching, disaster prevention planning, repairs & construction.



Whether you want to volunteer, join AmeriCorps or are seeking employment, you can make a difference in the lives of area families today!



Like us on FB to learn more: facebook.com/HFHWRRA



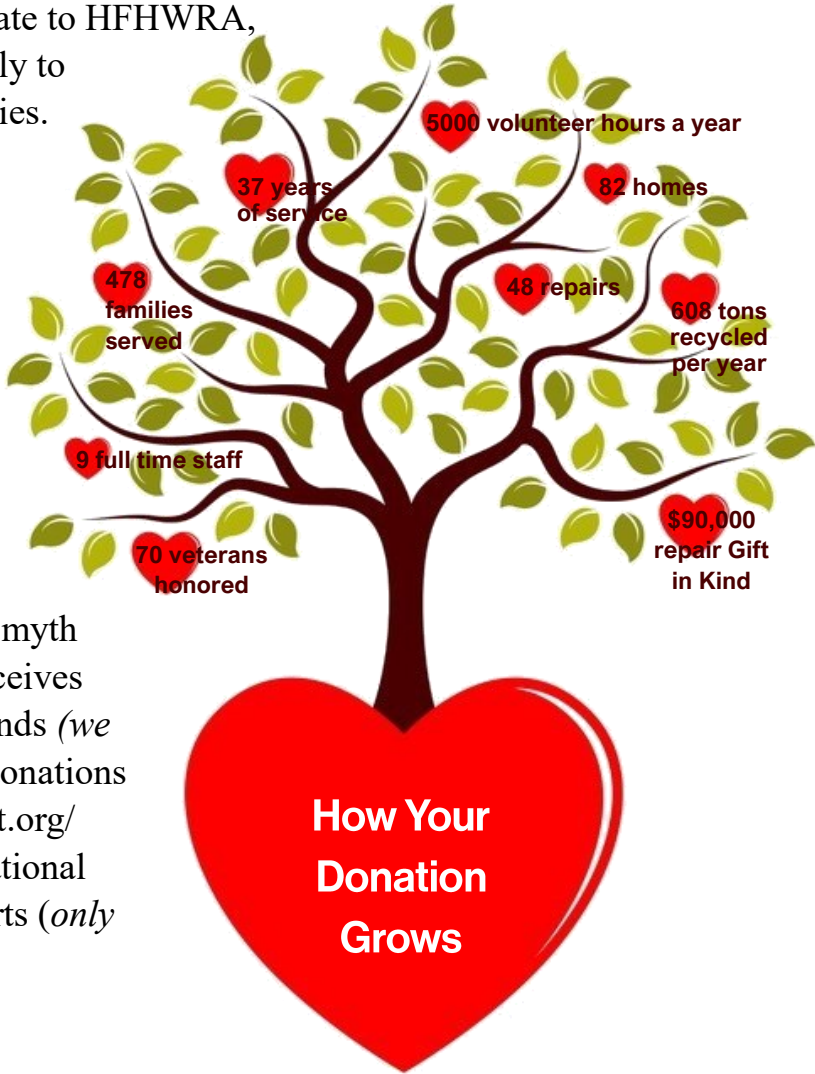
VISTA

Volunteers in Service to America

Your Support Stays Local!

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." ~ Helen Keller

When you donate to HFHWRA, funds go directly to help area families. You are supporting your local nonprofit, and we can't do our work without you.



It's a common myth that Habitat receives government funds (*we don't*) or any donations made to habitat.org/. Habitat International help local efforts (*only if you specify*).

Thanks to you, we do a lot of good. We pair your donation with local support from our ReStores, grant funding and mortgage repayments from the families we've served.

Every dollar you give goes further, and makes sure more families have safe, affordable homes right here in our community.

Thank you for your support!

Help us make the holidays bright!



___ I want to build hope in 2022 with a \$10 monthly pledge.

___ I want to build hope in 2022 with a one-time donation of \$ ____.

Card # _____ Exp Date _____ CVV _____
(checks may be made to Habitat for Humanity of Wisconsin River Area)

NEW! My gift is in honor of _____. Please send a holiday card to (address): _____.



___ Boy with Ornament



___ Houses in Snow



___ Girl & Drawing



___ Keys on Ribbon

(view samples on our website)

Give online at hfhwisconsinriver.org/donate