Building Homes, Communities, and Hope



Habitat for Humanity of Wisconsin River Area

Columbia, Iowa, and Sauk Counties

Coming together to build Community.

Thanks to YOU, fans of Habitat, we are making homes safe and comfortable when having a home means so much more than just having a house. In partnership with community organizations and local volunteers, Habitat is building and repairing more than ever to make sure everyone has a decent place to live.









Greetings!

There are times when I have heard an organization's workings described as a "well-oiled machine." And that is what I think of when describing our affiliate. We are blessed with great staff leadership at the office, at our ReStores, at the build sites, and at the repair projects. Everyone gives their all and has the best interests of the affiliate in their minds and hearts. They generate ideas for how to do things better, how to serve more families and individuals, and how to do all that while being conscious of cost and efficiency.

But no machine works without its source of fuel, and that's where all of you come in. You step up with your willingness to serve.... on our Board, on committees, helping in the office or at the ReStores, serving on the Deconstruction Crew, helping to build the houses and do repairs. You generate funds for the affiliate through your donations and purchases at the ReStores. You directly contribute funds on a regular basis, and you encourage your faith groups to support the affiliate through their mission budgets. You act as ambassadors as you spread the word to your friends and neighbors about our mission.

The best of machines is only as good as the "fuel" that keeps them running. This comes to you to say thank you for being the energy and the enthusiasm that keeps Habitat for Humanity of Wisconsin River Area humming along in such a "well oiled" way.

Serving with you, Marcia Brown Board President



HONORING WOMEN VETERANS

Habitat for Humanity of Wisconsin River Area joins Habitat for Humanity Wisconsin in the state-wide **She Served** initiative. Through two events, Habitat engaged veteran volunteers who helped build a new home and restored the headstones of 26 veteran heroes in Wyocena Cemetery. Volunteers learned how to clean headstones and heard the stories of several Wisconsin women veterans, with help from the Cemeterians and the Sauk and Columbia county Veteran Service Offices and Historical Societies.



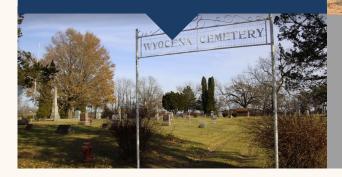
VETERANS HONORED IN PERSON OR IN MEMORY



over 16,500

PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA AND LOCAL NEWS COVERAGE

\$4,750 VOLUNTEER LABOR, DONATED GOODS, AND MONETARY SUPPORT



12

VETERAN VOLUNTEERS

28

NONVETERANS

VETERAN AND NONVETERAN VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

On the Way Home

WRITTEN BY TENESHA SANDLIN

Who would've thought building a house would be so exciting? From building walls to flipping the dirt and now to installing the walls, this has been a life changing journey that is only the beginning for me and my girls.

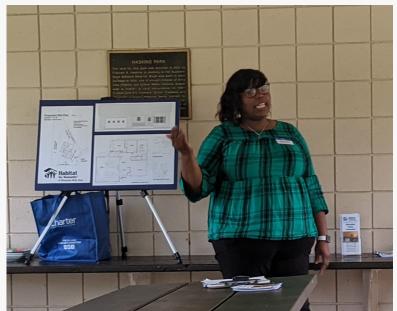
We are surprise every time we return to the build site and it has been transformed with more details, reminding us that we're one step closer to being in our forever home.

My family has learned a lot through this process. We've learned how to use tools that we never thought we would use, and the ins-and-outs details of the structuring of a home. Also understanding how things can look small one minute and how they can look in place the next.

Patience and Prayer has been our push throughout this process because we know that you can't rush your Blessings.

We look forward to the completion. At that time, we will be able to begin our new homeownership in a place that was built on love.

Blessings to everyone that has lifted a hand, sweat and time to help build a beautiful place that we can call HOME!!



Tenesha speaking at the Baraboo Home-Build Rally





Tenesha's family's service goes beyond the property of their soon-to-be home. They participated in cleaning veterans' headstones in Wyocena Cemetery on the September 18th She Served event. Tenesha, Bryana, and Ashlee all learned how to properly and respectfully clean headstones, while learning the history of each war hero they honored! Bryana is shown reading a brief history of a Wisconsin women veteran, Agnes Thiemann-Anderson, who was raised in Reedsburg and served in World War II.

HAMMER FOR HOPE -- HABITAT HOME REPAIRS

Local Habitat programs are funded by your support! This past summer, Habitat staff and volunteers have focused their efforts to making sure over 10 households with older residents have accessible, comfortable, and safe homes. The repairs are a hand up, not a hand-out, and they help seniors live independently in their homes for longer! Grab bars. handrails. bathroom modifications, and ramps are common additions that support aging in place while reducing the risk of falling.



KEEPING HEROES SAFE AT HOME

In addition to the generous support of donors, Habitat receives grants from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to preserve the homes of veterans living with a disability. The Veterans Housing Rehabilitation and Modification program helps Habitat connect to the service members in our communities that would benefit from improvements to their homes. Habitat thanks veterans for their service, and HUD for recognizing them as well!



RAISE THE ROOF

A recent partnership with Owens-Corning's Roof Deployment Project and Waunakee Remodeling provided Army veteran, Gus, with a complete roof replacement! The improvements will ensure Gus has a dry home while lowering utility bills for years to come.

