



Habitat

HERALD

Vol. XXXIV #4 Fall 2023

You are a **Dream-Maker**

Carroll overcame a **tragedy** and mental health struggles to become a homeowner. You helped. 6

Carroll and daughter Alexandria

Photo by Dennis Chick

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Dear friends,

What do a hammer, voting booth, bean bag toss, and you have in common? They all help build homes and transform lives!

In this Herald newsletter, you'll find stories of the Habitat community rallying together and using every tool available to create a more vibrant, equitable Twin Cities. You'll see how you can advance our mission on construction sites, during your local elections, at community events, and at our ReStore Home Improvement Outlets. Be sure to check out these opportunities and consider how you can get more involved.

Whether you are a homeowner, volunteer, donor, client, advocate, team member, or neighbor, you should be so proud of the work we're doing to build forward together. As recent Habitat homebuyer Carroll puts it so eloquently, "Habitat supporters are dream-makers."



With gratitude,

Chris Coleman

Chris

P.S. See your impact in our 2022–2023 Annual Report online at tchabitat.org/stories

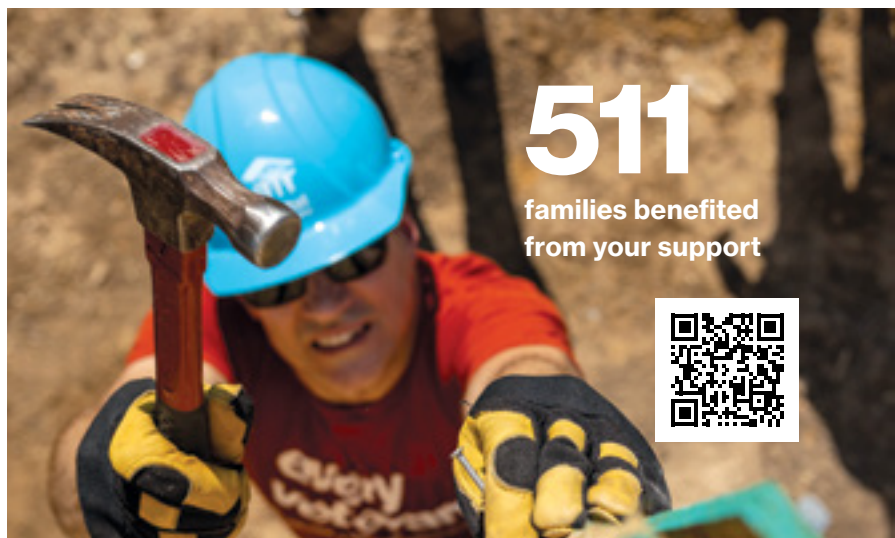
ANNUAL REPORT | July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023



STORIES OF *perseverance*

This past year at Twin Cities Habitat has been all about the hard work and perseverance to make our Build Forward Together strategic plan a reality. And it's possible because of you.

See your full impact in our Annual Report, online at tchabitat.org/stories



Showing Up Differently in Community

“Habitat needs to show up differently in community.” That’s what Shereese Turner said when she joined Twin Cities Habitat to lead Programs & Services in 2018. She challenged Habitat to build deeper, more trusting relationships with Black communities and other communities of color. Shereese pushed us to listen better, have seats at more tables, admit when we’re wrong, change course when needed.

Shereese’s calls echoed what we heard from you, our dedicated Habitat community. You pushed us to take bigger strides in our work for racial equity. And you stepped up your generosity and engagement to make it happen. Look at some of the activities you made possible this year.



With your support, Twin Cities Habitat is honored to have sponsored community events, including Live Your Healthy Lyfe, Selby Jazz Fest, A Night at the Q, Open Streets, and the 50th Anniversary of Hip Hop BBQ. All these activities, paired with changes and expansion in our programs, help us advance racial equity through homeownership. Thank you! Learn more in our Annual Report at tchabitat.org/stories.



Featured Partnership: *Pathways to Success*

Twin Cities Habitat has embarked on a new partnership with Minneapolis Public Housing Authority and workforce development nonprofit Twin Cities R!SE, dubbed *Pathways to Success*.

This collaboration provides a holistic approach to supporting clients on their path to homeownership. The transformative program supports people as they transition from public housing to meaningful employment and, ultimately, Habitat homeownership.



New Building Strategies: Harrison Townhomes

In Minneapolis, Twin Cities Habitat is partnering with private developers and every level of government to build 17 townhomes in the Harrison neighborhood. This project creates affordable homebuying opportunities for residents at risk of displacement in this rapidly-growing community.

To get this done, we've employed a new approach to building these homes, using a blend of subcontractors and volunteers. The pros handle framing through drywalling, and our generous volunteers come in for painting and finishing. This efficient and collaborative approach may serve as a model for major developments in the future.

All three buildings are framed and volunteers are now hard at work turning houses into homes for local families. Construction will be completed by summer 2024.

What's Ahead: The Heights

Our next major development is at The Heights on St. Paul's East Side. Twin Cities Habitat will build 130–150 homes as part of a larger redevelopment effort that includes 1,000 housing units and light industrial. Stay tuned for funding and volunteer opportunities!

Vote for Home

This year is a local elections year. You can vote for who you want to represent you in city hall, on the school board, and more! It might not feel as big as a presidential election year, but your local decision-makers can have the

biggest impact on your day-to-day life. That's especially true when it comes to housing. Don't miss this opportunity to vote for leaders who share your values—like expanding affordable homeownership!

Your Voting Checklist

- ☐ Check your voter **registration status**
- ☐ Research your **candidates**
- ☐ Find your **polling place** for early or day-of voting
- ☐ Vote early or on **Tuesday, November 7!**

Go to tchabitat.org/elections or mnvotes.org for all your voting resources.



I vote. Not just for myself but for the ones I love. I vote for the values that are important to me. I vote for equality and to fight injustices. ... I believe safe, stable, and affordable housing is a right. Voting helps me raise my voice in support of that right. Voting helps me raise my voice in support of home. Voting makes my voice count.

Buffy Moore

Habitat Homeowner since 2003

You are a Dream-Maker

“I’m going to find a place for my kids.” That’s what Carroll’s dad would say whenever someone asked him why he was moving his family from Togo to the United States. *To find a place for my kids.* Carroll was seven when they moved into their Minneapolis apartment in 2004. Less than a year later, Carroll’s dad passed away. “It left all of us devastated,” Carroll shares. Carroll had been close to her dad, and the loss took a big toll on her. She struggled with anxiety and depression through her youth and into adulthood. Throwing herself into her schoolwork was the only way Carroll made it through. She later went to college to study Psychology. That’s when she had her daughter, Alexandria.

“After having my daughter my mental health was at an all-time low,” Carroll remembers. “I often felt defeated. But I knew only I was responsible for my own happiness and for my future. That is the moment I decided to live life and invest in my daughter’s and my future by becoming a homeowner.” Carroll poured everything into her homeownership journey. She saved as much as she could and spent a lot of time researching about homeownership, all while finishing her degree, working part-time, and being a new mom. Carroll knew about Habitat for Humanity through her friend Adade, who is a Real Estate Agent and had previously worked

as a Homeownership Advisor with Habitat. With Adade as her Realtor, Carroll fell in love with a Habitat-developed home in Apple Valley. In June 2023, she closed on her home and moved in.

Right away, Carroll and her boyfriend Bahati worked hard to turn their house into a home. One of the first things they did was decorate Alexandria’s room in pink, her favorite color, with LED lights lining the walls for family dance parties.

The future looks brighter every day for Carroll’s family. She recently started a master’s program, Bahati is working a new job, and Alexandria just started kindergarten.

Shortly after buying her home, Carroll traveled back to Togo and brought Alexandria with for the first time. Alexandria loved playing with all her cousins, and Carroll loved returning to the home she knew at her daughter’s age—her Grandma’s home.

“I remember all the memories I used to have there,” Carroll smiles. “I remember playing. I remember riding my bike here and falling over there. Making the choice to become a homeowner, I knew that I wanted that for my daughter as well—to come back and say *this is where I grew up.*”

Now, Carroll’s done exactly what her dad set out to do. She’s found a place for herself, and for her child.



“Habitat supporters are dream-makers, they are wish-makers, and a thousand million thank-yous is all I can say. They’re changing lives.”

Carroll

Habitat Homeowner since 2023



Carroll was motivated to find a stable, happy home for her daughter—just like her dad had done for her. She wanted a yard where Alexandria could play. She wanted to measure her daughter’s height on the wall year after year. She wanted Alexandria to grow up and bring her kids back someday and say, “*This is where I grew up!*”

16 years of ReStore

For 16 years, ReStore has persevered through changes and growth—from a small outlet opened just before the recession to the multi-million-dollar operation it is today.

Check out the timeline!



More growth is on the way!

The ReStore team has expanded from four employees to 25 and counting. Ten donations per day was once the norm; now, 40 donations is considered a slow day. ReStore's mission impact has grown, too. In this most recent fiscal year, sales from our two ReStore locations helped Twin Cities Habitat build five homes for local families.

This story of perseverance is made possible by our amazing donors, volunteers, and team members. Long-time regular volunteer Donna describes it well: "They really have roots in the community. It's inspiring what people have done to make ReStore full of good things."

From those who have been at ReStore since the beginning to new members of this community, supporters like you keep us going. *Thank you!*

Share Your #MyReStory!

Shoppers like you make ReStore possible. Now it's time for your main character moment! Introducing #MyReStory, your invitation to share your ReStore treasures and DIY projects—and find inspiration from our creative community. Every time you tag us @restoretwincities and use the hashtag #MyReStory, you'll be entered into a quarterly drawing for a \$100 ReStore gift card.

Learn more at restore.tchabitat.org/myrestory and start sharing!



Want to join Donna and volunteer at ReStore? Sign up for a four-hour shift today!



For long-time volunteer Donna, serving at the New Brighton ReStore provides three things she believes everyone craves: novelty, familiarity, and belonging. "There's nothing more novel than the items that come into ReStore and the jobs we do. We have routines, yet no two days are the same," she explains.

"But there's also a sense of belonging. Volunteering regularly only deepens that familiarity."

Donna's experience with Habitat for Humanity goes way back. She remembers a long-ago build in New York City, and then volunteering with Women Build at Twin Cities Habitat.

"When I retired, I wanted to do something purposeful for others and help build community," she shared. "I found that opportunity with Habitat and now at ReStore. Here we are one little piece of the goodness."

"You don't have to be a certain kind of person to volunteer here. You have something to offer. You're needed."

Donna

Long-time ReStore Volunteer

By volunteering, Donna helps create the thriving, supportive community she envisions. Donna believes we don't need a disaster or crisis to happen in order to do good. She volunteers with ReStore each week because it advances the goals of Twin Cities Habitat: expanding homeownership, increasing racial equity, and supporting the community. At the store, her jobs vary. Sometimes she organizes and restocks items. Other times she prices, helps customers, or

loads furniture. That variety is part of what Donna loves about volunteering—there's something for everyone.

If you're looking for new volunteer opportunities and want to give back, consider joining Donna at ReStore! In her own words, it's flexible and easy to get started—and each day is unique.





Get Things Done

with the Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity AmeriCorps Program!

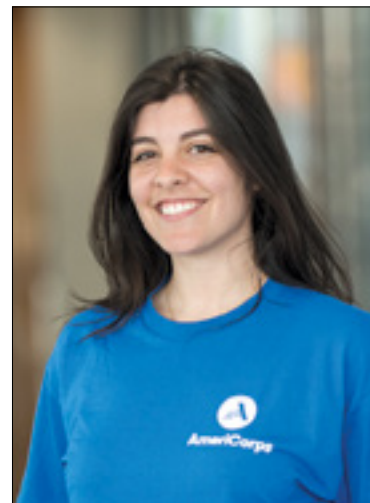
- Get paid to make a difference and receive a living allowance
- Receive free healthcare, childcare, housing stipend, an education award, and more
- Develop transferable skills applicable to any future career

Whether you're a new graduate, retired, between jobs, or taking a gap year, AmeriCorps could be perfect for you.

New Opportunity!

Choose whether you want to work full time, three-quarters time, or half-time.

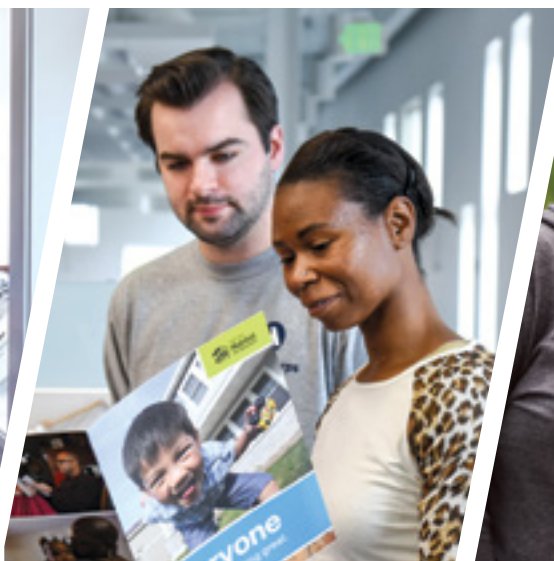
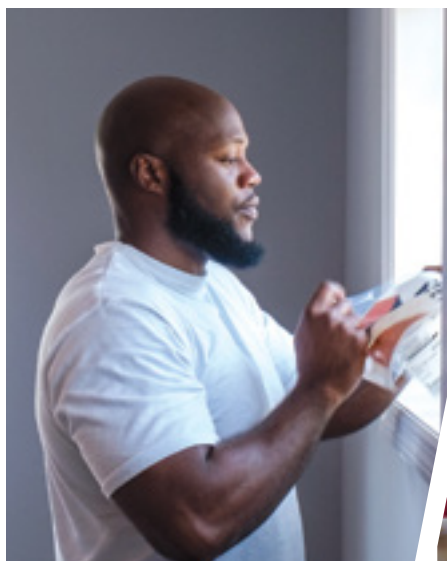
Apply now at tchabitat.org/ameri corps



"You come here for one thing, and that's to impact our community."

Natalia

AmeriCorps Member, Summer 2023



Build Your Career

Our team is growing! You or someone you know could help expand access to affordable homeownership and advance racial equity in housing. Join our inclusive team with excellent benefits, competitive compensation, and a mission that matters.



Browse opportunities and sign up for Job Alerts at tchabitat.org/careers



Save the Date

Hard Hat & Black Tie Gala

Saturday, April 27, 2024

The Depot – Minneapolis

This gala's always a little less formal, a lot more fun!
Photos speak for themselves—you can't miss this!



Thanks, 2023 Sponsors!

Raise THE Roof **GOLF** TOURNAMENT



Thank you to everyone who came to our Raise the Roof Golf Tournament and 19th Hole Happy Hour! Sponsors donated enough funds to build everything but the roof on a new Habitat home. Then, a record-breaking number of supporters chipped in to raise the roof—literally!

PRESENTING SPONSOR

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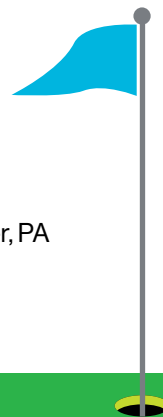
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Matching Gift Alert!

Get ready for an incredible opportunity to make a real difference. *Give to the Max*, Minnesota's ultimate giving celebration, is here from November 1 to 16. And **your donations to Twin Cities Habitat will be matched, dollar-for-dollar.**

We're on the cusp of something extraordinary—our largest project ever! Picture this: 130+ Habitat homes at **The Heights development** in St. Paul's East Side. This is by far the most ambitious project we've ever tackled. But we know **we can do it because of you.**

Do you want to be part of something historic? Donate between November 1 and 16 at **tchabitat.org/max**

give TO THE MAX 
Nov. 16, 2023