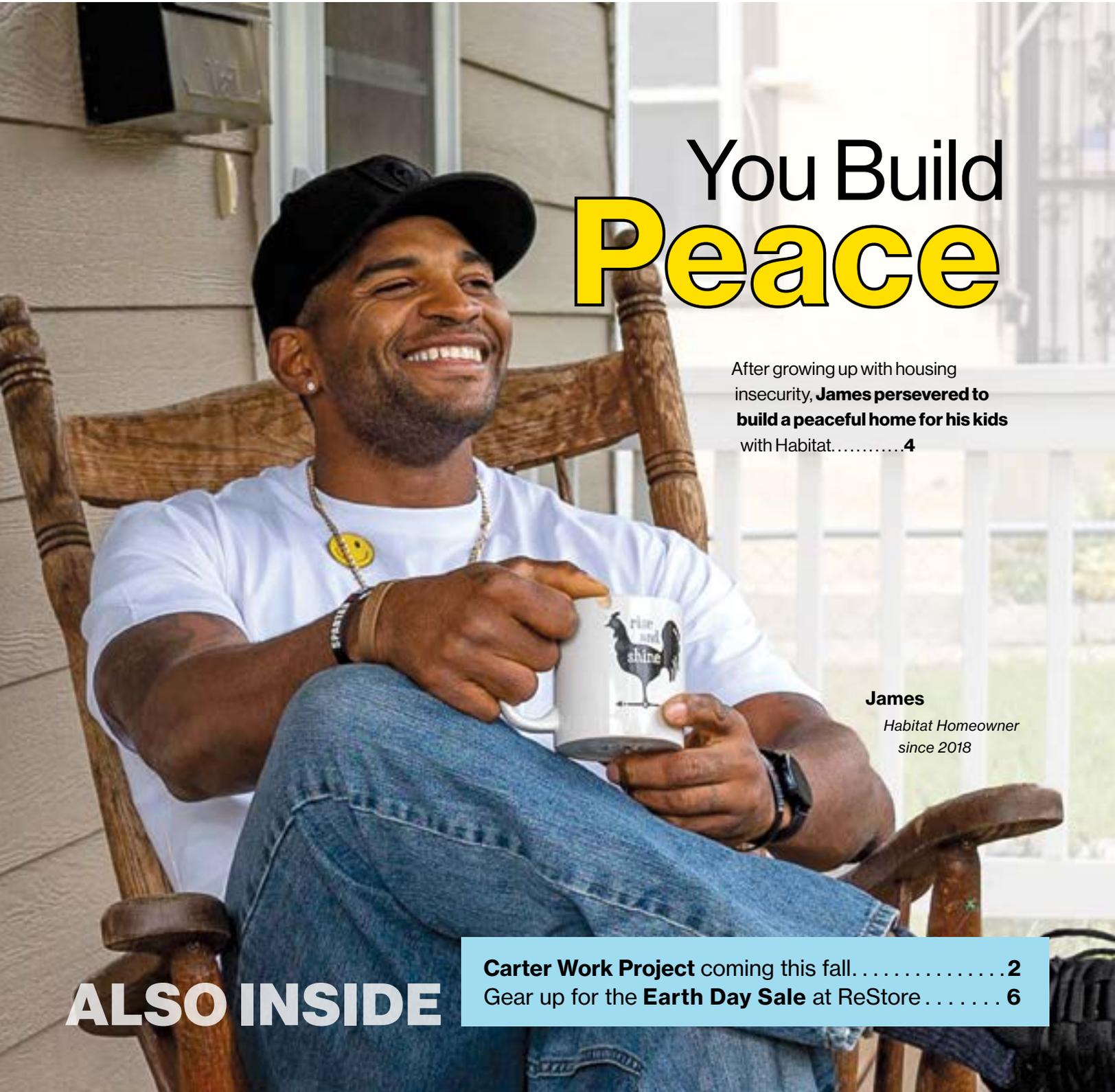




Habitat

HERALD

Vol. XXXV #2 Spring 2024



You Build **Peace**

After growing up with housing insecurity, **James persevered to build a peaceful home for his kids** with Habitat.....4

James
*Habitat Homeowner
since 2018*

ALSO INSIDE

Carter Work Project coming this fall..... 2
Gear up for the **Earth Day Sale** at ReStore..... 6

Dear friends,

This year is shaping up to be the biggest year ever in Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity's history.

In about six months, the *Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project* will take place right here in the Twin Cities. It's like the Super Bowl of affordable housing—thousands of people are coming from around the country to build homes together for a week on St. Paul's Greater East Side.

This newsletter is chock full of ways you can be part of this historic year, and I hope you'll build forward with us! You can sign up for our *Build Forward: Carter Work Project* e-newsletter to stay in the know. You can attend a fun upcoming event to raise funds. You can shop at the ReStore Home Improvement Outlets. You can pitch in to volunteer.

However you choose to contribute, I hope you're proud to be part of this vibrant, big-hearted, hardworking Habitat community. I know I'm so proud of you—you're the reason the Twin Cities was chosen to be the global spotlight of housing this fall.

With gratitude,



Chris Coleman
President & CEO

Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project

» at a glance »»»»»

The History

President and Mrs. Carter began partnering with Habitat for Humanity in 1984. Soon after, they created the Carter Work Project—an annual event to bring global visibility and volunteer support to Habitat's mission.



2024 Carter Work Project

From September 29 to October 4, 2024, thousands of volunteers from all over the country will come to our community to build Habitat homes at The Heights, a transformational new development on St. Paul's Greater East Side.



Get Involved

Learn more and sign up for our e-newsletter to learn about sponsorship opportunities, special events, and more at tchabitat.org/cwp





Soaring to New Heights

Twin Cities Habitat's largest ever development gets started this June! We're proud to be the primary homeownership developer at The Heights, a historic investment in St. Paul's vibrant and diverse Greater East Side neighborhood.

The Saint Paul Port Authority is leading the redevelopment of the 112-acre former Hillcrest Golf Course. In total, the Heights will bring 1,000+ housing units and 1,000 living-wage jobs to the community. It will be a walkable environment, almost like a small town, with housing, shops, trails, art installations, and a new five-acre public park.

Beginning with the 2024 Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project this fall, Twin Cities Habitat will build up to 150 Habitat homes. Habitat's efforts will include single-family homes, twin homes, and 3- and 4-unit townhomes. Unit sizes will range from 1,800 to 2,600 total square feet.

The Heights has the potential to be one of the most energy efficient developments ever created in Minnesota with a Platinum LEED for Communities certification. Habitat's units will include a variety of sustainable building materials and practices including solar power and all-electric appliances.

Follow the latest on this exciting project at tchabitat.org/heights

Renderings of The Heights development showcase the magnitude of the project. More than 1,000 new housing units and jobs will enhance St. Paul's Greater East Side.



James' life wasn't always peaceful. But with the cards stacked against him—a single dad with two kids, two jobs, and no financial help from family—James became a homeowner with Habitat. He set goals, worked hard, and changed his family's life forever.

“If I Can Do It, You Can Too.”

James' family moved from Chicago to Minneapolis when he was 14.

“We had to stay in shelters, on people's floors, in hotels,” James remembers. “The state of not knowing where you're going to go—that's *traumatizing!*”

As James grew up, he experienced some housing stability—but it didn't last. He eventually had two children and would go on to receive sole custody of them. More than anything, James wanted to give them the type of stability he didn't always have growing up. Through Buddhism and meditation, James found the inner strength to make ends meet. And he set his sights on homeownership.

“One day I got off work and I was coming into the house—there was a vacant lot next to my place, and they had finished building a new home. And there was a sign that said Habitat for Humanity and it had a number to call. I remember this very clearly—and it gives me goosebumps—I saw it and I said *I'm gonna call. I'm gonna give it a try.*”

The next day during his lunch break, James called. After sharing his story—how he had been grinding, saving his money, filing every paystub, never missing a day of work—James' application was accepted.

By deciding he was going to be great, by being persistent and being his own biggest cheerleader, James flew through Habitat's homeownership program. He soaked up everything he learned like a sponge. Soon, that closing date was on the calendar—and James will never forget it.

“The first time we came to see the house, the words that came out of my mouth were ‘I

“If you be persistent and don't give up, even when times call for giving up? Man, you can make it through *anything.*”

James

Habitat Homeowner since 2018

deserve this.’ And my baby Destiny—and this was so beautiful because she was so small—said ‘*WE* deserve this, Dad! *WE* deserve this!’ It's now been five years since James bought his home. He has what he needs, but not a lot extra. Because for James, his home isn't a place to burrow in and forget the outside world. Rather, it's a base camp, where his family can rest and recharge before going back out into the world.

“We've been places I couldn't have dreamed of going to,” James says, pointing out stickers on a map that hangs in the dining room. “Disneyland and the Sequoias, from Winnipeg down to Cancun, from Key West to Hawaii. Having a base, having a home, that's what does it for you.”

When James is asked about his vision for the future, the answer comes quickly: “Generational wealth.” Whether James' kids eventually live in the home or decide to sell it one day, he wants them to have more peace of mind than he grew up with.

James has certainly done better for his family, and he hopes his story inspires others to give homeownership with Habitat a try too—because, according to James, “If I can do it, you can do it too.”

Read James' full story and others at tchabitat.org/james

Photos this spread and cover by Dennis Chick Photography





AmeriCorps

Get Things Done

with the Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity AmeriCorps Program

- Receive a living allowance and meet passionate volunteers on site
- Receive free healthcare, childcare, housing stipend, an education award, and more
- Develop onsite training and real-world skills while meeting new people

Whether you're a recent graduate, taking a gap year, retired, or looking for something meaningful to do with your summer, serving with AmeriCorps at Habitat could be a perfect fit!

New Opportunity!

Apply now for Summer Term and Full Year Positions at tchabitat.org/amicorps

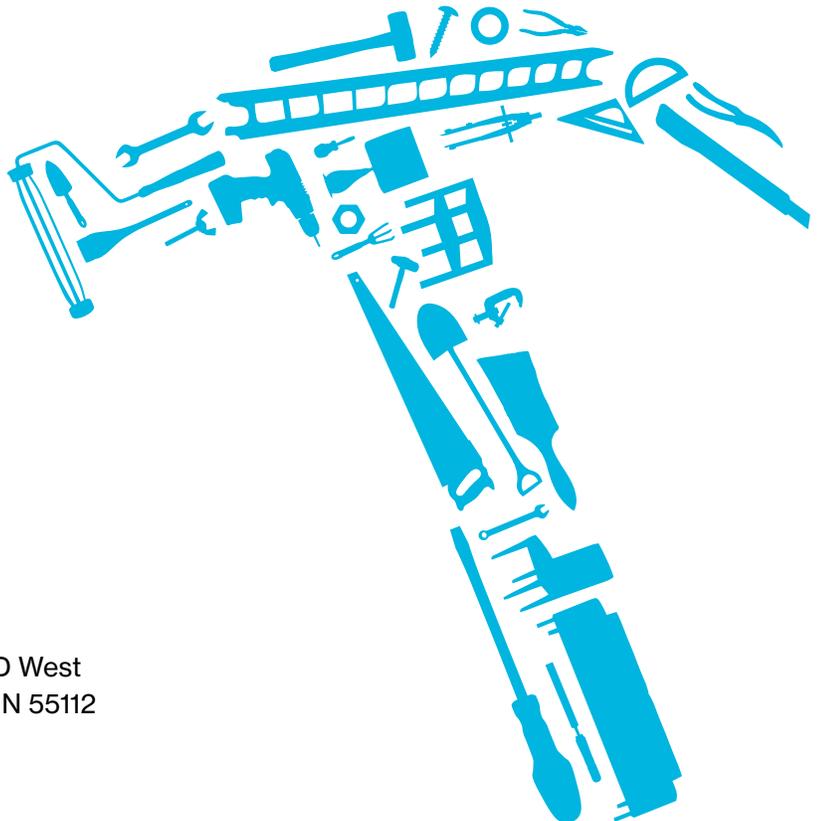


Celebrate Earth Day with a ReStore Sale!

Save 10% on red tag items and 30% on everything else on Saturday, April 20!

Minneapolis
2700 Minnehaha Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55406

New Brighton
510 County Rd. D West
New Brighton, MN 55112



Upcoming Events



Habitat on the Hill

MINNESOTA

Thursday, April 18, MN State Capitol

Join Habitat supporters from across Minnesota at the Capitol to advocate for affordable homeownership! No experience needed: you'll learn all about Habitat's legislative priorities and have the chance to meet with your legislators.

tchabitat.org/hillday



Spring Home Celebration

Saturday, May 18, 2024
Harrison Recreation Center

Help celebrate everyone who bought a home with Habitat since 2022. You don't want to miss this fun party with lots of activities for the whole family to enjoy.

tchabitat.org/celebrate



Raise the Roof Golf Tournament

Monday, July 29, 2024
Minneapolis Golf Club

Mark your calendars for a fun way to raise funds for a cause you love.

tchabitat.org/rtr24



Write your will for free!

Twin Cities Habitat has partnered with *FreeWill* to give you a tool to create your own will online for free. With *FreeWill*, you can create:

- a last will and testament
- advance healthcare directives
- durable financial power of attorney
- a legacy that multiplies for generations

Get started at tchabitat.org/freewill

HARD HAT & Black Tie

Saturday, April 27

The Depot – Minneapolis

tchabitat.org/gala2024

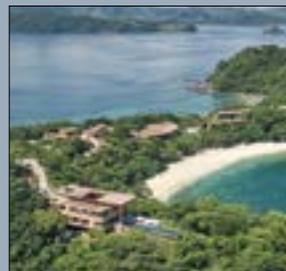
Buckle up for a night of fabulous auctions, inspiring stories, and amazing entertainment as we **make homeownership possible for Twin Cities families**. Make a big difference while having a lot of fun!

Get your tickets now before **registration closes on April 12**.

Bid on dozens of incredible auction items, like:



2024 Polaris Voyageur
Adventure 144 Snowmobile



Week Stay at Four
Seasons Costa Rica



Suite at Earth, Wind & Fire
with Chicago Concert



Back by popular demand,
Miss Shannan Paul will emcee.