



# Habitat

## HERALD

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Vol. XXXVI #2 Spring 2025

# You

## Create Miracles.

Michelle's Habitat home is 'the miracle she prayed for.' See how your support makes stories like hers possible ..... 4

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**Michelle**

*Habitat Homeowner since 2021*

## Dear friends,

As we celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity, I'm reflecting on the powerful legacy we've built together, and all we've accomplished since 1985.

- 2,000 families have achieved homeownership.
- Thousands improved their finances and living conditions through home repairs, financial coaching, and foreclosure prevention counseling.
- Hundreds of thousands of community members have been part of this mission as clients, volunteers, donors, advocates, board members, staff, AmeriCorps members, and partners.

Your legacy goes beyond numbers. It shows up when a teenager celebrates her high school graduation in a safe, stable home her parents own, or when a father builds wealth to pass on to his children. Your legacy echoes through the Capitol when advocates rally together for a more equitable community.

Habitat for Humanity International's legacy began at Koinonia Farm, an interracial community where farmers lived, worked, and broke bread together in rural Georgia during the Jim Crow era. Their commitment to equality continues to inspire our focus on racial equity in the Twin Cities.

We also celebrate the legacy of President Jimmy Carter, whose partnership with Habitat has inspired millions around the globe, including the thousands who joined us in the Twin Cities last fall when we hosted the 2024 Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project. We're proud to carry their legacy forward.

Our Build Forward Together campaign is shaping the next chapter. With your support, we're expanding homeownership opportunities, advancing racial equity, and engaging our Twin Cities community—creating a legacy that will last for generations.

With gratitude,



Chris Coleman  
President & CEO



## What's your Legacy?

Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity 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 builds for generations

It's easy to get started at [tchabitat.org/freewill](https://tchabitat.org/freewill)



# Building *The Heights*

Progress continues at The Heights development in St. Paul's Greater East Side, Twin Cities Habitat's largest development ever.

With your help, we're transforming the former Hillcrest golf course into a new sustainable community that will include 147 Habitat homes.



## Summer 2024

Excavation work began on the larger site, which will include 1,000 units of mixed-use affordable housing, employment opportunities, and public amenities. Foundations were laid on the first two of four blocks of Habitat homes, making Twin Cities Habitat the first developer to start building at *The Heights*.



## Winter 2025

Work continues after thousands of volunteers launched the first 30 Habitat homes during the 2024 Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project in October. Roofs are on, garages are in progress, all units have heat and power, and volunteers are currently working on the 2-unit townhomes and single-family homes.

## Spring 2025 & Beyond

Families will begin moving into the first of four blocks of Habitat homes later this year—but only with help from supporters like you!

Here are some ways you can support this historic project:



### Volunteer

You can find solo or group volunteer opportunities at The Heights most days!

[tchabitat.org/volunteer](https://tchabitat.org/volunteer)



### Advocate

Sign up for Advocacy Action Alerts to help us advocate for state funding at The Heights

[tchabitat.org/advocate](https://tchabitat.org/advocate)



### Donate

Help families prepare for homeownership at The Heights with a gift!

[tchabitat.org/donate](https://tchabitat.org/donate)



# "I'M LIVING IN THE MIRACLE I PRAYED FOR!"

You might meet Michelle running karaoke on Friday nights at the Wayzata American Legion. Or if you are lucky enough, you will get to taste her amazing cooking—like the flan her friends rave about.

She has a job she loves, she is becoming healthier than she has ever been, and she makes you feel right at home when you visit.

If you ask what made it possible for Michelle to build this beautiful life for herself, a key ingredient is her home. Her safe, stable, affordable Habitat home.

Since buying her affordable Habitat home, Michelle is giving back. She volunteered every day during the 2024 Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project. Your support is the gift that keeps on giving!



Michelle always loved singing and found solace in music. She attended the High School for Performing Arts in Manhattan and performed at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center. She dreamed of becoming famous, but the next part of her life felt like it happened fast.

"I was eighteen when I met the man who would become my husband, nineteen when I got married, and twenty when I had my son. I had not even figured out who I was yet," Michelle remembers.

She moved numerous times while pursuing music and raising her son. "Not all places were 'livable,'" she remembers.

There was the studio apartment with a yellowjacket infestation and black mold. There was the small room she rented from a couple in a toxic relationship. Other times, she was forced out by rising rents.

At the beginning of 2020, Michelle decided to make a change. A cousin invited her to move into her home in North Minneapolis. She found a job she loved, began saving and earning promotions at work, and started looking for homes.

After a few setbacks, Michelle found Twin Cities Habitat's Homeownership Program. It was just what she needed. To her delight, Michelle found a Habitat home that would be built just a block from where she was living with her cousin.

Michelle visited her future home often. She saw walls going up and rooms taking shape. And before she knew it, Michelle was at the closing table. But receiving her keys didn't make homeownership feel real yet—it came later, with those small things that turn a house into a home.

"Handing out Halloween candy with my porch decked out for the first time, throwing a Friendsgiving... Something about celebrating those first few holidays just made it so much more real—being in a place where I can have people over."

Another thing that made Michelle's home feel more real was when she got sick. Michelle has dealt with health challenges throughout her life, from asthma to sustaining a concussion. It felt impossible for her to feel fully rested while living in someone's cold, clammy basement, or while living with someone who played loud video games late into the night.

Now, in her own home, Michelle can have the peace and quiet she needs to fully recover and take care of herself.

"I'm living in the miracle I prayed for," Michelle remembers, emotion creeping into her voice. "How many people get to say that?"

"Please keep giving and volunteering your time. Your generosity is what moves us from stressful households into peaceful homes."

**Michelle**  
Habitat Homeowner





# Raise Your Voice at Habitat on the Hill MN

**Tuesday, May 13, 2025**  
**Minnesota State Capitol**

Rally together with Habitat supporters from across the state at Habitat on the Hill MN! This is your chance to raise your voice in support of affordable homeownership for your Minnesota neighbors. You'll experience an inspiring program, have the chance to meet with your legislators, and get all the training you need to advocate effectively. All you need to bring is your passion for Habitat's mission.

Your advocacy has never been more important—we hope you'll join us! Learn more and sign up at [tchabitat.org/hill](https://tchabitat.org/hill)

*Even if you can't attend, sign up for Advocacy Action Alerts to protect public funding for affordable housing at [tchabitat.org/advocate](https://tchabitat.org/advocate)*

## Raise the Roof Golf Tournament

**Monday, July 28, 2025**  
**Minneapolis Golf Club**

Break out your clubs and mark your calendars for a fun way to raise funds to support affordable housing in our community.

[tchabitat.org/rtr25](https://tchabitat.org/rtr25)



## Get Things Done

...with the Twin Cities Habitat AmeriCorps program

- Earn a living allowance while serving alongside your community
- Receive free healthcare, an education award, childcare, clothing, tool allowance, and more
- Develop onsite training and real-world skills while making a difference

Apply now for summer term and full-year positions at [tchabitat.org/ameriCorps](https://tchabitat.org/ameriCorps)



# Make an Impact During Earth Month

As we enjoy spring and celebrate Earth Month, take time to think about how your purchases can affect the environment. Did you know your support of **Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity ReStores** helps create a brighter, greener future all year long?

Donating to ReStore keeps unwanted items out of landfills, and shopping at ReStore gives items a new life. Last year, ReStore donors and shoppers kept **5.9 million pounds** of materials out of landfills; that's 2,950 tons, equivalent to 22 blue whales or 620 elephants!

Your support of ReStore can make a *world* of difference.



## 3 Easy Ways to Donate

1. Drop off at ReStore donation doors during donation hours
2. Schedule a *free* pickup
3. Schedule a priority pickup (*SMALL FEE*)



Scan for details and donation guidelines!



# Celebrate Earth Day with an Extended ReStore Sale!

This year, our annual Earth Day sale is two days!

Shop **Saturday, April 19** and **Tuesday, April 22** to save *big*!

**Save 10% on red tag items and get 30% off on everything else**

### Minneapolis

2700 Minnehaha Ave.  
Minneapolis, MN 55406

### New Brighton

510 County Rd. D West  
New Brighton, MN 55112

Valid April 19 and 22, 2025. Cannot be combined with other discounts or coupons.





1954 University Avenue West, St. Paul, MN 55104

# HARD HAT & Black Tie

**Saturday, April 26, 2025**

The Depot – Minneapolis

[tchabitat.org/gala2025](https://tchabitat.org/gala2025)



Back by popular demand,  
Miss Shannan Paul will emcee.

Join us for a night of fabulous auctions, a delicious dinner, an inspiring program, and amazing entertainment as we make homeownership possible for Twin Cities families.

This year we're going all out to celebrate **Twin Cities Habitat's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**—you won't want to miss it!

Get your tickets now before **registration closes on April 11.**

**Bid on dozens of incredible auction items, like:**



Twins suite for 24 people  
on Friday, June 6



Week stay at Blue Tang  
Resort in Belize



Private tasting event at  
Brother Justus Whiskey