



Photos by Paul Dinndorf

## A Lifelong Dream Comes True

“I feel like I’m finally living!” Angela Gladney exclaims, summing up all the emotions of becoming a homeowner—a goal decades in the making.

“My mom was a single parent, and when I was born she had just purchased a home,” Angela remembers. “Growing up, watching her go to work and maintaining and just being able to live in a home—I knew that that is something that I always wanted to do.”

Angela applied for a mortgage with a big bank back in 2016. But her approved loan amount was too low and the interest rate was too high. Worse, there was no education or explanation from the bank about what she could do to get in a better position.

But Angela was determined, so she got to work on her own. She paid off her credit cards and



# Habitat

## HERALD

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worked on her credit score. In 2018, at the insistence of a family member who bought a Habitat home in Missouri, she applied to Twin Cities Habitat and was accepted.

“But I’m a worrier!” Angela says. “So I never went through the whole process. I was afraid I didn’t have all the tools and resources, so I kept pushing it and pushing it back.”

A few more years went by, but Angela kept her dream of homeownership alive. She built up her savings. She re-applied for Habitat.

*Continued as **ANGELA** on page 2»*

“It took me a while to get to the mountaintop, but I finally did get there.”

**Angela Gladney**  
*Homeowner since 2023*



### INSIDE

- Connection and Community through E-House** - Learn more! ..... 3
- 19<sup>th</sup> Hole Happy Hour** - Join us at Minneapolis Golf Club..... 4

## Angela

» Continued from page 1

This time, she qualified for the brand-new Advancing Black Homeownership Program. This innovative program was co-designed by and for Foundational Black households—those who are descendants of slavery in the U.S. and have been the primary targets of racial discrimination in housing for generations. The program’s unique peer support and coaching, flexible mortgage criteria, and additional financial resources were exactly what Angela needed to achieve her dream.

“I learned that I was not the only one who had these fears! I wasn’t the only one that had the barriers—I didn’t even really understand that there are barriers to this whole process.”

As her closing date drew nearer, Angela’s nerves picked up. But every time she had doubts, someone at Habitat was there to answer all her questions. Finally, after many years of hard work, Angela was ready to become a homeowner.

It all sank in when Angela received her keys at her closing. “That’s when I knew: this is real! And I broke down. Oh my goodness, this is it!”

After just a few months in her new home, Angela can already feel the transformation of being a homeowner. She’s excited to bring her family together for holidays and she’s proud that she’s building a legacy for her children.

“I am absolutely living the American dream,” Angela shares. “And I am just truly so grateful to Habitat for allowing me to go through the process and having them guide me to achieve that goal. It took me a while to get to the mountaintop, but I finally did get there. And now, I’m finally living!”

Read more stories of your impact at [tchabitat.org/blog](https://tchabitat.org/blog)



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Angela's is one of nine families to purchase homes through our Advancing Black Homeownership program since it launched in fall 2022.



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# Entrepreneurs House Builds Connection and Community

As an entrepreneur, John Bergstrom was often around motivated and passionate people. When he first volunteered with Twin Cities Habitat, John noticed the same go-getter traits in Habitat homeowners. He co-founded Entrepreneurs House (or E-House) in 2003 and has been connecting small- to mid-sized companies and Twin Cities Habitat since.

E-House started as a community service project for companies, investment firms, and other entrepreneurial businesses—and it's become much more. In 2003, 125 volunteers served for 10 days. Now, more than 600 employees from 50 companies collaborate to build a home for a local family each year. This community lives our mission.

Together, they take on new challenges and make a lasting impact.

John and his team laid the foundation for E-House two decades ago, and their momentum has only grown. Thanks to this innovative network, 20 families (and counting!) have experienced the transformational power of homeownership.



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Raise the Roof

# 19<sup>th</sup> Hole Happy Hour

Monday, July 31, 4:00 p.m. at Minneapolis Golf Club

Join Habitat supporters at this fun summer event! Whether or not you're golfing in our Raise the Roof Golf Tournament during the day, you're invited to the 19<sup>th</sup> Hole Happy Hour.

- Get a Habitat update from President & CEO Chris Coleman
- Bid on fabulous auction items
- Enjoy live music and refreshments in a beautiful setting

Reservations are required. RSVP at [tchabitat.org/happy-hour](https://tchabitat.org/happy-hour).



# Thanks!

To thank you for being an **awesome Habitat supporter**, we're giving you a special coupon for our ReStore Home Improvement Outlets in Minneapolis and New Brighton!



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Valid through August 31, 2023, at our two ReStore outlets. Discount not good with any other offers. Limit one coupon per customer. Excludes red-tagged items.

Code: **HERALD23**

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