



You make
dreams
come true

Twin Cities
 **Habitat for Humanity®**

Habitat

HERALD Vol. XXXVI #1 Winter 2025

Growing up in Chicago, Bridgette was close with her grandmother and often visited her small duplex. “She always made that itty bitty space special,” Bridgette remembers. “It was my safe space.”

When Bridgette’s own grandson was born in 2020, she wanted to provide that space for him. But her apartment rent kept rising, so she began outlining financial goals to become a homeowner. In early 2024, she reached her goals and joined Twin Cities Habitat’s new Advancing Black Homeownership Program.

From the moment she met staff, she felt warmly welcomed and supported—just like family. While buying a house can be stressful, Habitat staff offered a calm environment, provided personalized support, and made learning fun.

“Everything was stress-free and streamlined,” Bridgette describes. “Work had to be done, but staff made the process understandable. I don’t know of anyone else who’s doing what Habitat is doing.”

June 25—Bridgette’s closing date—was about more than moving to her new townhome in Blaine. It was about legacy, family, and a dream come true.

“All I could say was ‘Thank you, God.’ My grandmother and mother are gone,” Bridgette shares, “but I still feel them. Their homes were warm. They made me the person I am. And now I can give that to my grandson.”

For Bridgette, seeing her grandson walk into her house for the first time was even better than getting her keys...

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“There’s peace knowing my family has a safe place in this big old world.”

Bridgette
Homeowner since 2024



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BRIDGETTE cont'd from 1

Bridgette has stayed connected to the Habitat community since closing, thrilled to discover support doesn't stop after moving in. She volunteered at the Carter Work Project and attends Volunteer & Learn classes.



“He yelled, ‘Noni (his name for me) got a good house!’ That was priceless. I did this for us.”

Bridgette’s days of worrying about rising rent are over. Now her grandson gets his own room when he visits, and she has space to continue family holiday traditions. For Thanksgiving, her sons helped prepare a meal, complete with sweet potato pie. And for Christmas, Bridgette made pound cake and her famous gumbo.

“There’s peace knowing my family has a safe place in this big old world,” she says. “I need my grandson to know that he can always come home. You can live anywhere, but when you feel at home, that’s a special thing.”

Upcoming Events



Strategic Plan Town Hall

Thursday, January 30, 2025 | 11:00 a.m. CST via Zoom

Learn how your support changes lives! Tune in to hear inspiring stories from staff across all areas of our work and get a glimpse of what’s on the horizon for Twin Cities Habitat.

tchabitat.org/townhall



Home Celebration

Thursday, February 20, 2025 | Minnesota Children’s Museum

Bring the kiddos and join in welcoming new homeowners to the Habitat family in this free, family-friendly event! Explore exhibits, learn maintenance tips, visit the vendor fair, and celebrate with us!

tchabitat.org/celebrate



Hard Hat & Black Tie Gala

Saturday, April 26, 2025 | The Depot – Minneapolis

Get your table or tickets now for Hard Hat & Black Tie—the gala that’s always a little less formal and a lot more fun! Experience fabulous auctions, delicious dinner, and a rockin’ afterparty—all while making a real difference for your Twin Cities neighbors.

tchabitat.org/gala2025

By the Numbers

Twin Cities Habitat was honored to host the **2024 Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project**—and it was extraordinary. Here’s just a glimpse of the enormity of the event.

Read more at tchabitat.org/cwp



2,252 volunteers

representing **38 states** contributed a collective **27,749 hours** to build homes, provide hospitality, and support events.



64 Habitat homeowners

inspired us by sharing **their incredible stories** and gave of their time and talents volunteering on site.



30 new homes

were being constructed at **The Heights** – homes that will provide safety and stability for **30 local families**.



5.5 tons of nails

and fasteners were used during the week, in addition to **1,000 power tools, 150 ladders, and 120 pallets of flooring!**

“Throughout my life, I’ve seen the difference that volunteering efforts can make in people’s lives.”

Jimmy Carter
Former U.S. President and Habitat Humanitarian

Volunteer Spotlight

Jack Gives Back

There are many great reasons to volunteer with Habitat. You can learn new skills. Make friends. Stay active. For Jack, who has volunteered for 39 years, it's all of the above—but it also goes deeper.

“Housing affects so many aspects of life, from health to education and equity,” says Jack. “My father was a beneficiary of the GI Bill, which means my family had access to resources others didn't. When I heard about Habitat's work, it seemed like an obvious way to be part of the solution. We're obligated to those around us.”

Jack has found many ways to give back with Habitat. He helped launch Holy Hammers, a group of volunteers from local churches, to build a Habitat home each summer. He started a Habitat service-learning project for high school students he worked with. When Jack retired, he joined a year-round Regular Crew that volunteers on build sites and at Habitat's warehouse.

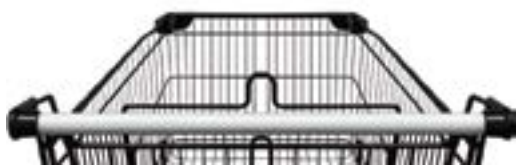
“Volunteering is always rewarding, even if you don't see the immediate impact,” he says. “As long as I can, I'll be out on the build site.”

Thank you to Jack and the many volunteers like you who give back!



Become a Winter Warrior!

Volunteer three or more times from January to March **OR** build on Winter Warriors days and get special swag. Sign up to volunteer at tchabitat.org/winter



restore.tchabitat.org

To thank you for your support, please enjoy this exclusive offer at Twin Cities ReStore Home Improvement Outlets **through February 28!**

10% OFF

all red-tagged items

30% OFF

everything else in store

Offer valid through February 28, 2025, at Twin Cities ReStore Home Improvement Outlets (See website for store locations.)
Limit one coupon per customer. Not to be combined with other offers.

Code: **HERALD25**