



# Habitat for Humanity®

## Wisconsin Rapids Area Habitat for Humanity

Spring 2015

### *A Little Bit of History*

In 1992, the Heart Of Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce Leadership Class hosted an evening orientation for the community to learn about Habitat. The evening provided an overview of the mission, vision and organizational structure of local affiliates. An application was in process for a local affiliate through Habitat International. The evening was WELL attended, the meeting room was full. Class members broke attendees into groups depending on how volunteer interests were based.

I was one of the attendees this evening, willing to donate time to the mission of Habitat. I worked in a job that interfaced with families living in substandard housing and recognized the value of Habitat getting an active chapter started in Wisconsin Rapids. I worked full time and am not a natural builder, so I attended the breakout session of people interested in the public relations needs of the affiliate. Our group alone had over 30 people willing to donate time to Habitat for public relations.



Today, this affiliate has completed 16 homes in South Wood County, removing over 50 children and their parents from substandard housing units. Housing needs remain but the volunteer base has disappeared. ***We need community support to keep the affiliate growing.***

Volunteer opportunities are varied and may be:

- Short commitments as simple as a willingness to help work a brat fry booth once a year for a few hours, to being an active building partner on a daily or weekly basis.
- Seasonal, or require a few hours a month year round.
- Requiring specific time commitments, or be done at home at your own convenience.
- Requiring technical skills, or just a desire to help and willingness to follow instruction.



The organizational structure of the WRAHFH is divided into committees including:

- |                    |                        |                         |
|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Board of Directors | Website Development    | Public Relations        |
| Fundraising        | Family Selection       | Building and Site       |
| Family Partner     | Volunteer Coordination | ReStore Pick-up Support |

**READ MORE ON WHERE YOU COULD HELP!**

**Fundraising Committee:** coordinating fund raising to build homes. Habitat accepts donated land, volunteer labor from skilled craftsmen and community volunteers, and donated building materials and furnishings. Each home also requires a capital outlay. Home recipients hold a 20-30 year mortgage to Habitat as a percentage of the appraised value of the finished home. Fundraising committee meets several times a year to plan and promote two or more fundraising events. Events promote community awareness to Habitat and encourage community support. The team needs:



- Active members to plan and promote events
- Volunteers willing to help on the day of the event.

**Family Selection Committee:** schedules a home visit with applicants who have passed the initial financial screening process. This committee is most active in early spring.

Confidential applications are screened by the Treasurer for financial eligibility. Applicants must have resided in South Wood County for a minimum of 2 years, have stable income to support a home mortgage, have a financial credit history but be in-eligible for a conventional home loan, and be living in substandard housing per Habitat guidelines.

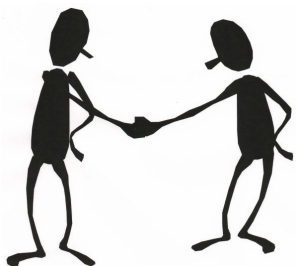
During each home visit, Family Selection Committee discuss the expectations of home recipients including:

- Habitat building specifications (modest homes according to family size)
- Mandatory personal sweat equity hours assisting in the building process
- Financial mortgage, home owner insurance requirements and escrow accounts
- Financial Counseling requirements

Family Selection Committee Chair reports back to the Board of Directors with details of the home site visits. Financial background, income stability, credit reports, and current substandard housing situation are reviewed and the Board votes on the successful application. Family Selection members share the good news with the successful applicant.



**Family Partner Committee:** supports the family throughout the building process and as requested after home ownership. Donated goods are maximized; families may choose unavailable interior items such as paint, flooring, counter tops, and lighting following Habitat guidelines.



Family Partner Committee members log sweat equity hours, assures financial counseling is attended, serves as support to the family managing a new mortgage and other home ownership issues until the family achieves independence.

**Building and Site Committee:** plan the construction project and are active the entire building season. Tasks include obtaining house plans/permits, soliciting skilled tradesmen, secure donations or the purchase of building materials, coordinating and supervising volunteers and family members in construction. Building sites are chosen by the Board based on family size home requirements.



Building superintendents are present at the building site Tuesday through Friday weather allowing. Building volunteers are welcome to drop by the site to help at any time for any length of time.

**Public Relations:** perfect for those who enjoy public speaking or writing! Civic and business organizations request presentations that improve public awareness of the commitment to eliminate substandard housing in South Wood County. Sending quarterly newsletters, notifying radio and newspaper for coverage of housing projects and public presentations are a year-long effort.

**Website Development;** communicating to all generations. Web site and face book are important ways to communicate *current* events and volunteer needs. This is a wonderful opportunity for a volunteer with limited time or shift changes that can be done on *your* lifestyle schedule! We currently do not have an open web site and need a committee with web-based skills and ability to keep it current.



**Volunteer Coordinator :** for someone who likes to stay involved all building season, keeping abreast of requests from churches, businesses, or civic organizations. Communication weekly with the building superintendents and scheduling volunteers as appropriate. A great job for a person who may not want to build but enjoys community involvement and being engaged in timely communication with others.



**Volunteer Board of Directors:** 9-12 community members, meets monthly to conduct all business associated with the organization. This includes responsibility to receive, maintain and dispose of assets per Section 501 (c)(3) of the IRS Code. The Board is responsible maintaining the covenant with Habitat International including communication on affiliate activities. Annual meetings are held to elect new officers and approve the year end financial audit.

A Board Representative serves on each committee to communicate Board interests to committee members and report back on committee activities.

**The Executive Committee** is comprised of four elected leadership positions on the Board: President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary.

Contact Wisconsin Rapids Area Habitat for Humanity:

P.O. Box 1134 Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495-1134

715-422-1925

Local businesses and craftsmen sponsor Wisconsin Rapids Habitat by donating building supplies, appliances, and their professional labor skills.

*Please remember to buy locally and support them in return!*

**2014/2015 Board of Directors**

- Larry Davis     President
- Jon Neidhold   Vice President
- Larry Turba     Treasurer
- Brenda Walczak Secretary
- Ken Schuetz    Building Superintendent
- Members at Large
- Kristine Ahles   Beatie Brandt
- Karen Brewer    Dale Glenzer
- Glenn Knorr     Mary Rehban

**Habitat for Humanity**

**Mission Statement**

*Habitat for Humanity works in partnership with God and people everywhere from all walks of life, to develop communities with people in need by building and renovating houses so that there are decent houses in decent communities in which every person can experience God's love and can live and grow into all that God intends.*

**ReStore:** outlets that accept building material and household goods for re-sale. WRAHFH is affiliated with the ReStore in Mauston. ReStore will pick-up tax deductible donations by appointment.

The store sends a truck with a driver and a volunteer assists at the local home to load donations. WRAHFH receives profits from goods donated from South Wood County and sold in Mauston. A great volunteer opportunity for someone with flexible time availability.

Contact ReStore at           608-847-2000.

Remember ReStore for your next home remodeling project. They are located at N3696 Hwy 12-16, Mauston, WI.

***WE COULD USE YOUR HELP!***

***PLEASE LET US KNOW YOUR INTEREST OR IF YOU WANT MORE INFORMATION .***

***WE CAN ADAPT TO YOUR TIME CONSTRAINTS AND TAILOR VOLUNTEERING TO YOUR SKILLS!***

We appreciate your ongoing financial support.  
Please send your tax deductible contributions to:

**Wisconsin Rapids Area Habitat for Humanity**  
**PO Box 1134**  
**Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495-1134**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for your support!*