

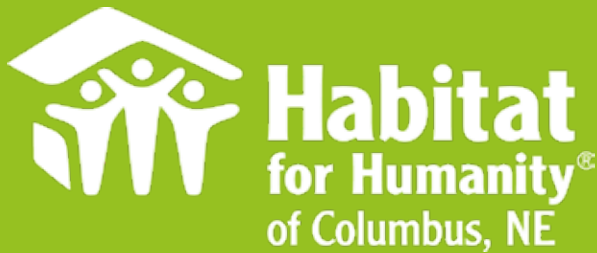


Habitat
for Humanity®
of Columbus, NE

2020

Impact Report

the difference you made



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A Message from the Desk at 3602

The last year and a half set a dizzying pace for Habitat in Columbus. It was an amazing thing to watch our home construction help three families realize their dream of strength, stability, and self reliance through shelter. Michelle has never had reliable housing and wanted to break the cycle for her children. She saw changes in her family within six short months in her new home. Yessica is putting her personal touches on her home and adding a garage in neighboring Schuyler. Kylie was so excited to move into her home her happiness was evident and contagious.

Our Board of Directors and supportive committee members worked together to fulfill our mission of bringing people together to build homes, lives and community. Helping give others a decent place to live here in Columbus and even around the world leaves a tangible investment for us all, both upon our hearts and their lives. Our local impact has changed the lives of more than thirty people and benefited the entire community.

Since our affiliation in 2010, we have rehabbed one home, built nine new homes and developed New Hope Addition.

A change in 2019, with Thrivent Financial to build a home in partnership with our local Faith Community. We counted more than 24 churches in our home build last year. We continued our partnership with the After-school Program and the Seekers of Serenity Treatment Center to provide space and resources for community gardens. These gardens were benefits to the groups as teaching spaces, behavior therapy, produce and fun! This gave more people real hands on learning opportunities to provide for themselves.

We had more than 2,200 volunteer hours donated at our Columbus home in 2019 by 300+ volunteers during a 15 week build period.

As I look toward the future, it is exciting! Through God's grace and our service and obedience, the impact will ripple throughout our community for years.

Come. Grow together with us.

Lori A. Peters, Executive Director

From Kylie:



2019

Our home is so much more than a list of check-marks. It's been a huge blessing. We all feel safe and comfortable in our new home. It's amazing for me to relax at home instead of my home stressing me out. Peyton is safe and comfortable in her own room. There are no arguments about taking baths because there aren't leaks everywhere. Just being in a safe, working home has calmed our lives down immensely. My kids take pride in our home and they are always asking to help do things around the house or have friends over. We appreciate it more than you'll ever know! My family and I thank you, again.

From Tiffany:



2020

Getting our own home means a lot to my family and I. Finally having a home means we have a stable, safe comfort zone that will never go away. We will have a place where we can truly be ourselves. Having a home allows us to build memories and have family and friends come over for the holidays and celebrations. Getting this blessing from Habitat means we can finally say we are home. It's such a blessing and it's something my boys and myself hold dear to our hearts! We simply want to say thank you and blessings always!

This new home means we get a better shot at accomplishing our goals. We have a place to really feel at home and call our own. It is going to be our little safe haven.

From Tlali:



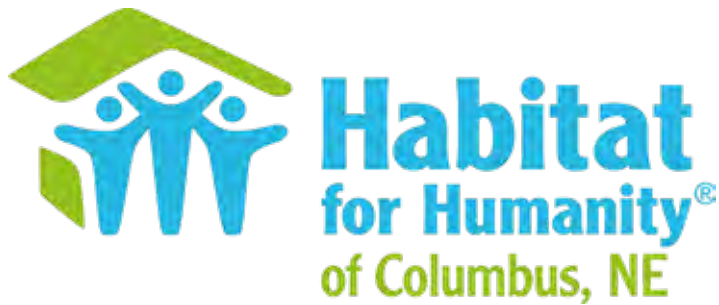
2020

When I open my back door I am met with a wonderful sight. Two brand new foundations. Two new promises to two new families. I know what that promise has meant to my family. What that security has brought to me, my children and our future. I have safety and security in these uncertain times. I know that these walls will envelop us and keep us safe. They will provide a shelter from the storms that beat outside our doors. Having our own place has given us a sanctuary where we can relax and hang up our hat, kick off our shoes and where we can invite friends over to celebrate during good times, and to feel protected during these hard times. I have watched my children relax and become themselves, settle into their own rooms in our home. As one turns 18 and graduates this year another is discussing how to make their bedroom space her own while not erasing her sister's memory. My children work together on making this house their home and they are proud of it. This is our house, full of learning, of trials, of discovery, of fighting and making up. They talk of bringing grandchildren here with excitement. This is their foundation, this is their refuge, this is our home. And I am grateful to call it Home.

From Michelle:



2018



Volunteers are the heart of Habitat for Humanity of Columbus; however,

they are also a vital link to the fiscal picture. This

investment of unpaid physical labor provides the means to operate most cost effectively. In 2019 alone, about 300 volunteers gave more than 2,200 hours of labor to support the organization's bottom line.

Many local corporations use Habitat as a pipeline for team building and community service. We partner with them in home building projects or various team building opportunities to benefit both organizations.

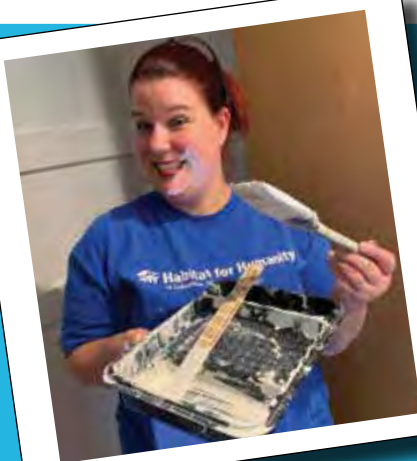
The Core Crew is a group of men and women who regularly invest time in Habitat on the construction sites. However, volunteers of all ages also serve the mission to make affordable housing a reality. Volunteers also help with special events, use expertise on various committees, complete office work, and assist in many other important roles.



Why I Volunteer with Habitat . . .

I volunteer with Habitat for Humanity because I have seen the difference it makes not only in the lives of the families we are building for but in the whole community of volunteers who help build the home. God has blessed me with good health, family, friends, a home and the ability to share some of those blessings with others. I believe we all have a duty to help our fellowman wherever and whenever we can and helping someone have a home of their own is one of the best blessings the Lord has given me.

- Jean Kurtenbach, Lindsay



I believe Habitat for Humanity is important because it brings people together for a common goal: helping people to have a decent place to live. Volunteers from every walk of life show up and support their communities showing the love they have for others. Friends are made, lives are changed and all while "giving back" and Paying Life Forward. Whether you're handy with tools, great at cleaning or just wish to donate some snacks, there is always room for anyone to make a difference. Habitat for Humanity accepts everyone and that in itself is just amazing.

- Mandy Brandenburg, Columbus

WHAT'S NEW

Veteran Committee

A new initiative in 2020 is the formation of a Veteran's Committee. Our affiliate signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Habitat International in late 2019 and has met with many of our local veteran groups. The Veterans Build program is a national initiative to provide housing solutions and volunteer opportunities to U.S. veterans, military service members and their families. There are five pillars to the understanding: building, educating, employing, engaging, and honoring. Our affiliate agrees that veterans and military personal and their families are important to our community and worthy of support and we commit to honoring them in some form each year. Our Board of Directors recognize that there is a need to help local veterans and is committed to taking on that role. Why?

- Nearly 4 million veteran households pay more than 30% of income for housing.
- More than 1.5 million of these households pay more than 50% of income for housing (severe cost burden).
- Nearly 1 million veterans who own homes are severely cost burdened, despite having access to VA loans and other assistance.
- A substantial subset of veterans struggles economically.
- Approximately 1.4 million veterans (6.7%) live in poverty.
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We are looking for local veterans who would be willing to help formulate our affiliate's role with veterans in our community. This is a new program and will need self motivated individuals to help make it happen. Here are some of early objectives:

- Identify the veteran opportunity.
- Define the program coordinator.
- Tools for strategic alignment & strategic planning.
- Understand veteran issues
- Understand your local veterans demographics
- Asset mapping
- Establishing partnerships
- Fundraise
- Marketing, messaging & advocacy
- Partner family outreach, qualification & selection
- Mobilize & engage veteran volunteers

The role will include meetings to establish these or similar goals, bylaws and plans for going forward. It will also include assessing needs of veterans and military personal and their families in our community. If you are interested, please email Lori at info@hfhcolumbusne.org.



Campus Chapter

In early 2020, a group of area students, led by Simon Janssen, sophomore at Lakeview High School, approached the Habitat Board of Directors to find a way students could be more involved with Habitat. After a series of meetings and discussions, the students formed a leadership team and presented the board with potential by-laws and goals and objectives. The board voted to approve and form the Campus Chapter Committee with students from our area schools.



Simon Janssen
Lakeview
President



Sarah Lasso
Columbus Public
Vice President



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Columbus Public
Secretary



Nehemiah Peters
Nebraska Christian
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Bo Behlen
Lakeview
Member Coordinator

Written by Simon Janssen, Campus President . . .

The newly installed Habitat for Humanity of Columbus Campus Committee has one primary mission: to provide an opportunity for youth to serve their community and support the mission of Habitat for Humanity. Through the Campus Committee, high school students will have the ability to directly serve new homeowners by undertaking innovative projects that support the mission. In addition to helping with build days, the new committee will take on smaller projects designed specifically for the kids of the house recipient, fundraisers, and projects that directly help Habitat for Humanity of Columbus. Our projects will obviously be smaller than building a whole house, but will require responsibility and creativity. The Campus Committee is set up in a way that it can involve students from all high schools in the area. Currently, the leadership team is composed of high school students from Columbus High School, Lakeview High School, and Nebraska Christian and looking for a Scotus liaison. The team will be working throughout the summer, and planning for the growth of the organization. The team's goal is to start recruiting new members from all area high schools in the fall of 2020.



GROWING TOGETHER CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



Stable housing strengthens families and improves their economic stability, health and educational outcomes.

Whether we are aware or not, we all benefit from programs like Habitat for Humanity. Our entire area is lifted and energized by revitalizing neighborhoods, increasing the tax base, reducing crime and raising property values.

Habitat for Humanity of Columbus’s impact on our community is strong; however, due to the escalating needs of those with home instability, programs must continue to expand.

From its strategic planning process, Habitat developed key focus areas, including the main goal of preparing for the future so the organization will be in a better position to respond to the area’s unmet needs. **The Growing Together campaign includes the purchase of nearly four acres in southwest Columbus that will allow us to invest in the people of Columbus by enlarging our capacity to build into the future.**

We are a city of people who care deeply about each other, and as such, We Must Do MORE. Habitat for Humanity Must Do MORE.

Therefore, Habitat for Humanity of Columbus is working to multiply efforts to increase the stability and benefits that come through stable housing. A city that invests in housing is one that prioritizes the well-being of families and children and neighborhood improvements, generating more revenue to the area. Investing in Habitat for Humanity indicates that we are thoughtful, kind and generous. It is also

fiscally responsible, economically sound and environmentally conscious to make such investments.

The Growing Together Campaign is designed to fundraise \$600,000 from the community. The purpose of this campaign is not only to serve more people and help Habitat become more self-sufficient and sustainable, but an investment in this campaign will also accelerate benefits to the entire region including safer neighborhoods, improved community health outcomes and greater educational success for children. Improving housing stock elevates the tax base, attracts more businesses and increases pride in our communities.

THE GROWING TOGETHER CAMPAIGN GOALS ARE TO FUND:

The purchase of almost four acres of land in southwest Columbus near the former wooden shoe factory.	Complete a topography study to access sewer needs and a soil survey to ensure safe environmental factors of the property.	Place electrical infrastructure underground for 16 future doors.	Completing all applicable storm, sewer and water infrastructure required by city code.
Installing a new street through the property off 41st Avenue.	Adding a necessary sewer line south on 41st Avenue.	Providing engineering, development and campaign costs.	GROWING TOGETHER Creating homes for more families.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN DONORS

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Columbus Habitat has a very positive and direct impact on people right here in Columbus - - we wanted to be part of that impact and see it continue to grow over the next several years. Habitat is an important organization. We want kids to have a safe, warm dry place to lay their heads down every day of the year. Columbus Habitat Team has made great strides. They have worked hard to get where they are today - - its important to continue to build on that success.

- Mike and Deb Smith



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*State of Nebraska
Community Development
Assistance Award*

Estate Gifts & Gifts of Stock

We gifted stock to Habitat because Fred and I have both been fortunate having had a stable family upbringing and good health. We also recognize that some people have not due to life circumstances. Habitat's motto of "a hand up, not a handout" and the fact that recipients help with the home's construction is something we believe in. Lastly, selfishly, there's personal satisfaction and fun in working with others in the construction of a new home!



- Ray and Fred Weinand

Annual Appeal

Owning your home is part of the American Dream and something that many strive for. Donating annually to Habitat of Humanity of Columbus, NE, allows for us to share in the dream homeownership with local deserving families that might not otherwise have the opportunity to realize it.

- Neal and Megan Valorz



Club82

**a world where everyone has a
decent place to live**

Owning your own home is a dream come true. For many of us, having the ability to walk in our front door, greet our family and enjoy a meal in our home, is the highest goal we strive to obtain. But unfortunately, there are residents in our community that without help, this simple dream is just that: a dream with no possibility of coming true. This is why Club 82 is so important to me and to all of us at Habitat for Humanity Columbus. A one-time donation of \$82 provides one square foot of a new Habitat house. As a realtor, I help people everyday to obtain their dreams of buying a home. My favorite part of the entire process is when I get



to hand my clients the keys to their new home. I feel the same joy every time one of my new homeowners pays it forward by making a donation to Club 82, and I match their donation with one of my own.

- Lisa Saenz, kwELITE Team



Event Sponsor

Habitat hosts two community fundraisers each year to support our home builds. Many local businesses partner with Habitat in these endeavors.

Our corporate event sponsors in 2019 were:

*Columbus Community Hospital
&
Columbus Federal Credit Union*



Gifts in Kind

There are two main reasons that Triple S supports Habitat for Humanity through our donation of labor to shingle the houses. When we look back at our lives we have clearly been blessed, and it's a pleasure to give something back to the community. We've also been in spots in our lives where we have struggled financially. It is an honor being able to be part of an organization that helps others get back on their feet.

- Greg Sealock, Columbus Police Department Sergeant & co owner of Triple S Roofing



Corporate Solicitation

Pinnacle Bank is proud to be committed to Habitat for Humanity of Columbus and has been a corporate sponsor since the Columbus affiliate began. We believe the access to stable and affordable housing in Columbus is vital to building a strong local economy, and Habitat is doing their part to meet this need. By giving to Habitat every year, we know we are helping to provide affordable housing to improve the lives of families and help the community prosper. The growth and success of Habitat has directly reinforced that our investment is being put to good use. Our hope is that Habitat can keep building for many years, and that Pinnacle Bank's sponsorship will continue to provide a part of Habitat's goal of improving affordable housing in Columbus.

- Pinnacle Bank

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OTHERS: Columbus Board of Realtors • Columbus United Federal Credit Union
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Habitat for Humanity of Columbus, NE

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**Club82 members commit to
sponsoring one square ft.
of a home each year.**

Club82 - Changing lives one foot at a time

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Caliber Construction
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Habitat
for Humanity®
of Columbus, NE

3602 16th Street
PO Box 1792
Columbus, NE 68601

402-564-4663

www.hfhcolumbusne.org

Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities, and hope.

39% of Nebraska households struggle to afford housing, food, health care, and transportation.

Homeowner children are 20% less likely to experience teenage pregnancy.

Homeownership decreases government assistance.

Children of homeowners are 25% more likely to graduate from high school.

College graduation rates are 116% higher for students whose parents are homeowners.

Building a better community one house at a time.



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