



Summer 2021

President's Corner

Dear Friends of Wolf River Habitat for Humanity,

It is during unprecedented times like these that I am humbled to be a part of such an unfaltering organization and the countless individuals that make Wolf River Habitat for Humanity an ongoing success.

Dealing with the many negative effects of operating during a pandemic, I have been amazed by the community support we have received through monetary gifts, dedicated volunteers, and ongoing support of our ReSale store through item donations and purchases.

Over the last several years, I have learned (or perhaps forced myself is more accurate) to let go of worrying about things which I cannot control - give it to God and trust in the process. The past year has validated the truth in the process of letting go and handing it over to God. Our community has held us up: dedicated board members, tireless volunteers, devoted employees and all the other outstanding people that support our efforts and our mission.

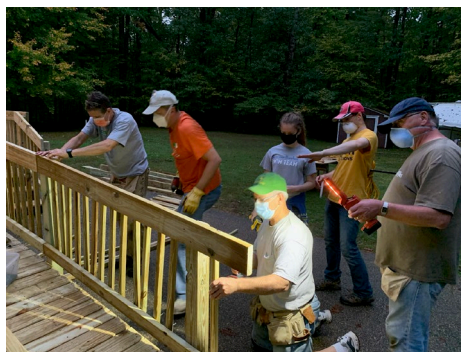
Our organization has been blessed beyond measure through the compassionate actions of our entire community. Even a pandemic cannot take us down! We are stronger than ever, and I look forward to the weeks, months, and years ahead as we continue our work as a community to fulfill our mission! Thank you one and all for your ongoing support, and may God bless you and yours.

Sincerely,
Darci Kotter
President

Have some time to volunteer? WE NEED YOU!

Volunteering is a great way to meet new people and have some fun. We have many volunteer opportunities: metal recycling, furniture repair and refinishing, construction on new builds or wheelchair ramps, demolition, office work, pricing one-of-a-kind items for the store (such as artwork), mowing or snow blowing our future building site lots, cooking for the crews on the jobsite, or light cleaning at the store.

Whether it's a day, a week or a morning a month, there's a place for you! To learn more, email info@wrhabitat.org, call Laurie at the store at 715-525-3007 or stop at the store on Thursdays, Fridays or Saturdays.



Construction Update

By Mark Flunker,
Construction Supervisor

By the end of April, we had the basement walls poured for our next Habitat home. Our partner family is working hard, alongside other volunteers, to put in their "sweat equity" hours on their home. The home is being built on Medicine Hat Trail in the Legend Lake area, which is located about two miles from our last Wolf River Habitat home.

As we start the building process there will be a lot of extra cost for materials, as costs have risen about 35% since last year. The other issue is getting materials in a timely fashion, as some materials may take up to two months to receive. I have been in the building industry for 20 years and have never seen prices change as much as they are right now. We will continue to build the home as we get the materials to do so. Our volunteers are ready to start building and hoping it will go smoothly!

We are always seeking volunteers and normally work Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please call first, because if materials have not arrived we may not be at the building site.

To volunteer, contact Construction Supervisor Mark Flunker at 715-584-5995.

EVENTS

17th Home Completed!

We recently dedicated our 17th home. We were fortunate to get an early start on the house in March 2020 only to then be hit with the Covid-19 pandemic! Despite all the delays, price hikes for lumber, etc., Construction Supervisor Mark Flunker did a great job navigating the pandemic restrictions and completing the home with the help of many wonderful volunteers and our partner family. We were able to have a Covid-friendly outdoor dedication service with a home blessing by Menominee Elder David Grignon. It was a long year of anticipation with the family, but it was very gratifying to have them move in right before Easter!



It's Time for a Mortgage Burning Ceremony

Another family recently paid off their Habitat mortgage! This is an incredible accomplishment that highlights the dedication and perseverance of our homeowner families. Not only do they put in 250-500 hours of "sweat equity" building their house with other volunteers, but then they diligently pay a monthly mortgage back to Habitat for 20-30 years. This is our third homeowner family that has paid off their home and owns their house in its entirety. Congratulations!



See us at the Farmers Market July 2

Stop by the non-profit booth at the Shawano Farmers Market at Franklin Park from 9-11 a.m. and say hi to us. We will be selling baked goods. If you are a baker and would like to help us out by donating some yummys, please give Laurie a call at the store 715-524-3007.



Golf Outing Scheduled for Aug. 26

Save the date for our 24th annual golf outing at Pine Hills. Thanks to the generous sponsorship of North Star Mohican Casino Resort and Pine Hills Golf and Supper Club, you are guaranteed a good time! There will be a lot of great prizes.

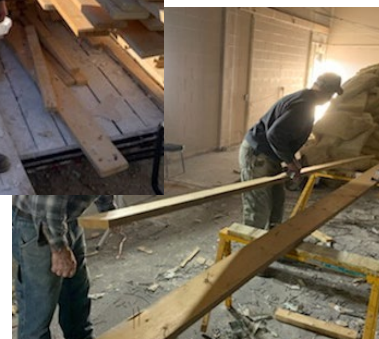
- » 9 a.m. registration
- » 10 a.m. shotgun start

Please call Pine Hills Golf Course to sign up for the event: 715-787-3778.

NEWS

Fellman Building Salvage Donation

Recently, Chuck Felts gave us the opportunity to decommission a large office space at the Fellman Building. Although it was difficult labor over many months, our volunteers worked tirelessly to get the job done. We pounded nails out of lumber and removed drywall piecemeal, but we were able to salvage quite a bit of fiberglass insulation, loads of 2x4s, metals for recycling, and office doors that are for sale in our store or used at our construction sites.



Volunteer Spotlight

One of our longtime volunteers, Lora Smith, is undertaking a special fundraising effort that will benefit Wolf River Habitat for Humanity and SAM25. Lora will be hiking the Ice Age Trail, a 1,200-mile trek that she will begin April 30, 2021.

For those not familiar with the Ice Age Trail (also see www.iceagetrail.org): *"The Ice Age National Scenic Trail is a footpath that highlights these landscape features as it travels through some of the state's most beautiful natural areas. The Trail is entirely within Wisconsin and is one of only 11 National Scenic Trails."*

Lora is gratefully accepting donations for her hike with all proceeds directly supporting Wolf River Habitat and Sam25. "I not only want to help these two important organizations financially, but I want to raise awareness of the work they do and the impact they have on our communities," shares Lora.



Wolf River Habitat for Humanity is grateful to be one of the organizations Lora has chosen, and we wish her all the best on this endeavor. To support Lora on this exciting and challenging fundraising effort, call us at 715-524-3007 or visit www.wrhabitat.org.

Consider a Charitable Donation

It's estimated that lumber costs 3 times what it did before the pandemic. Unfortunately, that adds thousands of dollars in building costs to our new homes. If you are in a position to donate funds to help offset this unexpected cost increase, please consider a donation to Wolf River Habitat for Humanity. All donations are tax-deductible. For 2021, \$300 per individual is tax deductible, even if you do not itemize your deductions.

We also accept appreciated securities or mutual fund donations, which allow both a tax deduction and avoidance of capital gain taxes on the appreciated value of the securities. Qualified Charitable Donations (QCD) are a good way to gift if you are able and also avoid excessive income tax for those age 72+ while still satisfying your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from retirement accounts. For more information, contact Vice President Kevin Culhane at info@wrhabitat.org.

Thank You to God's Givers

Gifts in Memory of ...

- James Herzfeldt and Sue Ponchaud, by Annabell Herzfeldt
- Fred Hinshelwood, by Martha G. Hinshelwood
- Lois Kruse, by Anita Hartman
- David and Betty Larson, by John Larson
- Victor and Marion Mycynek, by Jean M. Mycynek

Gifts in Honor of ...

- Kevin Culhane, by Tony and Jen Bisterfeldt and Tom and Sue Mielenhausen
- Ross Fugill, by Beth McClelland
- John Newton, by Martin and Janet Anderson
- Curt and Karen Preston, by Winnie Preston

Many Thanks to ...

- Royalton Christian Church, New London
- Premier Community Bank
- Shawano Area Community Foundation (Dale Druckrey Fund)
- Co-Vantage Credit Union, Antigo
- Mary Bleser Hayes (Bleser Family Foundation Inc.)
- Denmark State Bank (through the Greater Green Bay Community Foundation)
- Your Cause LLC (Trustee for Thrivent Financial-Wolf River Associates)
- Wisconsin Public Service Foundation
- Nordin Design Group INC
- Jenny Ballwahn (Full House Realty)
- Lori Muller (Exit Elite Realty)
- Dave and Allison Schultz (Hope Builders, Habitat for Humanity International)
- Robert and Maribeth Klopke
- Carolyn J. and Alan Lamia
- Terry Hilgenberg
- Concrete Cutters
- Alex Tassar
- Gillett Concrete

"God has given each of you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other, passing on to others God's many kinds of blessings."

1 Peter 4:10

A 10-Year Anniversary!

After strategic planning 10 years ago, we decided to open our ReSale store. It seemed like a risky move but one made after prayer and discernment in order to raise funds to support our home-building activities. Ted & Dorothy Foster were the first store managers at the Richmond Street location. We are also grateful for Jerry Roloff, who laid the foundation for our current store, and our most recent manager Sherry White. We have been truly blessed for 10 years with great volunteers, loyal shoppers and generous donors. We could not have reached this 10-year milestone without you!

New Store Co-Managers

We welcome Laurie Wilkinson and Mike Kroenke as new co-managers of our ReSale Store. Laurie and Mike joined us in February and are responsible for management of the store that helps fund and support the building of our Habitat for Humanity homes in Shawano and Menominee counties.

Laurie retired from Thrivent Financial in 2016 as Director of Church Relations. While there, she was involved in the development and promotion of the Thrivent Builds program, which was the largest corporate relationship with Habitat for Humanity International. She participated in builds in the U.S., El Salvador and Vietnam. Laurie went on to serve as Interim Executive Director for the Wisconsin Council of Churches and Crossways Camping Ministries.



Laurie and her husband, Pastor Bob Wilkinson, live in Navarino, Wisconsin. They have three children and three grandchildren, who all live in Wisconsin.

"I feel blessed and am excited to be part of the Wolf River Habitat team and complement this active and vibrant organization to make an even greater impact in the communities we serve," states Laurie.

Mike retired from the UW-Extension as a Professor Emeritus specializing in forestry and water resources. He also spent seven years in Alaska working as a missionary, park ranger naturalist and Environmental and Vocational Program Coordinator for 32 villages.

He is currently a part-time Forester for the City of Shawano. Mike is married to Sally Knope and lives north of Red River. He has two grown children. In their free time, Mike and Sally like to read, hike, travel and volunteer at St. Jakobi Lutheran Church. They also work at Green Bay Packers home games.

Mike is excited to be a part of Wolf River Habitat working with all the dedicated staff and volunteers. "It's gratifying to see Wolf River Habitat growing and achieving the goals set by the dedicated founding and current leaders and volunteers."



ReSale Store is OPEN!

The Habitat store has resumed its pre-pandemic hours:

	<u>Shopping Hours</u>	<u>Donation Hours</u>
Thursdays	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Fridays	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Saturdays	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.	9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Note, we require masks while in the store. No exceptions. If due to health reasons, you feel you are unable to wear a mask, visit our Facebook page, website or Craigslist to view items or call the store if looking for something specific. This decision is based on concern for the continued health and safety of staff, volunteers and customers. We continue to monitor, evaluate and adjust our policies accordingly.

Did you know?

- Revenue generated by the store helps fund our home building and renovation projects!
- The store's entire inventory is made up of donated goods and items!
- The operation of our store and build sites are due largely to volunteers who share their time, talents and treasures. Without them, we could not continue to make a difference in the communities we serve.

Thank you to our amazing volunteers, donors and customers!



OFFICERS

Darci Kotter, President
Kevin Culhane, Vice President
Ross Fugill, Secretary
Roger Olson, Treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Randy Bohm, Al Boyd, Dorothy Foster, Mike Groth, Dave Legge,
John Newton, Jerry Roloff, Steven Thompson, Sherry White

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Mark Flunker