Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sioux Falls Annual Report 2016 - 2017



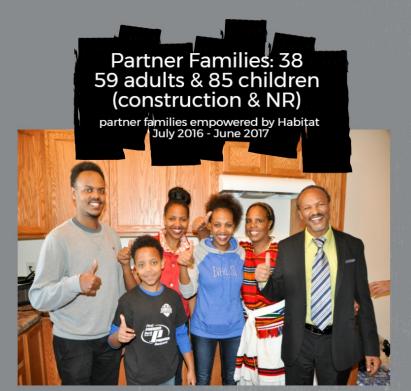
Habitat for Humanity helps individuals and families achieve strength, stability, and self-reliance through shelter.



Cigna volunteers - August 10, 2016



Sioux Falls Serve volunteers - July 18, 2016



Thrivent Builds home dedication - January 26, 2017

Homeowner
Partner
Sweat Equity
Hours:
2,924



The ReStorAtion Art Auction raised a record \$11,244, making it a house sponsor

House groundbreaking ceremony - June 23, 2017



Citi, KELO & Vern Eide volunteers - June 16, 2017



Donations to the ReStore: 4,800

Keeping 370 tons of reusable material out of the local landfill each year!



Amber Vanderwalker, Habitat Homeowner

Do you remember Amber? We featured her in our Christmas letter. She's moved into her Habitat home! She's settling in with her four kids. That's right! She has a new baby. He's two months old, and his oldest sister loves him so.





In the midst of major life changes, Amber has re-enrolled in the LPN program at Southeast Tech. She's excited and nervous. She's working overtime to save money for school and applying for a scholarship. Let's keep Amber and her family in prayer, as she finishes her clinicals and graduates next year.

In addition, Amber is working with her dad to finish the family room in the basement of their Habitat house. They shop our ReStore for donated reusable building materials to save a few dollars! Our Habitat homes typically include three to four finished bedrooms, two bathrooms, a living room and dining with kitchen on the main floor, and a garage. The families are encouraged to finish the lower level family room as an investment in the property. They use the skills they learned while building and earning their sweat equity hours.

Amber's kids are happily settling into school in Canton. They're in 4th, 8th, and 10th grades. Her oldest daughter is making new friends, after joining the volleyball team. And the other two have definitely bonded with their neighbors, another Habitat family!

"You gotta do what you gotta do. It's been a good experience for the kids," Amber said. They saw the effort that went into owning this, motioning around her home. "They take better care of their stuff now." Watching her son help the neighbor mow their twin home yard, was heartwarming, knowing that same level of care is felt by this entire family. And Baby will only know this life, not living doubled up (with family or friends) or moving often. God bless Habitat, and you, our Habitat family!

Leslie Williams, Habitat Homeowner

We dedicated Leslie's Habitat home in January of 2017. She moved in with her three boys, after our emotional dedication ceremony. Leslie courageously shared her dedication speech at our ReStorAtion Art Auction in April. Here's an excerpt:

"They say everything happens for a reason and you don't always understand. I can witness to that. The past few years have been filled with trial and tribulation. I stand here today after graduating a homeless / transitional program. Had not the events that transpired, which led to me being in that program, I may not be here today for the dedication of my home.





I would have been content with just continuing to rent and being in my comfort zone and playing it safe. They did happen, which led me to make a promise I would never allow my children to go through that again. My dad once told me 'We will remain the same until the pain of remaining the same becomes greater then the pain of change' ... I was ready for a change and it was time for me to step out on faith.

I never knew about Habitat for Humanity, but my case worker in Heartland House and my boys counselor thought I would be a good candidate. Exactly two years ago I started the process by attending orientation. Not really expecting anything, but leaving it in God's hands, I had began to invision building my very own house from the ground up. It was a long process, but anything worth having isn't going to be easy.

Before I knew it I received notification I had been selected to be a partner family. When it came time to select my future lot, this house was not on my list. I thought my dream was falling apart. But God knows what's best for me. This house would allow my boys to stay at their same schools and continued to be bused. However I still was not sold. A rehab was not part of my plan. The definition of Rehab is: a thing, especially a building, that has been rehabilitated or restored. The more I thought about it, the more I knew God knows what he is doing - he seen what I couldn't. What better place for me to call my first home than one that was indicative of my life because I too was being rehabilitated - restored."

This July, Leslie accepted a new job that allows her to spend more time with her kids. And she too has started to finish her basement!

