

Winter 2024

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Our Word for 2024 is Grateful

Kevin Culhane, President

As 2024 slowly winds down, we would like to say how grateful we are for our employees, volunteers, partner families and donors. We recently had an employee and volunteer appreciation event which brought together many people that help in such varied ways.

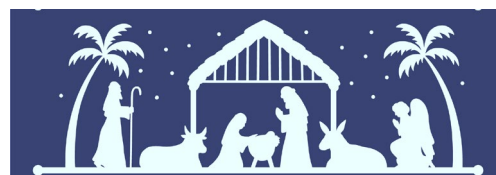
Among these much-appreciated individuals is Mark Flunker, our retiring employee, who has always gone above and beyond to help on his day off or in the evening when a homeowner needs to get in sweat equity hours. Then there's the board member and a volunteer who drove to Madison to buy a replacement truck for our store. There's also our 90-year-old volunteer Don who works at the store cleaning and fixing lights, microwaves and furniture. We can't help but thank Pastor Bob Wilkinson who recently filled in at our groundbreaking ceremony after a last-minute cancellation. He also works several days a week to reorganize our warehouse. And, there are those who donate to our store; they have been so generous allowing us to sell used materials at an affordable price to support our building efforts. I could go on and on, but we truly are humbled by all who help with our ministry.

Thank you all and may you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of us at Wolf River Habitat!



Vision: A world where everyone has a decent place to live.

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



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Happy Retirement, Mark!

Construction supervisor and executive director Mark Flunker officially retired Nov. 2 after 10 years of service to Wolf River Habitat. Mark's legacy includes four new home builds, three house moves with extensive renovation (he did not learn the first time!) and two extensive home renovations.

Mark managed home building for Habitat since 2014 but also was involved in many other areas, such as renovating the Habitat building, demolition projects, store pickups and deliveries, ground maintenance, representing and promoting Habitat around the community and other duties as assigned!

We are appreciative of Mark's service to Habitat and to the families with who we have partnered. Nine homes later, he finally gets a chance to rest!



Mark Flunker has retired after 10 years of service to Wolf River Habitat. Thank you and best wishes!

"This is the Lords doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day which the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." Psalm 118:22-23

Building Has Started on a New Home in Gresham

A groundbreaking ceremony was held Sunday, Oct. 6 for our new home on Ebert Street in Gresham. Our partner family—Lacy, Melvin Jr., Melvin III, Mark, Konnor and Kaycee Kaquatosh—was present to celebrate, along with family, friends, Habitat volunteers and community members. Prayers and thanks were offered for a successful and safe home construction.

Since then, the Kaquatosh family and volunteers have been working hard, and the home is coming along ahead of schedule. We have had a wonderful crew of volunteers to help with the foundation, framing and roofing. Volunteers from ThedaCare framed several of the walls at our warehouse, and the walls were then transported to the building site. Volunteers from Little Rapids Shawano Paper Mill applied the OSB sheathing and set trusses, and also the shingling was recently completed. We are working hard to get windows and doors in before the weather turns too chilly, along with an HVAC system, electrical and plumbing. We are very thankful for the groups that have helped out in addition to all the other volunteers. It takes a village!



Habitat representatives, the partner family and volunteers gathered in Gresham for a groundbreaking ceremony in October.

If interested in helping, please call the store at 715-524-3007 and leave a message. A member of the building committee will get back to you.



Melvin and Mark are setting concrete forms for the foundation to be poured.



Volunteers from Little Rapids spent time helping at the Gresham house this fall.

Family Needed for Shawano House

We have a vacant 3-bedroom house in Shawano in need of a family!

To qualify, applicants must have a need for housing (currently living in inadequate or unsafe conditions), ability to pay the monthly low-interest mortgage, taxes and insurance, and willingness to work with us on remodeling the home (“sweat equity”) for 250-500 hours.

In addition, there are income limits for the household which are posted on our website at wrhabitat.org. For example, for a family of four, the gross income for the household must be between \$31,200 and \$51,960. We will work with families to help them apply for the loan.

If you know of interested families, please direct them to our website or call the store!



Thank You to God's Givers

We extend a sincere thank you to all who have donated time, treasure or talents this year, especially the individuals, groups and organizations listed below.

Special Gifts from: Thomas & Lisa Bergmann ▪ Dane Black ▪ Dolly & Bob Burdick ▪ Mrs. Carol Cantwell ▪ Steve Fellman ▪ Ross Fugill ▪ Patty & Mark Fuller ▪ Lisa Gast ▪ Beth & Jeff Gillis ▪ Paul Hayden ▪ Annabell Herzfeldt (in memory of Jim Herzfeldt & Sue Pochaud Herzfeldt) ▪ Martha Hinshelwood ▪ Cindy Jesse ▪ Brian Kreuger ▪ John Larson ▪ Charles & Deb Lidbury ▪ Betty Marvin ▪ Jean Mycynec ▪ John Neubauer ▪ Paul Paddock ▪ Tim & Claudia Ploeger ▪ Dennis Prusik ▪ Andy & Cyndi Pyatskowitz ▪ Todd & Mary Raether ▪ Skip & Patsey Robertson ▪ Maralyn Steffen ▪ Mary Sutter ▪ Stephen & Mary Swanson ▪ Steve & Nancy Thompson ▪ Carrie Westphal ▪ Kevin & Sue Wick. Also the NorthStar Casino ▪ Bleser Family Foundation ▪ Church of the Wilderness ▪ Hilgenberg Realtors ▪ Royalton Christian Church ▪ Shawano Women's Club ▪ ThedaCare ▪ Little Rapids Corporation ▪ Premier Bank ▪ Zion Lutheran Church Women ▪ Wisconsin Public Service Foundation ▪ HTLF Bank ▪ EER, LLC.

And our partner tradespeople: Moede and Sons ▪ Torborg's Shawano Lumber ▪ Gillett Cement Products ▪ Kallies Electric ▪ Knope Roofing & Furnace ▪ LJ Sperberg Construction ▪ Qualheims ▪ Sherman Williams ▪ TF Systems.

26th Annual Golf Outing a Success

On Aug. 17, Mohican NorthStar Casino Resort and Pine Hills Golf Course hosted our 26th annual golf outing. General Manager Tony Granquist and the Mohican employees put on a great day of golf for our group.

Our friends at Mohican have been organizing and sponsoring this event, our largest fundraiser each year, since our founding. We are so thankful for their generosity, along with the participating sponsors, vendors, fellow golfers and volunteers.

The proceeds, including a generous donation from NorthStar, totaled over \$25,000! We are using these funds to build a new home in Gresham with a local family (including a NorthStar employee). Thank you Mohican NorthStar!



Some of the many golfers at this year's fundraising event included (left to right) Joanne Jonas, Steve Fellman, Sharon & Rick Neuske.

New Board Members Announced

We recently added two new members to our board of directors. Jamie Loudbear Wayka and Debbie Zweiger bring many years of work experience in the affordable housing and financial fields that help round out our board. We are thankful for their willingness to be part of Habitat. Welcome Jamie and Debbie!

If you are interested in being on the board or a committee, please email us at inf@wrhabitat.org.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10

Accepting Charitable Donations

Costs for building homes have gone up significantly. Please consider a tax-deductible donation to Wolf River Habitat for Humanity. We can 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 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 info, contact Kevin Culhane at info@wrhabitat.org.

What's Happening at the Store?

Laurie Wilkinson, Store Manager

This past year has been amazing at the store. New people continue to discover the store and all it has to offer: great deals for home improvement, furniture, one-of-a-kind items and more!

If you've been to the store recently, you have probably noticed changes to our exterior; no more mauve/pink and purple! 😊 We are excited about the improvements so far – but stay tuned for more to come! Hats off to Bryan Gagnon for all your hard work and expertise on this project!

This year our creative volunteers provided some opportunities to engage our customers in some exciting new ways!

- In April, we offered a class for participants to gain knowledge about basic sewing skills and learn how to operate a sewing machine. The bonus: after the class, they took their sewing machine home with them! Thank you, Connie, Laurie, Peggy & Polly.
- In July, we sponsored a DIY sewing machine cabinet flip contest. We really have creative customers, volunteers and staff! Thank you, Connie and Margie!



Look for more DIY flip contests in the future! We would love to see what people might recreate with a headboard or chair or ? – limitless possibilities to repurpose – reimagine – reclaim.

Also, a special thank you to our “tinkerers,” recyclers, our pickup and delivery crew, and the staff and volunteers who work so hard to make our store is what it is, so we can provide resources to help build homes, build hope, and impact lives and communities. If you have the chance, stop by the store and say thank you to them for all they do!

We also extend our thanks to all the people who are helping us reorganize our warehouse area – what a huge undertaking this has been but will help us in managing our construction needs as well as the store inventory for our staff, volunteers and shoppers. Thank you to some new volunteers in this effort – Capital Credit Union staff! You rock!



Finally, we offered an online auction this November, teaming with O'Connor Auction Group. Thanks to all who viewed, bid and won some pretty unique items. The auction, 'Repurpose for a Purpose' was conducted to raise funds for an upgrade to our current pickup and delivery vehicle.



We had a few items that were purchased and donated back to help up raise even more for the truck! They will be offered for silent bids. Come by the store to submit your bids. Check out the items on our Facebook page.

DID YOU KNOW?

Wolf River Habitat tithes 10% of its income to our partner affiliate in Mexico. Due to the low cost of home building in Mexico, we have tithed enough money to build 70 homes there. Wolf River Habitat was recently honored by Habitat as the third highest tithe amount for small affiliates in the USA!

Wolf River Habitat for Humanity volunteers have contributed more than 4,000 hours of volunteer service this year, working on our home building sites, building wheelchair ramps, assisting at our store and providing leadership on our organization's board and committees!

OFFICERS:

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Randy Bohm, Kevin Culhane, Ross Fugill, Bryan Gagnon, Mike Groth, Darci Kotter, Dave Legge, Jamie Loudbear Wayka, Roger Olson, Debbie Zweiger

STORE MANAGER: Laurie Wilkinson