

## Your update on what's happening at Habitat for Humanity Lakeside.

Happy New Year! We at Habitat for Humanity Lakeside are excited to begin 2024!

So much happened in 2023, that it deserves a recap. We also want to share what's planned so far for the coming year. As you read along, please contact us and share your thoughts and hopes for 2024.

We're so glad to have you as part of the Habitat Lakeside family!

## Staffing Updates

2023 brought many changes to the Habitat Lakeside team. Here are the newest additions.



### **Karina Aguirre – Family Services & Volunteer Manager**

Karina started out at Habitat Lakeside as the Volunteer & Community Engagement Coordinator and was promoted in 2023 to Family Services & Volunteer Manager. She passionately represents our partner families and their interests.

*"Mother Theresa said, 'The miracle is not that we do this work, but that we are happy to do it.' I identify with that because I'm so happy to work here and be part of the solution for providing everyone a decent place to live."*

### **Sue Michels – Finance & Office Manager**

Starting July 10, 2023, Sue's expertise has proven to be essential. She's taken on audits, billing, tracking, and organizing with aplomb. We count on her extensive accounting savvy every day!

*"Ryunosuke Satoro said, 'Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean.' I'm happy to be part of the Habitat Lakeside team."*



### **Jason Hollen – ReStore Manager**

Jason started on December 4, 2023. He's got a great sense of humor, years of retail expertise, and works hard every day to make sure the ReStore is operating at maximum capacity.

*"One of my favorite quotes is, 'If you want to change the world, make your bed,' from William Mc Raven. Look it up. It's a great quote. I try to live by the thought there. The little things count and add up."*

### **Sherry Myles – ReStore Associate**

Our newest team member, Sherry started just before the new year on December 29. She brings a broad smile and a great attitude to the ReStore team, and we're so happy she has joined us in our mission.

*"Habitat is like home away from home, where people come to survive and find destiny and purpose. Working at the ReStore is fulfilling: it holds treasures for many and everyone always leaves with a smile... it's like a candy shop for adults."*



### **Karin Oliver-Kreft – Marketing & Communications Manager**

Nice to meet you all. I started at Habitat on October 30. It's my intention to keep everyone informed of what's going on. I'll be publishing this newsletter and communicating on social media regularly, so we can continue to grow, helping more and more people in Sheboygan County.

*"To me, Habitat embodies the quote, 'The true call of a Christian is not to do extraordinary things, but to do ordinary things in an extraordinary way.' Simply building homes may be ordinary, but building hope is not.."*

# Home Build Projects

In 2023, we completed three home builds, and began a new, very special build which will be completed in 2024



The Tin-Aye family home was completed and dedicated on January 31, 2023.

Since then, Nourish Farms helped them build garden boxes in their yard.

The family recently stopped by and is getting ready for their One-year anniversary in the home.



The Kairys family home was completed and dedicated on May 23, 2023.

Brian is a single parent with four adult children. His youngest, Colin, who has VCFS, lives with him. The new home has brought them stability and joy.

Colin came to bring us a Thanksgiving card to show how thankful they are, and he was grinning from ear to ear. It totally made our day!



The Jackson family home marked our 50th home build for Habitat Lakeside. It was completed and dedicated on July 11, 2023.

Theresa, her daughter, and her mother were overjoyed at the walkthrough. They love feeling safe and secure in their own home.



## Our 51st Build for The Hernandez Perez Family

In the last quarter of 2023, we began a special build for the Hernandez Perez family.

Adriana and Demi are a dynamic mother-daughter duo who push through challenges with grace and determination. Their house is being built to accommodate future accessibility needs due to a degenerative muscular disease. It will be an ADA compliant, single story home set back far enough to add a ramp in front if eventually needed. The house will feature a roll-in shower, grab bars, wider doorways, suitable turning areas for a wheelchair, and an attached garage.

Groundbreaking took place in November, following removal of a large tree on the lot. Since then, the foundation was poured, a wall-raising ceremony was held, and many volunteer groups have donated time to help out on the build.

The house is expected to be completed in late spring of 2024. There are still volunteer and sponsorship opportunities available. Contact us at [loveinaction@habitatlakeside.com](mailto:loveinaction@habitatlakeside.com) to learn more.



## THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS



Thank you to the sponsors for the Hernandez Perez house, including lead sponsors Drexel Building Supply and Sargento Foods. Other major sponsors include First Congregational United Church of Christ Sheboygan, Georgia Pacific, Masters Gallery Foods, Unity Spiritual Center, Sartori Company, U.S. Bank Foundation, Wells Fargo Foundation, Whirlpool, and Wisconsin Public Service Foundation. Additional funding is still being sought for the project. To learn more about how you can support or fund Habitat for Humanity Lakeside's mission and housing programs in Sheboygan County, contact Niki Zohrab at 920-458-3399, ext. 302.



## Home Repair Projects

In 2023, we completed five home repair projects, ranging from the small needs of a current Habitat homeowner to a large heating and electrical update for a home.



### Rock The Block

During our September Rock the Block, we partnered with Sheboygan's Sheridan Park neighborhood.

Over the course of three days, we focused on eight home repair sites and four community service projects. The event kicked off on Thursday, September 21, which coincided with United Way's Day of Caring. Work continued on Friday, September 22, and the event came to a close on Saturday, September 23.

Around 130 people volunteered for this event, providing 850 hours of work, to give fellow neighbors a hand up.

## What's Coming

There's a lot coming in 2024. While we just had our 30th anniversary, we're hoping to make 2024 our best year yet.

On April 19, 2024, we'll hold our fundraising celebration event, "Raise The Roof." Invitations will be sent out once tickets are available for purchase, so be sure to save the date.

Also in spring, our open application session will begin. We're looking to build another home beyond the Hernandez Perez house in 2024. More information to come soon.

Beyond this, we are working on creating a whole calendar of events. We're hoping to be able to participate in the Spring Tour of Homes and the summer's Bike.Build.Home event. Planning for community improvement events like Rock the Block are in the works. And this year, we're hoping to add a Repurpose for a Reason community event!

Stay tuned - we'll keep you informed when details are finalized.



**Happy new year. We look forward to working with you in 2024!**

