



Spring | Summer 2020

Habitat

Highlights



PROGRESS AND PROGRAMS



Marquette County Habitat for Humanity (MCHFH) has a new home, and recently purchased property that will house our administrative offices for many years into the future. It is located on US 41 in Harvey, has an oversized two car garage (a great shop), and enough

property that allowed us to construct an additional warehouse for the Re-Store and our Construction Team.

First Covenant Church. Messiah Lutheran Church in Marquette has been a key player of Habitat's success in Marquette County. They were our first covenant church when MCHFH was established in 1992. Messiah provided office space in their church during our early years and eventually offered space in one of their adjacent houses to use as our office. In 2018, Messiah decided to get out of the landlord business and gave us an opportunity to purchase the building, but the building was sold instead since it did not fit our growth model. A big Thank You to Messiah Lutheran Church!

House Production. In looking at our progress and successes, we have built 105 homes in the County since the first home was built in 1993. At occupancy, each family signed a habitat mortgage equal to the cost to build their home. That mortgage money was and is used to build additional homes which allows us to serve more people. About 10 families have since paid off their mortgage and own their home outright. Several families have sold their homes on the open market and a few have had to deed the properties back to Habitat because they could not afford the homeownership responsibilities.

Repairs Program. In addition to building homes, MCHFH has participated in the Habitat Repairs Program since 2017. Habitat for Humanity International has encouraged affiliates in the US to expand their services to give low income homeowners a source for needed repairs. The types of repairs range from handicap ramps/bathrooms, windows, water heaters and furnaces, to siding and roofs. Applicants for this program must live in their own home, be lower-income, and willing to help pay a portion of the expenses or provide some form of sweat equity. MCHFH has completed 38 repairs for families in Marquette County, with several planned for 2020.

www.mqthabitat.org

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DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Hastings Crew: July 6
- Womens Build: Aug.6-8
- Build 106th Home 2020!

GET INVOLVED

- See **pg. 2** for Volunteer Application info!
- Homeowners or Repairs application at:
www.mqthabitat.org

POSITIONS OPEN!

- Family Selection Comm
- Volunteer Committee
- Church Committee

A MESSAGE FROM MIKE



It has been a long time since MCHFH has published an official Habitat newsletter and I apologize. In the past the newsletter responsibilities and many other functions were accomplished by a very active and responsible "Volunteer Committee". Volunteers on this committee have aged or gone on to other things. As a result, we tried to keep our donors and volunteers informed of our activities through social media outlets, but I do not think it has been as effective as a newsletter, so we are getting it corrected.

What happened with the Volunteer Committee has also happened to other Committees (church relations, building/site, family resource and selection, de-

velopment etc.) as well as our Board of Directors. Although the staff has picked up the slack from most of these committees, we need to bring volunteers back. We need to strengthen our committee structure and to help the staff manage the affiliate.

To everyone reading this note please enjoy the newsletter and consider volunteering. We need Board Members, Committee members and lots of construction volunteers. If you are interested or have any questions, please call the office, talk with Cindy, or feel free to call me personally...we look forward to hearing from you.

Mike Shimon, ED

"The goal with the Women Build is to empower women to help families build strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter." - Cindy Noble, Affiliate Support Manager

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COVID-19 UPDATES AT MCHFH



As many people and businesses in the Upper Peninsula get back to living and working during the Coronavirus time, Habitat for Humanity has prioritized the health and safety of the people in the communities we serve, as well as the staff, volunteers and partners who carry out our mission. Habitat for Humanity has instituted many preventative infection measures, including a written Covid Operations and Response Plan as directed by Executive Order 2020-59.

During this time of social distancing and Covid-19, Habitat for Humanity is still hard at work, pursuing many avenues to move forward our vision of a world where everyone has a decent place to live. Some of the prevention measures MCHFH has in place are:

- Maintaining 6ft. between workers
- Wearing protective face covering
- Avoid sharing tools with co-workers or volunteers
- Cleaning and disinfecting work surfaces, tools and equipments

We can all work together to stay safe and healthy, and to help people build strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter.

MCHFH OFFERS REPAIRS PROGRAM

Our Homeowner Occupied Repairs Program is an extension of Habitat's core building program. It allows us to serve a different population (existing homeowners), yet follow the same basic tenets for eligibility – demonstrated need, ability to pay, willingness to partner – and the Habitat model of providing a hand up, not a handout.

Many of our projects are considered critical home repairs. This is extensive interior or exterior work performed to address health and safety issues or code violations. Critical home repair includes such activities as a change to or repair of materials or components, such as a roof or a furnace; a reconfiguration of space; a modification for accessibility; or installation or extension of plumbing mechanical or electrical systems on an existing structure. If you are interested in applying for a home repair, or know someone else who can benefit from our services, please call Deanna Johnson at (906) 228-3578, email deanna@mqthabitat.org, or download the application from our website – www.mqthabitat.org.



RESTORE UPDATES

We at MCHFH are excited the ReStore is open. Staff and volunteers have been cleaning, disinfecting and prepping the store to allow regularly scheduled hours for customers. Our sales staff is here to help you find what you need. If you are still hesitant to venture out, give us a call and we will see if we can help you find what you're looking for. Please call us in advance to set up an appointment if you have a donation, and we are asking our customers to wear a mask. Currently

we are open reduced hours: Mon.-Fri. 11am – 6pm and Sat. 11am – 4pm. We plan to increase hours soon, so please call in advance to inquire: 906-249-4416. We have some great furniture in right now - including a wicker bedroom set, dressers and even snowshoes! Most of our volunteers are back, but we have openings in furniture repair, machine testing and cleaning and disinfecting donations. We hope to see you soon!

MASKS FOR MARQUETTE DONATIONS

Habitat for Humanity is an organization that helps bring communities and people together for a common cause, and with the Covid-19 epidemic it has been "communities in motion." MCHFH worked with Masks for Marquette, an organization that started in late March 2020 as the Covid-19 virus was at our doorstep. The first goal was for 10,000 masks to be distributed to healthcare workers, nursing homes, police/fire/EMS and others in Marquette County. That goal was increased to 20,000 as the need continued to increase. The current goal is to provide masks to all schools (students and adults) before they open in the fall. Masks for Marquette has hundreds of community members sewing and donating their time and talent to help fulfill the needs of our community. We want to recognize our staff members and volunteers, Coleen Store and Marisa Lackey, for the work they have done on this project to ensure our communities are safe.

HABITAT NEEDS YOU!

Volunteers are the backbone of Habitat for Humanity – it is how we help people build strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP:

- * Help on a home build
- * Assist with home repairs
- * Volunteer at the ReStore
- * Shop at the ReStore
- * Help in the office
- * Send a money donation
- * Contribute on our website
- * Volunteer your construction skills
- * Help with lunches for crews

Contact Cindy at MCHFH **today** to receive an application and get started:

cindy@mqthabitat.org
906-228-3578

www.mqthabitat.org
Like us on Facebook!

Volunteer Application:

1. www.mqthabitat.org
2. "Get Involved"
3. "Volunteer"
4. "Volunteer App"

PLEASE HELP DONATE TO OUR CAUSE:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Amount: _____

*Please cut this out and see reverse side for our mailing address - thank you!

Nonprof-
it Stamp
Info
PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE



Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5

Our 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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WOMEN BUILD EVENT IN MARQUETTE COUNTY!

Since 1991, Women Build volunteers from all walks of life have come together to build stronger, safer communities. Women across the country have not only built over **1,650** homes for Habitat for Humanity, but also helped finance them. The goal with the Women Build is to empower women to help families build strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter. We at Marquette County Habitat for Humanity have the ability to provide opportunities for hands-on learning, and given these tools, women can succeed in changing their communities and help finance projects.

No experience is necessary. Volunteers work under the guidance of construction professionals, and also alongside other volunteers and future Habitat homeowners. Whether you are learning new skills or simply adding a few to your tool belt, this is a rewarding experience for all involved, and improves the community that you share. The Women Build is a terrific way to work alongside friends and family in a collaborative atmosphere –
Come **JOIN US:**

Thursday, Aug. 6 – Saturday, Aug. 8 2020

Pick Your Day – Individuals or Teams – 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Free Lunch – T-shirt – Key Women Speakers – Swag

Individuals: \$35 Family (4-5 ppl): \$150 Group (6-8 ppl): \$200

Register: <https://mqthabitat.org/volunteer-opportunities/women-build/>

