



HABITAT HAPPENINGS



A Publication of Habitat for Humanity of Morrison County

Fall 2025



F & M Bank Contributes \$160,000

Farmers and Merchants State Bank of Pierz contributed \$40,000 to the Statewide Housing Tax Credit (SHTC) and then received a 3x match from the Federal Home Land Bank of Des Moines for a total contribution of \$160,000. These funds are a game-changer for our Morrison County Habitat affiliate. We are able to continue to provide affordable homeownership at a time when incomes are not rising at the same level as housing costs. We are so very thankful to F & M Bank for their continued partnership in providing volunteer teams for our builds, participating in our golf events, and now partnering in this grant opportunity. F & M truly embodies Habitat's mission to build homes, communities, and hope.

Pictured here are Mo Durham, Senior VP of F & M; Kathy Lange, Habitat ED; and Paula Pryzbilla, Home Lending Services Officer at F & M.



House #25 Update

The work on House #25 started in June, and we hope to have Annmarie, Zoe, and Paisley moved in by Thanksgiving. We are so thankful for all of the volunteers who helped build this home!

Aging in Place

This summer Brandon and the crew from North Haven Construction installed siding for a veteran outside of Pierz as part of our Aging in Place program. This program helps provide critical home repairs and modifications to allow seniors to feel safe and independent enough to remain in their home. Learn more on our website!



We Have Some Amazing Volunteers!

We are so grateful for all of the individuals and businesses that have been volunteering to help build House #25! We have had 61 different volunteers (businesses and individuals) work on this house, donating 321 hours of time, a value of over \$12,000!



DJ Products was called on short notice to help install trusses and they dropped everything to come help!



Long-time F & M Bank volunteers came again to help with some framing work!



Wabash sent eight employees for the exterior and interior framing work.



The great Propeak Construction crew again handled the shingling.



Nine Stearns Electric employees came and spent a morning installing insulation, poly, and siding.



Four Minnesota Power employees participated in our Women's Build and got the first coat of paint on the walls.



Seven Lakeshirts employees participated in our Women's Build and finished the interior painting.

We Have Some Amazing Donors!

We are grateful to each and every donor that supports our mission. We had 268 donors who contributed financially or in-kind from April-September 2025. A complete list of donors can be found on our website.

School Partnership Update

The partnership between HFHMC and the Little Falls High School is on track and we are excited to begin this multi-year project. This will be our first "development" and will include five homes across the street from the high school. The Carpentry Trades students will be assisting with the build and learning alongside our construction manager and volunteers. We are hoping to have the first foundation ready for framing for the start of the 2026-27 school year. This new partnership is evidence that Habitat's mission of Building Homes, Building Hope, and Building Community is a true testament to the work of affordable housing.

A message from the Executive Director

It's been a busy year at Habitat in Morrison County with the completion of another new home plus five Aging-in-Place projects. We are looking forward to our school partnership next year when the Little Falls High School Carpentry Trades classes will help build several homes near the school. This project will advance both the construction trades along with plumbing and electrical careers. HFHMC is honored to be a part of this strong community connection.

Every day there are families searching for affordable housing. Along with long waiting lists for rentals, there is limited availability for homeownership. Habitat for Humanity of Morrison County has been the only not-for-profit single family home builder in the county for 26 years. The need has never been greater. Our amazing community of volunteers helps keep costs down, but additional funds are needed to keep building more. Please include HFHMC in your year-end giving to ensure that more families have an opportunity for the most basic need: a simple, decent home where children can be safe, learn better, and be healthier. Your gift can make a life changing impact on families in our community. Together we achieve Habitat's mission of Building Homes, Building Hope and Building Community. Thank you!

– Kathy Lange, HFHMC Executive Director

You can return the self-addressed envelope with your contribution, or you can access online giving via the QR Code or by clicking DONATE on our website - www.hfhmorrisoncounty.org. You can also call 320-616-2084 to donate via credit card.

HFHMC is a 501c3 not-for-profit organization and your donation may be tax deductible according to IRS guidelines.

Thank you for keeping Habitat for Humanity in your giving priorities.



Tier II Cities Grant

The Tier II Cities Grant Program was awarded by Minnesota Housing through the City of Little Falls to HFHMC. The partnership proposal between HFHMC and the Little Falls School District will provide the opportunity for the LF High School Carpentry Trades class to build alongside Habitat volunteers and contractors. The students will be exposed to all aspects of building, including the electrical, HVAC and plumbing trades. The Tier II program is similar to funding through Morrison County's Statewide Affordable Housing Aid program which funded the cost of the land for this development. Tier II was initiated for cities with populations less than 10,000 to provide an opportunity to advance affordable housing in smaller towns. This grant award of \$220,000 will assist in funding infrastructure, permit costs, additional tools, and other development costs.



Tax Credit Opportunity - Feb 1, 2026

The 2026 State Housing Tax Credit will again be available Feb 1, 2026. If you or your business will owe more than \$1000 in MN state taxes, you can donate to our current project and receive a tax credit for 85% of your donation to be filed with your next tax return.

Learn more at <http://bit.ly/3KNb0kc>.

If you have any questions, please contact Kathy, HFHMC Executive Director, at 320-616-2084.

Family Selection Committee

Our Family Selection Committee is an important part of the application process. They are responsible for reviewing each application and recommending one applicant to be our next homeowner partner. We are excited to welcome Heather Brill as the Committee president, along with Sue Sperstad, Travis Johnson, and Raquel Lundberg to the committee. They will be joining Sister Julien Dirkes, Katie Kapus-Jackson, Diane Zalasyn, and Troy Olson.

HFHMC Board of Directors

- Dan Thielman, President
- Raquel Lundberg, Vice President
- Diane Korver, Treasurer
- Danette Ringwelski, Secretary
- Jerry Chandler
- Sister Julien Dirkes
- Travis Johnson
- Mike Trettel
- Stephanie Burg
- Sheila Watercott
- Bill Osberg

What Habitat does is much more than just sheltering people. It's what it does for people on the inside. It's that intangible quality of hope. We see Habitat homeowners do all kinds of things they never believed they could do before they moved into their house. By their own initiative, through their own pride and hope, they change.

~ Millard Fuller

Fundraiser Recap

In April we held our annual Ladies' Luncheon at First Lutheran Church in Little Falls. We want to thank ALL the amazing volunteers who helped (it takes a small army!), as well as those who donated raffle and auction items and desserts, Schultz Auctioneers for running the live auction, and Ciao Thyme for lunch. We had over 150 guests and raised over \$17,000!

Save the date for next year's luncheon on April 11, 2026!

Our golf tournament was held in June at Eagle's Landing in Fort Ripley. Edina Realty sponsored the event and we had sixteen teams of golfers. The event raised almost \$12,000. Big thanks to Paul & Kathy's Supermarket for donating brats, Pine Country Bank for sponsoring the ice cream truck, and all of those who volunteered or donated items for the raffle baskets.

Join us next year at the Little Falls Golf Course on June 8, 2026!

**Save the Date
2026 Events!**

**April 11, 2026
Ladies' Luncheon at
First Lutheran Church**

**June 8, 2026
Golf Tournament at
Little Falls
Golf Course**



www.hfhmorrisoncounty.org

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