



THE HAMMER

A Publication of Habitat for Humanity of Morrison County

Spring 2022



Happy New Homeowners: Katie, Sierra, & RJ!

Katie Pekula, homeowner partner #21, and her children RJ (4) and Sierra (6), were thrilled to move into their new home on the west side of Little Falls at the end of March. It has already changed their lives so much.

Katie says, "This home has made a huge impact on myself and my two children Sierra and RJ. For the first time, my four year old son has his own room with his own bed. Before, he shared a bed with me. I thought it was going to be hard to transition him to sleep in his own room. To my surprise, the first night home he slept in his own room and has been ever since. Since moving into our new home, RJ has been having really good days at school. Before, every day was a rough day. His teachers would tell me he wasn't listening or was acting out. My fridge is currently covered in "Proud" notes from RJ's teachers from all of the good days he has been having. Sierra is very proud of her room. Every morning she makes her bed and she keeps it very organized without me having to tell

her to. She loves that she has an area to read all of her books. Sierra and RJ enjoy helping me with house chores and picking up the yard. It is such a relief to come home to a clean new home that we all have a space in. We are all the happiest we have been in a long time."

Katie was gifted a lovely quilt from the Prairie Point Quilters, presented by Mary Fuechtmann, and the kids received quilts made by the students at Children First Christian Preschool.

Little Falls Construction Technology Students Give Back

HFHMC Board Member Sheila Watercott notified us that the Little Falls High School Construction Technology students, under the direction of Eric LeBlanc, was looking for spring projects. The class built a great outdoor storage shed for Katie's yard.

Mr. LeBlanc says, "My students learned the importance of working together as a team and the value of giving back to the community. Many have said they are interested in helping out with a future habitat house. It is very satisfying for me to hear my students talk about building things in the future. I am very confident that this group of guys have the skills needed to build houses and garages in the future. Almost everyone in this class is going on to post-secondary education in the construction or manufacturing field."

We thank Mr. LeBlanc and his class for their work, and we are excited about continuing this partnership with them.



Pictured L to R:

Eric LeBlanc, LFHS Teacher; Katie Pekula, Homeowner; Students: Dylan Becker, Evan Kimman, Trevor Kloeckl, Zac Copa, Ashton Schwinn, Zach LeBlanc, Ryan Kloeckl, Patrick Brisk, Chris Statema; and Sheila Watercott, HFHMC Board Member.

Angela Hurrele has been selected as homeowner partner #22. Congratulations, Angela! Her home will be started very soon. Watch for more information in the fall newsletter.



Golf Tournament - June 13

The 20th Annual Habitat golf tournament is coming up! Join us on Monday, June 13 at Eagle's Landing in Fort Ripley. The tournament is an 18-hole, 4-person scramble. Your \$400/team registration fee includes 18 holes with cart, welcome basket, food on the course, buffet dinner, hole-in-one & specialty holes, awards for longest drive and putt, plus other fun. Raffle tickets will also be available for purchase. Hole Sponsorships are also available for \$100.

Email info@hfhmorrisoncounty.org or call 320-616-2084 for a registration form. This is sure to be a fun day, and we are limiting the registration to 18 teams, so don't delay!

Thank you Edina Realty

We want to give a big thank you to Edina Realty in Little Falls for sponsoring our golf tournament once again. They have sponsored this event for all 20 years, and we are so grateful for their continued support.

Pictured (L to R) is the team from Edina Realty in Little Falls. Back row: Jim Eisler, Tom Scherling, Aaron Colombe, Marv Hoheisel, Katie Bahma, Travis Johnson, Becky Monson, Krista Czech. Front Row: TJ Hoheisel, Cindy Scholl, Karen Berglund



Our Office has a New Home!

After 25 years of having our offices in The Bank of the West at 65 East Broadway in Little Falls, we are now happy to call First Lutheran Church our new home. Located at 2100 Riverview Drive (the A-frame church by Hwy 10), First Lutheran has proved to be a welcoming, homey place for our office staff to call home.

Pastor Beth Pottratz of First Lutheran Church says, "God has given us the gift of a building that is underused during the week and inviting Habitat for Humanity to move their office into our building gives us an opportunity to share this gift with the community in a new way. It is mutually beneficial as Habitat's main need for building space is at opposite times of the day and week from First Lutheran's building space needs. Having Habitat for Humanity in particular makes discipleship sense. Habitat for Humanity and First Lutheran's missions and discipleship calls align smoothly. At First Lutheran, our mission statement states that we are a group of followers of Christ engaged in the world around us. Habitat for Humanity is a Christian organization with a very specific way in which followers of Christ engage in the world, by putting God's love in action through building homes and reducing cost-burdened housing in Morrison County."

Kathy Lange, HFHMC Executive Director, was excited when Pastor Beth approached with the idea of sharing space with First Lutheran. She says, "Since Habitat for Humanity's vision is Serving God, Building Homes, and Building Community, it's a perfect fit to have the Habitat office located at First Lutheran Church."



Our new home! First Lutheran Church, 2100 Riverview Drive



Excited to partner together: Reverend Beth Pottratz of First Lutheran Church; Carl Rydeen, FLC Council President; Kathy Lange, HFHMC Executive Director; and Linda Mueller, FLC Council Secretary.

HFHMC Board of Directors

Kevin Hoskins - President
Bill Osberg - Vice President
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Jerry Chandler
Diane Korver

**Are you passionate about
affordable housing?
Consider joining the HFHMC
board of directors!**

Thank You to Our Outgoing Board Members



Kevin Hoskins, Fort Ripley, and Caroline Wadman, Little Falls, will both be leaving Habitat for Humanity as of July 1, 2022 after each serving six years on the Board of Directors.

They both became members in 2016 with Kevin serving two years as Vice President and two years as President. Caroline has served two years as Treasurer and two years as the Secretary.

Thank you both for your service and for your leadership roles in the support of affordable housing across Morrison County.

Seeds of Kindness Ladies' Luncheon Recap

About 140 guests attended the Seeds of Kindness Ladies' Luncheon - Habitat's annual spring fundraiser. It was held Saturday, April 2 at First Lutheran Church. After taking two years off due to Covid restrictions, we were so excited to host this event again.

Twenty-one table hostesses dressed their tables to impress, and they and their guests enjoyed coffee from Reality Roasters and a delicious turkey-wild rice salad with lettuce cups, courtesy of The A. T. Black and White, and served by The Little Falls Exchange Club.



The Little Falls Dandee Lions Club had a beautiful yellow table!

The attendees got to hear from the new owner of House #21, Katie Pekula, as well as Amanda Payne-Bramstedt, whose family was the recipient of a home from Lakes Area Habitat back in 1999.

Also included in the festivities were a jewelry raffle with three gorgeous options from Goldsmith Jewelers, twenty-eight great raffle baskets donated by local businesses and individuals, a dessert auction featuring fourteen delectable desserts by local bakers, and a live auction with some great prizes including a Pine Grove Zoo encounter, a pair of kayaks donated by Edward Jones Investments, pizza for a year from Domino's Pizza, two beautiful quilts, and several other exciting items. Marv Hoheisel was the auctioneer, and did a great job loosening those purse strings.

New and exciting this year was a designer purse silent auction. Eight designer purses were featured, with brands including Coach, Michael Kors, and Kate Spade.

Platinum Cosmetics and Curves sponsored the event and were on hand to chat with ladies about their services. Also sponsoring the event were American Legion Post 46, Paradox Chiropractic, and Farmers and Merchants Bank.

All together, the event netted \$15,030, which will help build house #22. Thank you for your support!

We are looking forward to next year, and hope you'll join us! Keep an eye out for a "save the date" notice in the fall newsletter. If you'd like to be a table hostess, buy a ticket to attend, sponsor the event, or donate an item or service for the raffle or live auction, or volunteer, let us know!



Katie Pekula, our partner for House #21

Thank you for your support!

Special thank you to the businesses, foundations, grants, and churches that have offered their support of \$500 or more from November 1, 2022 - April 30, 2022:

First United Church
Faith Lutheran Church
MC United Way
US Bank
Centerpoint Energy

Edina Realty
Sourcewell
Stearns Electric
LF Exchange Club



At the Seeds of Kindness Luncheon, the Little Falls Exchange Club waited on all of the guests, and also donated \$2,000 towards House #22. Pictured here (L to R) is Ray Schulte, Exchange Club member; Tina Yorek, HFHMC Administrative Assistant; Josh Dahl, Exchange Club member; Justin Bieganek, Exchange Club member; Kathy Lange, HFHMC Executive Director; Shawn Flavin, Exchange Club member; Kevin Hoskins, HFHMC Board President.

Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers to help build house #22 in Little Falls. We love volunteers with building experience, but are happy to train willing helpers. You can come once or you can come every day.

We will also be planning a special "women's build" event, so if you and some girlfriends would like to come help out, it's always a fun, empowering time.

If swinging a hammer isn't for you, we can also use help behind the scenes in the office, helping with fundraisers, or providing meals and snacks for build workers.

There's a spot for everyone, so please contact us at (320) 616-2084 or info@hfhmorrisoncounty.org.

Special thanks to Mel Euteneuer and Cheryl Hoskins for volunteering their time as our financial advisors.

If you'd like to make a donation towards the building of House #22, you can send it to HFHMC, PO Box 321, Little Falls, MN 56345!

www.hfhmorrisoncounty.org
Email: info@hfhmorrisoncounty.org
320-616-2084
Little Falls, MN 56345
2100 Riveriew Drive
PO Box 321

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