



# HABITAT HAPPENINGS



A Publication of Habitat for Humanity of Morrison County

Fall 2024

## Wabash Volunteers

Wabash supports our community by paying their employees for volunteering in lieu of their regular work. All together, 31 volunteers completed 204 hours of construction time which saves over \$7,400 in labor costs on House 24! They also donated \$1,000. Thank you Becky Vetsch, HR Manager at Wabash for coordinating this great team.



Pictured here from left to right: Larry Sassen, Mike Kochen, Anthony Fuchs, Gabe Rybaski, Derek Anderson, Todd Gabel, Annessa Wills, Dominik Waytashek, Andrew Hasbargen, Mary Kuchinski, Robert Retka, Jayme Fietek, John Peck, Kathi Wright, Jeff Long, Loren Sutton, Jason Corriveau, Trent Siegel, Roger Seelen, Nicole Boone, Bill Goodwin, Don Gerads, Cari Kaping, Derrick Gilman, Kris Crosby, Robert Billig, Troy Block, Dean Hodel, Paul Gapinski.  
Not Pictured: Mitchell Peterson, Brian Schmeda

## Donate to Habitat instead of paying your taxes!

The State Housing Tax Credit Program and Contribution Fund is a new way to help finance affordable housing in the state of Minnesota. 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.

For example, if you need to pay in \$1,700 on your Minnesota state income taxes as a business or an individual, you can donate \$2,000 to our current project. You will receive a certificate for a \$1,700 tax credit and we will receive a \$2,000 donation! This is a win-win situation, and we encourage you to take advantage of it! The tax credits are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

More information is available at <https://www.mnhousing.gov/shtc-contribution.html>.

If you have any questions, please contact Kathy, HFHMC Executive Director, at 320-616-2084 or [klange@hfhmorrisoncounty.org](mailto:klange@hfhmorrisoncounty.org)

To contribute to our current project, scan the code or visit

[www.bit.ly/shtcapplication](http://www.bit.ly/shtcapplication)



When you apply, you will enter:

**Project Name:**

House 25 Morrison County

**Developer:**

Habitat for Humanity of Morrison County

**Contact Phone and Email:**

320-616-2084

[klange@hfhmorrisoncounty.org](mailto:klange@hfhmorrisoncounty.org)

## House 24 Women's Build

Our recent Women's Build Paint Party was a big success. We did three different days and had 15 ladies volunteered 71 hours of time. They painted all of the trim and molding and walls for House #24 and it looks fantastic. Thank you for your hard work!

## 2025 Upsala Build Update

This fall we accepted three applications to build a house in Upsala in the summer of 2025. The applications have gone to our selection committee, who is reviewing the applicants based on their need for housing, willingness to partner, and ability to pay an affordable mortgage.

## Little Falls Lions Club Donation

The Little Falls Lions recently donated \$2000 to support affordable housing in Morrison County!



Pictured here are Dr. Peter Germscheid, LFLC; Kathy Lange, HFHMC; Mark Verkuilen, LFLC; and Bill Osberg, HFHMC

## 2024 Golf Tournament - June

We had a very successful 22nd annual HFHMC Golf Tournament at Eagle's Landing in Fort Ripley. Seventy-two golfers, 21 hole sponsors, and 10 volunteers raised \$11,887 to support affordable housing right here in Morrison County.

### Tournament winners were

**1st Place:** Birchwood Resort  
**Tie for 2nd:** Little Falls Lions  
Premier Real Estate

Thank you to all the teams, sponsors, and volunteers who made it such a great day. Join us next year on Monday, June 9, 2025!



We have the best volunteers! Here are volunteers from Wabash and the community working alongside our homeowner partner.

## Thank You!

**Thank you to our generous friends who donated to Habitat in April-November 2024:** Alan Prozinski, Albert Nelson, Amanda Craft, Andrea Lauer, Angela Petersen, Anna Hansen, Ardys Erickson, Aubrey Hoggarth Cook, Bob Keeton, Brenda Smith, Brittany Grams, Carolyn Fruechte, Cathy Adamek, City Sanitary Service, Colleen Johnson, Dan Thilquist, Darla Robertson, Dave Stish, David Ciminski, David Katka, Dianne Spillum, Domino's Pizza, Don & Sheri Feige, Dorothy Ratzlaff, Ed Lavern, Falls Court Dentists, Falls Fabricating, Farmers & Merchants State Bank, Festler Land Surveying, Franciscan Sisters Of Little Falls, Frank & Brenda Weber, Fred Waltman, Frosty's Bar and Grill, Gary Gannon, Hanneken Insurance, Jack Christofferson, James Spiczka, Jana Festler, JB Schommer Insurance, Jesse Cochran, Jessica Thielen, John Dockstader, Jon Swenson, Julie Bell, Kevin Evans, Larson Abstract Service, Laverne Bzdok, Linda Conley, Lindsey Nagorski, Little Falls Exchange Club, Little Falls Lions Club, Lone Eagle Auto Club, Lucy Tanner, Lynn McCarthy, Magnifi Financial, Margaret Lundberg, Marilyn Jelinski, Marlin Parker, Marshall Tanick, Marshik Ins. Agency, Mary Barnes, Mary Schneider, Helen Neudecker, Mid Mn Fed. Credit Union, Mike Trettel, Miller Welle Heiser, Morrie's - Little Falls, Morrison County United Way, North Haven Construction, Northland Drilling, Oasis Central MN, Paul Given, Phil Force, Pierz Lions Club, Pizza Ranch, Prokott Remodeling, Randall/Cushing Lions, Rev. Beth Pottratz, Richard Knopik, Rod Miller, Roger Johnson, Ron Makela, RTO PA, Ruth Schmoll, Rydeen Aviation, Sharon Gehrke, Sherling Rentals, Sheryl & Dennis Bengtson, State Farm Insurance, Ted & Mary Pfohl, Terry Bernardy, Theresa Zenner, Thielen Meats Little Falls, Vicki Krueger, Wabash, Walter Beneke, Wiczek Floors & More, Zach Klosowski

## A message from the Executive Director

House #24 broke ground on July 10<sup>th</sup> for the Cassandra Zylka family. With a stream of community volunteers, this affordable home for her and her children is like “winning the lottery”, in Cassandra’s own words. The family is looking forward to spending Thanksgiving in their new home! With the continued increase in building costs, we saw exceptional generosity in our local community. Wabash employees first kicked off the framing and then came back to install siding and fascia working side by side with Dan, our dedicated construction manager. Doug Prokott Construction and his crew donated their time installing the trusses. Propeak Construction helped with the roof and North Haven Construction donated the labor and shingles to complete the roof. We saw the true mission of Habitat for Humanity come to life in House #24: Building Homes, Building Hope, and Building Community!

With the loss of USDA funding this year, we are so grateful for the extra generosity. If you are not able to volunteer, you can also impact local housing with an annual gift. There is also a new State Housing Tax Credit contribution program that allows taxpayers to convert their state income tax obligation to a tax credit of 85% of their contribution. Instead of paying the MN Department of Revenue, you can contribute your tax dollars through Minnesota Housing and those funds are directly sent to Habitat for Humanity of Morrison County. Keeping those dollars local is a definite WIN! As we look forward to building House #25, we thank you for all your continued support! – 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](http://www.hfhmorrisoncounty.org). You can also call 320-616-2084 to donate via credit card.**

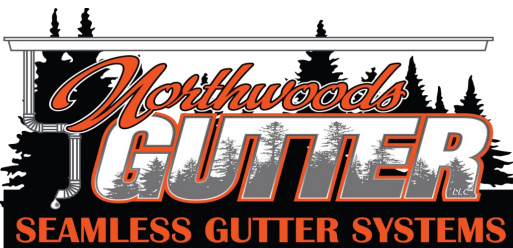
HFHMC is a 501c3 not-for-profit organization and your donation may be tax deductible according to IRS guidelines. Thank you for keeping Habitat for Humanity in your giving priorities.

*Donate Today!*



**Extra thank yous go out to all of the businesses that donated time and/or materials to House 24. We appreciate your generosity and support!**

**WABASH™**



**Central Home Comfort  
Plumbing & Heating**

## HFHMC Board of Directors

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

***“The journey to buy a home  
is the first brick in the  
foundation of your future.”***

## New Board Members

**Mike Trettel** has served on the Board of Directors years ago and is back to serve again! He has been a consistent volunteer with many construction skills! Last year, he was the volunteer with the most construction hours at 99 total hours for House 23. He is a retired county appraiser and has also recently served on the Oasis Central MN board of directors and his church council.

**Stephanie Burg** began volunteering for HFHMC two years ago with her students at the Royalton High School with the Royalton Business Professionals group. Stephanie has been a business teacher and accounting lead for Central Specialties. She currently works for INH Properties, has served as treasurer on the Alexandria Tech Tennis Association and is excited to be more involved in Habitat’s mission.

Welcome to Mike and Stephanie!

**Save the Date**  
**2025 Events!**  
April 12, 2025  
Ladies' Luncheon  
June 9, 2025  
Golf Tournament

PO Box 321  
2100 Riverview Drive  
Little Falls, MN 56345  
320-616-2084  
www.hfhmorrisoncounty.org



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