



# a year of progress

# 2023 Annual Report

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## Message from our

# Executive Director & Board Chair

#### Dear Friends & Supporters,

As we reflect on the accomplishments and milestones of 2023, we are filled with gratitude for your unwavering support and dedication to the mission of Wichita Habitat for Humanity. Together, we have achieved remarkable progress in our efforts to provide safe and affordable housing for families in need.

In 2023, with your generous contributions and tireless efforts, we were able to repair 31 homes and construct 16 new homes alongside hardworking Habitat families. Because of your support, 37 children now have a safe place to call home—a gift that will positively impact their lives for years to come.

Beyond the tangible results of our work, it is important to recognize the profound impact of your service on our community. Your commitment to volunteering your time and skills has been truly inspiring. In 2023 alone, over 2,300 individual volunteers dedicated over 30,000 hours to our cause. The IRS has valued these volunteer hours

at an astounding \$1.1 million, highlighting the immense value of our volunteers as our most valuable asset.

Many of you worked tirelessly alongside others, generously sharing your expertise and guidance to ensure the success of our projects. Your gifts of teaching, coaching, and patience have been invaluable, laying the foundation for stronger, more resilient communities.

As we look ahead to 2024, we are excited to embark on new partnerships and opportunities for growth. One significant development on the horizon is our upcoming move to a new location on Opportunity Drive. This move represents a new chapter in our organization's journey and will enable us to better serve the needs of our community.

We are immensely grateful for your continued support and partnership as we work together to build brighter futures for families in Wichita. Your dedication and generosity truly make a difference, and we look forward to the continued impact we will achieve together in the years to come.

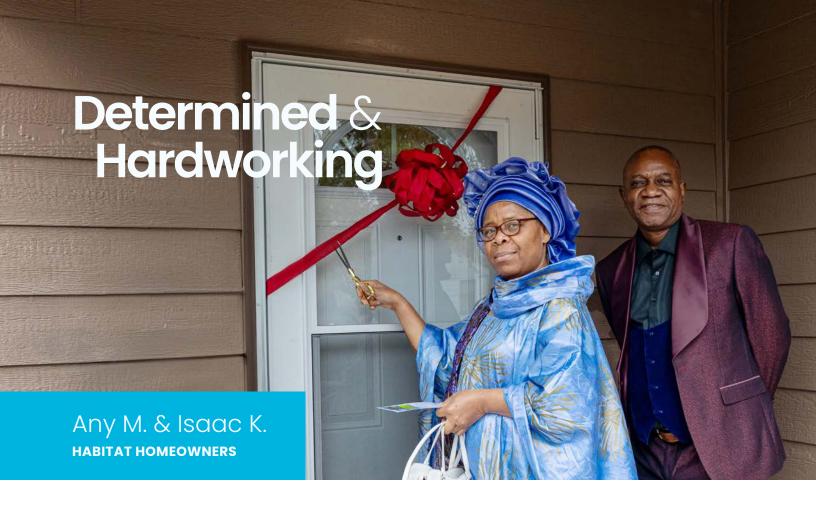
### Danielle Johnson

**Executive Director** 

#### Chris **Bohm**

**Board Chair** 





Isaac and Any, a determined couple who immigrated to the United States from the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2018, have chased the dream of a spacious and affordable home for their family. They landed jobs at Master Brand soon after their arrival, showcasing their hardworking nature. With seven children, their three-bedroom residence lacked privacy and offered little room for their growing family.

Driven to provide a better living environment for their children, Isaac and Any discovered Wichita Habitat for Humanity and its homeownership program. This aligned perfectly with their desire for homeownership and offered the stability they craved. The application process was successful, and both Isaac and Any eagerly began to prepare for their future home.

Their journey towards homeownership wasn't without its challenges. They participated in the Riverfest Panel Build in June and also put in 400 hours of sweat equity into the construction of their new home over several months. This wasn't their only commitment; they also dedicated 40 hours to financial literacy classes and worked with a dedicated budget coach. Their commitment to financial responsibility is a testament to their

dedication to long-term success.

October 27, 2023 marked a momentous day for Isaac, Any, and their entire family. Through hard work, perseverance, and a commitment to learning, they finally purchased their home – a spacious and affordable haven where their children can thrive. This wouldn't have been possible without the support of the sponsors and volunteers who helped them throughout the homeownership process. Isaac and Any are undoubtedly filled with gratitude for the opportunity it provided.

"It's a blessing and we are truly grateful," Isaac said as he provided the house blessing during their home dedication ceremony.





# Affiliate Overview

We build strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter.

Wichita Habitat for Humanity is an independent affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, a non-profit organization that strives to create a world where everyone has access to safe and affordable housing. Since 1986, we've partnered with families in Wichita and Sedgwick County to build or improve their living situations. We achieve this by providing opportunities for homeownership through affordable mortgages, homebuyer counseling, and neighborhood revitalization initiatives. Our mission is to bring people together to build homes, communities, and hope.



315

# Homes Built and Sold to Families Since 1986

We've had a 95% mortgage payment success rate for very low-income families since our inception.



16

# New Home Constructions in 2023

Over 157 adults and 261 children live in affordable homes within Rock the Block neighborhood since 2014.



31

# Homes Repaired in 2023

Rehabilitation efforts ensure homeowners can remain in their cherished neighborhoods.

# Vision. Mission. Values.

# Vision.



A world where everyone has a decent place to live.

# Mission.



Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.

# Our Values.

## **Housing for All**

We believe that access to safe, decent, and affordable housing is a basic human right that should be available to all.

# **Human Dignity**

We believe in the worth and dignity of every human being, and respect the people we serve. We recognize those who help us in this effort are our greatest resource.

## **Partnership**

We believe we can achieve our mission through meaningful and mutually-beneficial partnerships.

### **Faith in Action**

We believe that faith is lived through action. We serve and work with people of all faiths and beliefs in a spirit of justice and compassion.

## **Diversity & Inclusiveness**

We believe there is a role for everyone committed to our vision, mission, and values, and we seek to enrich our organization through diversity.

# a year of progress

As we wrap up another year of serving our community through affordable housing, we would like to thank everyone who made this year possible!



# **January**

Over 200 volunteers and future homebuyers participated to build wall panels in the annual MLK Day of Service at Century II.



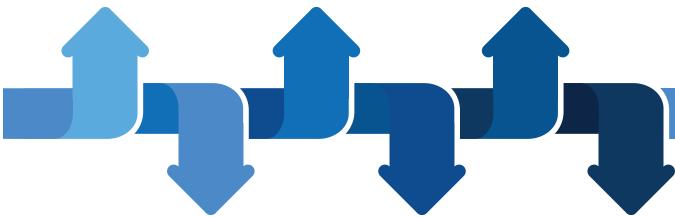
# March

We ended a breezy March with a beautiful wall-raising celebration with Textron Aviation and future homebuyer, Julius.

# May

Instead of holding our Raise the Roof fundraiser, we partnered with Wichita Area Builders Association's Professional Women in Building to host Wine, Whiskey, & Whimsy.







# February

We hosted an empowering Women's Power Lunch gathering more than 175 women to hear an inspiring panel of leaders and meet our homebuyer, Juliana.

# **April**

Our Homeowner Services hosted many different educational classes and homebuyer information sessions. Sessions were offered in both English and Spanish.



### June

We hosted a panel team build at Riverfest and partnered with Brickmob to create a mural!





# July

Koch Industries celebrated their 11th home build as family partner Josee raised the walls to her future home.

# September

Naomi was our 100th homebuyer in Rock the Block neighborhood and celebrated the occasion with a panel build!



## November

ReStore Wichita snagged 1st place for Exhibitor's Choice in the 2023 Mark Arts Holiday Tables Display, "Escape the Ordinary."



# August

We were humbled to be chosen as a 2023 honoree in the Wichita Business Journal's Diversity & Inclusion Awards, being recognized for taking the extra steps in our workplace to make an inclusive and equitable environment a priority.



# **December**

We hosted our annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, celebrating our core volunteers, staff, and partners.





Wichita Habitat for Humanity

Wichita Habitat for Humanity's vision for a resale store began in 2002. At the time, the organization sought a spacious location (at least over 16,000 sq. ft.) to launch the innovative concept, the HomeMart (now known as the ReStore). A year later, the first ReStore Wichita opened its doors at Towne West Square.

Driven by a commitment to better serve the community, the ReStore relocated to a larger space at the southwest corner of Harry and Hillside. In 2012, the store moved again, finding its current home at the Plaza West Shopping Center. The ReStore's commitment to growth continued in 2018, when the sales floor was doubled within Plaza West, taking over the Walmart Neighborhood Market, expanding from 19,800 sq. ft. to a generous 31,000 sq. ft.

ReStore Wichita provides a unique shopping experience, attracting over 55,000 customers in fiscal year 2023 and achieving record sales of over \$1.4 million. These impressive numbers translate to significant support for Wichita Habitat's mission of building strong communities.

**Donations are the lifeblood of the ReStore Wichita.** To learn more about donating and supporting the store, visit **wichitahabitat.org/restore/donate** or scan the QR code.

# "I am beyond blessed by Habitat for Humanity's home repair program."





Wichita Habitat for Humanity's home repair program fixes essential repairs for low-income homeowners to ensure their safety and well-being. A repair applicant, Karen, owned a home that was in bad shape due to leaking windows and rotten siding. The program helped Karen by replacing her siding, painting it, replacing gutters and windows, and installing a new front door. Karen is grateful for Wichita Habitat's assistance.

"My home was bad — really bad," Karen said. "Every time I come home and see my house, it's like having a new house."





210

attendees in informational sessions

**35** 

FREE educational classes offered

**767** 

in attendance for educational classes

Wichita Habitat for Humanity empowers local families and individuals by offering comprehensive support in the pursuit of homeownership. Through providing expert guidance on budgeting, credit repair, debt reduction, and home retention, we enable our family partners with financial control. In addition, our educational classes are open to the public to empower all families in our community.

Through our home repair and new home construction programs, we improve living standards. We also cultivate attainable homeownership opportunities with our affordable mortgages. We forge partnership with families and the community to provide homes and foster stability and success.





18

**Block** 

homes started

15

homes completed and sold

51

people now have a safe and affordable place to call home As the City of Wichita grows, rent has increased, home prices have skyrocketed, and affordable housing has become harder to come by. This last year has been challenging, but that challenge hasn't looked the same for all of us. There is a shortage of 50,000 housing units in Sedgwick County. People with low incomes were already struggling to pay the high cost of rent and these same households have been hit the hardest by the pandemic. Homes are essential for protection from so many things, including COVID-19, heat waves, tornadoes, wildfires, and thunderstorms.

To meet this crisis head on, we've been working hard to make an impact in our community by advocating for policies that affect affordable housing solutions, and by raising funds to support the development of new homes. We also welcomed more volunteer opportunities to help with everything from construction projects to administrative tasks.

Wichita Habitat for Humanity offers a beacon of hope for those who once saw homeownership as an impossible dream. Their affordable homes are built with mortgages that stay within families' means, ensuring lasting stability for generations to come.

# From Rent to **Homeownership**



Celeste wasn't always on the path to homeownership. For years, she navigated the Wichita rental market , a renter at the mercy of ever-increasing prices. "It felt like I was constantly starting over," she remembers. The dream of a permanent home, a place to put down roots and build a secure future, seemed distant.

Then, in 2017, Celeste volunteered with Wichita Habitat for Humanity. It was there that the seeds of possibility were first sown. She learned about the affordable housing program, designed to help first-time homebuyers like herself achieve the dream of homeownership. A conversation with a former coworker further solidified Celeste's resolve.

"I realized this was a great opportunity," Celeste explains. "I will have a foundation and stability. I will have the peace of mind that I believe comes with a home." The chance to own a home, not just rent one, was an opportunity to build financial security and become a part of a community.

The path to homeownership wasn't without its challenges and requirements. Celeste diligently completed 250 sweat equity hours, working alongside others to build her own home and those of her soon-to-be neighbors. She also took financial literacy and home maintenance courses, gaining valuable knowledge that would prepare her for the responsibilities of homeownership.

That hard work paid off. Celeste is no longer a renter beholden to the whims of the market. She became a homeowner in March 2023 with a stable, affordable mortgage payment. The house she helped build is not just a place to live, it's a testament to her determination and a foundation for a brighter future. Wichita Habitat for Humanity's affordable housing program empowers individuals like Celeste to achieve the dream of homeownership, replacing the uncertainty of rent with the stability and security of a home.





We partner with qualified families and offer home repair services so homeowners can continue to live in safe, decent homes for years to come. Some of our home repair work includes painting, landscaping, weatherization, and minor repair services to preserve home interiors and exteriors and revitalize neighborhoods.

31

homes repaired in 2023

**56** 

average age of homeowner (with about half being over the age of 60)

\$15,129

average project cost





# Home Improvement: **Before & After**

**Before:** A Victorian home in Wichita, KS, stood testament to time's passage. The once vibrant paint, a relic of a bygone era, was now peeling, revealing weathered wood beneath. Rotting wood siding marred the façade, its structural integrity compromised.

**After:** We stepped in, breathing new life into this historic gem. Through our home repair program, the house underwent a remarkable transformation. Rotting wood siding was meticulously replaced, restoring the home's structural integrity and curb appeal. The porch was rebuilt, ensuring a safe and inviting entryway. A fresh coat of paint, chosen with careful consideration for the home's historical significance, brought back its vibrant colors and architectural details.

Housing is foundational to the success, strength, and stability for each of us. And at Wichita Habitat for Humanity, we believe everyone deserves a decent place to live. To accomplish this, we work side by side with Wichita-area homeowners to make the critical repairs necessary to keep them safe and stable in their homes.





# Volunteers

Volunteerism is a core value within Habitat's mission. Each volunteer has a tremendous impact on supporting and making the dream of affordable homeownership come true for individuals and families in Wichita and around Sedgwick County.

After closing volunteer opportunities temporarily during the pandemic, we welcomed back individual volunteers and groups to the build sites and at our ReStore Wichita. Not only were previous roles reopened, but new volunteer opportunities were created to support the organization's growth and impact.





2,303 total volunteers



27,688 construction volunteer hours

6,373 non-construction volunteer hours

# ReStore



The ReStore is a critical component in the sustainability of our work – every purchase, donation, and volunteer hour breathes life into our mission of providing safe, affordable homes. At ReStore Wichita, we are committed to increasing the community's access to low-cost building materials and home improvement supplies, diverting reusable items from the landfill, and supporting our affordable housing programs. This year, ReStore Wichita achieved record sales.

# Accomplishments in 2023



**\$1,418,784** in sales (record-achieving sales)



38,000+ transactions



**225,489** donated items

# Salvaging materials from demolition and remodeling projects

A home on Killarney Court became a treasure hunt for ReStore Wichita in December!

Before the house came down, our crew swooped in, salvaging materials such as doors, cabinets, and patio stones. Reborn at ReStore, these finds help support Wichita Habitat for Humanity's mission of providing affordable housing solutions. Every purchase wasn't just a sale, it was a chance to give something old a new beginning.







# Habitat on the Hill 2023:

Advocacy for Impact



# #CostOfHome

Wichita Habitat for Humanity supported state and national advocacy efforts by attending Day at the Dome in Topeka, KS and Habitat on the Hill 2023 in Washington, D.C. Through these efforts, we advocated Habitat's legislative priorities and shared with our legislators the importance of HOME, SHOP, and USDA Section 502 Direct Loans that are important to our mission of providing safe, affordable homes.

Additionally, we led efforts to support the Cost of Home campaign through Habitat for Humanity International. We collectively worked with all constituents to create and advocate for policies that support affordable housing.

We also held **three Legislative Build** dates in 2023.



participants advocated at Habitat on the Hill



participants advocated at Day at the Dome



Wichita Habitat for Humanity teamed up with legislators, officials, and community members to build a home on three different days during our Legislative Build. Participants helped construct, paint, and clean, all while learning about the importance of affordable housing in Kansas. This unique experience fostered connections and highlighted the need for ongoing support!





# Audited Financials

## Revenue

Total Revenue	\$4,964,190
Other Income	(40,643)
Home Repair	367,244
Construction	0
Grants	
Home Repair	2,098
Construction/Mortgage-related*	2,078,499
ReStore	1,430,312
Contributions	1,126,680

# **Expenses**

Total Expenses	\$5,123,504
Volunteer Services	81,867
ReStore	1,256,077
Program	371,584
Homeowner Services	83,424
Home Repair	618,830
Fundraising	218,782
Construction	2,210,658
Advocacy	10,238
Administrative	272,044

<sup>\*</sup> Construction/Mortgage-related includes \$292,438.35 of Gift-in-Kind Construction.



**36%** Construction/Mortgage-related

+6% Gift-in-Kind Construction

28% ReStore

**22%** Contributions

**7%** Home Repair & Grants

-1% Other Income



**5%** Administrative

<1% Advocacy

**43%** Construction

**4%** Fundraising

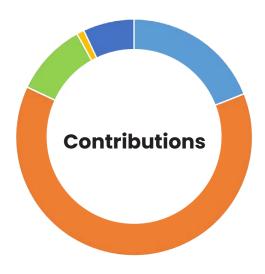
**12%** Home Repair

**2%** Homeowner Services

**7%** Program

**25%** ReStore

2% Volunteer Services



**19%** Individuals

**63%** Businesses/Organizations

**10%** Foundations/Trusts

1% Churches

**7%** Gifts in Kind



## **STAFF** as of December 31, 2023

**Amy Baptista** Finance & Program Associate

#### **Kimberly Crenshaw**

Finance Director

#### **Mike Crowe**

Home Repair Carpenter

#### **Don Cupery**

Home Repair General Contractor

#### **Dana Enegren**

Senior Finance Associate

#### **Katharine Franco**

Homeowner Services Manager

#### **Katie Frank**

**Development Director** 

#### **Danielle Johnson**

**Executive Director** 

#### Sue Kloosterman

**Development Associate** 

#### **Brian Knolla**

**Construction Coordinator** 

#### Dana Korkki

General Contractor

#### **Brianna Leader**

Receptionist

#### **Kathy Lefler**

Marketing & Communications Manager (Departed Nov. 2023)

#### **Melissa McClure**

Home Repair Assistant

#### **Heather McCoy**

Home Repair Coordinator

#### **Vincent Mitchell**

Construction Coordinator

#### **Christine Moser**

Community Outreach Manager

#### **Quang Nguyen**

Marketing & Communications Manager

#### Donna Ringgold-Vasquez

**Executive Assistant** 

#### LaDeana Steffen

**Construction Logistics** Assistant

#### **Jodi Suhler**

Home Repair Manager

#### **Laurie Walker**

Program Director

#### **Susan Winston**

**Budget Success Coach** 

**Ron Wall** 

Sales Associate

# **RESTORE WICHITA** as of December 31, 2023

#### **Amador Cananca**

**Donations Driver Assistant** 

#### Romeo Cananca

Warehouse Associate

#### **LeAnn Carpenter**

ReStore Manager

#### **Jordan Carter**

Warehouse Associate

#### **Theron Davis**

Sales Associate

#### **Ryan Ginther**

**Donations Driver** 

#### **Melissa Hasty**

**Head Cashier** 

#### James Jaeger

ReStore Director

#### **Griffin McDaniel**

Warehouse Lead

#### **Gena Perez**

Warehouse Associate

#### **Ricki Perez**

Warehouse Associate

#### **Tevin Pruit**

Sales Associate

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS** as of December 31, 2023

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Community Volunteer

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Community Volunteer

**Chet Sears** 

Koch Engineered Solutions

**Bonnie Voth** 

Community Volunteer

**Brad White** 

Textron Aviation

**Valerie White** 

Community Volunteer



# Thank You to Our

# Generous Supporters!

Wichita Habitat for Humanity's impact this year would not have been possible without our resilient staff, our nimble base of volunteers, our visionary board, and our extremely generous donors.

## **Lifetime Donors**

\$100,000+ Bank of America Carqill Meat Solutions Corp. Catholic Diocese of Wichita Cessna Foundation, Inc. David Reznick Foundation **DeVore Foundation** Dupont Eastminster Presbyterian Church Fidelity Bank Goebel Family - Star Lumber Charitable Foundation ICM, Inc. **INTRUST Bank** Jump Start Stores, Inc. Koch Industries, Inc. Lattner Family Foundation Lowe's LTC, Inc./Lair Foundation Spirit AeroSystems St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church Textron, Inc. Thrivent Financial United Methodist Wichita West District United Way of the Plains Wells Fargo Foundation Wichita Area Builders Association

#### \$50,000+

Helen Hurley

Fund

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#### \$25,000+

Berry Foundation Emprise Bank Evergy First Presbyterian Church, Wichita Grumpy Old Men Kansas Housing Resources Corporation Presbytery of Southern Kansas Slumberland Furniture Volunteer Kansas Wichita First Church of the Nazarene Youth Coalition of Sedgwick County Norma K. Ackeret Rick and Tama Basto Bill and Nancy Bauck Lorrie Beck Dan and Jill Becker Jim and Janice Boone Mark and Ann Fox Chris and Brooke Howell Robert M. Murphy Larry and Dianne Rapp Clay and Sally Stoldt Guinn and Laura Walker Jeff and Stacia Wetta Brad and Lindsay White

# **Gift-in-Kind Donors**

#### **Gifts in Kind**

Gift-in-Kind donors have generously given products or services to support our mission.

Associated Material & Supply Co, Inc. Beran Concrete **Brand Plumbing** Charissa JarboeGale City of Wichita Coleman Materials Cook's Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc. Farha Roofing Foulston Siefkin, LLC GAF Roofing Shingles & Materials Garver Gregg Oblinger Guardian Roofing & Construction **Heiland Roofing** Johnson Controls

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Dimitra and Nicholas Maderafont Rhonda Magness Constance Mansaw Ronnita Maples Robert Marsden and Maureen Hofrenning Dena and Frederick Marten Yolanda Martinez Sara Mata Suzanna Mathews Frank and Nancy Mattke Jonathan and Amanda Mauldin Wanda Maxton Nancy McCarthy Snyder Melissa and Mitch McClure Craig and Sylvia McCombs Kimberley and Les McDarty Megan McGraw Jane McHugh Pauline K. McKee Linda McLachlan Patricia McLaughlin Garth and Eileen McNichol Kenneth and Carolyn Meeske Caitlin Mehigan Mark and Janis Mertes Katie Messamore Brian and Monica Miller Diane E. Miller Janet and Timothy Miller Karon Mitchell Melanie Mitchell Gina and Mike Monarez Dona F. Morris Madeline Mosiman Joseph and Rhita Muci Robert Munoz Peter and Jan Nájera Ann Newton Sara Norberg Margaret E. Ōchs Mary Lynn Oliver Beth and Toby Ortstadt David Ostrodka Karen Owings-Jibril Meghan Palacio Diana Palenz Kevin Parker Bonnie Paske Gary and Ann Patterson Donna Pelley Dorothy and Maynard Peterson **Heather Petty** Barbara Pinaire Mike and Susan Pool Tami Portela Kirk P. Postier Will and Kristin Price Ruth Ann Priddle Judith and Clarence Raaf Robin Ralston Micaela Ramirez George and Mary Ellen Randall Larry and Dianne Rapp

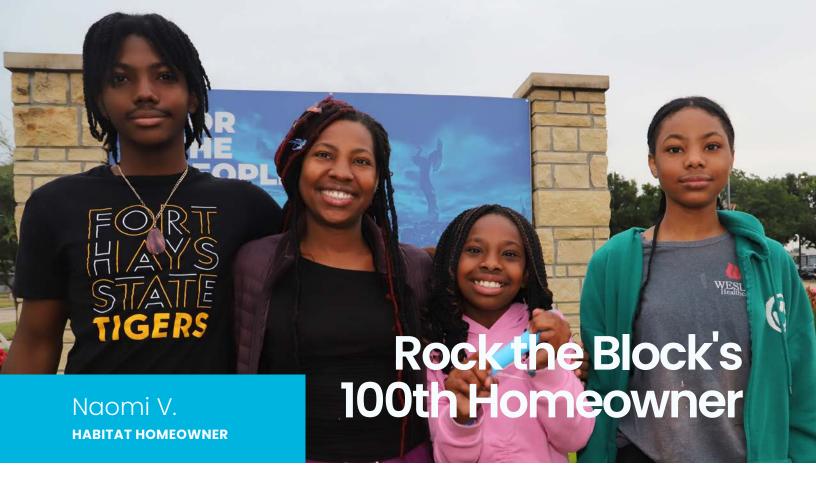
Jon Reed John and Gloria Reiz Warren Rensner Steve Reynolds Scott Ricke Greg and Nikki Rincker Debre Ringler Mary and Michael Riordan Laura Ritterbush Darlene Roatch Ronald and Carol Roberts Dave and Kathy Robertson Janet and Bob Robinson Theresa and Kevin Robles Bryan Rocky Dan and Melva Rogers Jazmine Rogers Jolene and Jolene Rose Lynn Ross Cynthia Rowe Derek and Leah Rundle Lorette Sadler Amy J. Salazar Rolinda Sample Alicia Sanchez and Michael Intfen Yuridia Sanchez Rafael Santana Lydia Santiago Cindy R. Schauf Dixie Schlabach LewJene Schneider and **Tony Caputo** William Schneweis Randall and Marilyn Schrag Barry Schroeder Albert and Jane Schwartz Margaret Seiler Tarreld and Kelly Shriner Charles Silcox Diane Simon Jill Skaggs and Jeff Keeny Mary A. Skolaut Daniel Smith Virginia Snell Corina Snyder Belinda Spencer Mitchell Sperry Matt and Lucy Stearns Byron Steele **Gregory Steinert** Clay and Sally Stoldt **Donald Stuart** Stephanie and Brennan Stuber Jeffory and Margaret Stukey Fredrick and Diane Stump **Gail Sudlow** Russ Sullivan Rondee and Alan Sutton Monica Taylor Carmaine Ternes Nick and Marcella Tipton Glenn and Dianne Tombaugh Shane and Dawn Tucker Joseph and Maryann Ubert Blake and Andrea Veenis

Denise and Anthony Veith Nancy Vine Carolyn Vosburg Don and Bonnie Voth Concha Walker Guinn and Laura Walker Jessica Walles Kathryn Wappelhorst Alexandria Ware Indaka Warren Suzie Warrington Kay Wentworth Polly Wenzl Brittany Westmoreland Rory and Joann Wheeler Lindsay and Brad White Valerie White Dale and Alice Wiggins Iva Williams Randy and Debra Williams Shirley Williams Monica Wilson Ralph Winslow Katie Woods Tanya Woolley William and Judith Wynne Alyssa York Ann Zerger



Maxine Lunsford

Tina Luper



### **Meet Naomi**

Naomi, a devoted mother of four, found a brighter future for her family becoming the proud 100th homeowner with Wichita Habitat for Humanity. Having fulfilled her 250 hours of sweat equity, Naomi's dream of a spacious home is now a reality. This journey was about building more than just a house; it was about creating a nurturing environment where her children can finally have their own rooms, spread their wings, and thrive.

Through Naomi's homeownership process, she juggled her responsibilities as a single parent and going to school. However, she actively participated in construction projects and volunteered at the ReStore, demonstrating her dedication and commitment to Wichita Habitat's mission. Beyond her sweat equity requirements, Naomi invested 40 hours in financial literacy and home maintenance courses. This proactive approach showcased her readiness for the responsibilities and joys of homeownership.

As Naomi settles into her new home within the vibrant Rock the Block neighborhood, a sense of security and pride fills her. This accomplishment fuels her ambition to continue her dreams as a nurse and build a stable foundation for her family. Naomi's story is a testament to the transformative power of Wichita Habitat and the unwavering spirit of a dedicated mother. Her journey inspires others to chase their dreams of homeownership and build a brighter future for themselves and their loved ones.



Having a home to call my own would give me a sense of peace and reassurance knowing that my children are safe."

- Naomi



# Habitat's Global Mission

The global need for decent and affordable housing is formidable, but Habitat for Humanity's resolute belief that housing is a gateway to lifechanging possibilities grounds our mission and inspires us to reach further.

In May 2023, Wichita Habitat for Humanity's executive director, Danielle Johnson, embarked on a five-day trip to the Dominican Republic with Hábitatparala Humanidad República Dominicana. The trip included Danielle and at least 11 other U.S. Habitat affiliate CEOs, executive directors, and staff from Habitat for Humanity International. Their goal was to learn about Habitat's global strategies and programs, with a particular focus on the daily work of the organization in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Danielle spent a significant amount of time familiarizing herself with the work of Habitat Dominicana while also raising awareness about the initiatives undertaken by the Wichita affiliate. She gleaned valuable information that she shared with the Wichita Habitat team, fostering the development of new strategies and future plans for the organization.

The trip included visits to communities served by Habitat Dominicana, where Danielle met families who had partnered with the organization. Many homes in Latin America and the Caribbean have dirt floors, which can lead to respiratory illnesses and unsafe living conditions. Habitat launched an ambitious initiative to replace 100,000 dirt floors with concrete across Latin America and the Caribbean by 2028.

The highlight of Danielle's trip was participating on a local build site for a day. As part of the "100,000 Floors to Play on" initiative, she helped pour concrete floors for a family. The experience of contributing to a safe living space for this family, despite the physical demands of working in the heat, proved to be immensely rewarding. Danielle is grateful to be part of this initiative that provides families with a safe and healthy environment to live and thrive.

Witnessing the global impact of Habitat's work was a truly inspiring experience for Danielle. She recognized the interconnectedness of Habitat affiliates around the world. Wichita Habitat for Humanity directly contributes to Habitat's global mission through the annual tithe to Guatemala and Uganda, which supports various initiatives. United by its dedication to service, Habitat affiliates around the world share a common mission: bringing communities together to build homes, communities, and hope.







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