

Coming together

TO OFFER A HAND UP, NOT A HANDOUT.

Over the last 34 years, Habitat for Humanity of Dane County has had so many successes. We've given house keys – and mortgages – to 319 Habitat families and repaired dozens of homes for existing homeowners through the Habitat Home Repair program. In fact, your donation has helped make a lifelong impact on children and their parents right here in Dane County.

MEET SOME HABITAT HOMEOWNERS!



Habitat
for Humanity®
of Dane County, Inc.

Dear Habitat Supporter,

Thank you for supporting Habitat for Humanity of Dane County! Together, we are finding long-lasting solutions to combat the affordable housing crisis right here in Dane County. Because of your contributions, 319 Habitat families in Dane County have experienced the possibilities and progress that homeownership creates. The achievements we've seen – big and small – are endless and inspiring.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ROLE IN HELPING:

- Families like Monowar & Asma, whose teenage children now have space for their studies and hobbies.
- Sons like Lorantae and Courtavien, who now have their own basketball hoop and can play catch in the yard.
- Moms like Chanise, who is grateful for what Habitat has done for her family and shows it by giving back to her community.
- Grandparents like Eduardo & Adriana, who are relieved to have a space for their grandchild to visit.

As you know, at Habitat we partner with families to build more than homes – we build equitable communities. And in these communities, families' lives are transformed for generations. We know homeownership is one of the best ways for families to build wealth and for communities to break down the racial wealth gap. We are so grateful for your support helping break down barriers to affordable homeownership in Dane County.

Thank you for the valuable impact you make right here in Dane County! Our work wouldn't be possible without you.

Sincerely,



Valerie Renk
CEO, Habitat for Humanity of Dane County

PS. We invite you to get more involved in our work: volunteer for construction or at the ReStore, join a committee, or suggest your employer plan a build day for a family!

Meet some

HABITAT HOMEOWNERS!

EDUARDO & ADRIANA

We are originally from Costa Rica and like to do sports, run, walk with our dog "Isco" on the lakes, trails and visit other places.

Since we got married, we knew that one of the very important things was to have a house of our own, something that we could call our home, and here we are, years later, and we could never fulfill this yearning.

In 2015 as a family, we decided to come to the United States, looking for better opportunities.



When we met about Habitat for Humanity of Dane County and seeing the examples of how Habitat helped others in the community. We knew that this could be a great opportunity to fulfill our desire, to have our own house, and although our daughter is already on her own, it is nice to have a place of our own in which our grandson can come and play and visit.

Finally, we must thank Habitat for giving us this partnership opportunity, also to all those volunteers and the sponsors who believe in it.

Thank you very much to God and our Lord Jesus Christ for a day to have found him and to be free of our sins by His blood, He is the giver of everything.

Eduardo & Adriana, *Habitat homeowners for six months, Tennyson Ridge neighborhood on Madison's Northside*

KALA

I'm a massage therapist and mother of two boys – 17-year-old Jeremiah, and four-year-old Kyrie. I was raised in Madison by a single mother. My mother worked very hard just to make ends meet. We were always moving from apartment to apartment, and I changed schools multiple times.

I wanted to plant roots for my kids by owning a home. I wanted my kids to always have a place to call home; and a place to come home to.

Owning a home has always been a dream that seemed just out of reach. Words cannot express how I feel having a safe and affordable place to call home. Beautiful things can happen when people with such big hearts come together and show so much compassion. It makes me see the beauty in the world!



Kala, *Habitat homeowner for two and a half years, Tennyson Ridge neighborhood on Madison's Northside*

JAINABA

My family spent years looking for a safe and stable home. Over the years before Habitat, we lived in four different apartment complexes and neighborhoods. Every time we moved; my children lost their friends. They always asked, "Why can't we stay in one place?"

A few years ago, there was a shooting at our apartment complex, and it was terrifying for all of us. My son was so frightened; he asked when we could move.

Joining the Habitat for Humanity program was a dream come true for us. Since then, my oldest son, Momodou, graduated from Duke University Medical School. My second son, Sheikh, graduated from UW Eau Claire. Still at home is 18-year-old Fatoumata, and 15-year-old twins Adama and Awa.

Since moving in we've seen so many benefits of having our own home:

- Gaining control over our living space. Renting never came with a lot of options for modifying our living space to better suit our needs. Moving from rental to rental was a major financial and emotional burden.
- Having a home has created social benefits that ranged from friendships with neighbors to community involvement and consistent educational opportunities for my children.
- Watching my children unload their beds and other belongings into our Habitat home, not a temporary apartment, was one of the best days of my life. I appreciate our Habitat home from the bottom of my heart.

Jainaba, Habitat homeowner for two and a half years, Vandenburg Heights neighborhood in Sun Prairie



TARA & GAURANI

For my wife Gaurani and I, and our two children, 11-year-old Serene and five-year-old Elliot, moving to a three-bedroom home was a dream come true.

My family is originally from Bhutan. We were forced to go to Nepal in 1992 due to the civil war in Bhutan. We had to leave our home and our property. Our life as refugees was very difficult in Nepal. We lived in huts made of bamboo and thatch. My greatest opportunity was to go to school. I did my homework by the light of a kerosene lamp and was very lucky to learn English and get an education. In our family, education is very important. We try to be good people by working hard and helping others.



Homeownership is so important to me because I want my family to be safe and secure. Now that we are in our home, our children are thriving! We are so happy to have our children form lasting friendships with other children in the neighborhood and keeping up a beautiful garden.

Tara & Gaurani, Habitat homeowners for two and a half years, Renaissance on the Park neighborhood in Fitchburg

DRISS & HASNA

I have always believed that the best way to show your family you care is by being there for them, lending the necessary care and support. Being able to do that as a father is so important and it's priceless. Our children are seven and five years old.

In my professional life, I've had the pleasure of working the past seven years for the greatest people with special needs. These people have taught me so much more than I could ever give to them.

There are many life lessons that I really value now because of these perfect souls. One of my joys comes from helping and serving others, and I hope my kids can follow my footsteps.

I enjoy many things in life, but what I really enjoy the most is spending time with family. They are an important part of my life who I treasure the most. Every decision I make, I put them first and they inspire me to do my best in everything I do. They are my inspiration and my life.

Thank you to Habitat for Humanity for giving us the opportunity to have a place that we can call home, where my kids can make their memories. Out of anything that we have done, having a home is the most important thing to us.

Owning a Habitat home has given me and my family so much stability and adds so much happiness to our lives. It will allow us to accomplish so much more. Having a comfortable, safe, and functional home is a crucial piece to a person's wellbeing and success. My family and I are so very thankful for this amazing opportunity.

The benefit of Habitat is not only the hand up that I was given, but the opportunity to help out so many others. I want to instill in my children the feeling you get when you've helped others out.

Driss & Hasna, *Habitat homeowners for two years, Tennyson Ridge neighborhood on Madison's Northside*



MOSTAFA & RAJA

My name is Mostafa and I'm a kitchen manager at the Cheesecake Factory restaurant in Madison. My wife, Raja and I have three children, 13-year-old Zainab, 10-year-old Ismail, and five-year-old Bilal.



We were so excited to move into our home last summer. Building a home with Habitat was wonderful because I learned new skills that will prepare me for the years to come and I could work with volunteers making our dream of homeownership come true. We are trying to set an example and teach our kids how to be responsible and work hard to receive what they want and understand the value of the homeownership.

My kids are so happy they don't have to share a bedroom anymore and have a yard to play in. We will no longer have to move every few years!

Homeownership is important to me because it offers independence, safety, and security for my family to ensure stability and build assets in my home.

Mostafa & Raja, *Habitat homeowners for one and a half years, Renaissance on the Park neighborhood in Fitchburg*

MONOWAR & ASMA

We have two children. We have a daughter, and her name is Marium, she's 18 years old. She likes drawing and playing sports. And we have a son, his name is Abdulla and he's 15 years old. He likes to play soccer ball and online games with his friends.

Me and my son go to the Mosque every Friday for prayer time and meet lots of people. Our children are involved in Muslim Youth in Action. The organization leads our kids to many different places to visit every year. This year they went to Washington D.C. This organization donates clothing and food to unfortunate families who suffered from disasters and wars. We believe becoming involved in important causes like this is a great way to meet new friends, families with similar interests and grow our community.

For many years, we lived in a two-bedroom apartment. Those apartments had a lot of mold and smoke too. We always felt unsafe and at risk. We finally got a three-bedroom apartment after five years of waiting, but we had to pay a lot of money.

We were thrilled to collaborate with Habitat for Humanity of Dane County in building a new home, where we could get the safety and security that every family needs. In fact, what I looked most forward to, was hanging pictures that I hadn't hung in several years. We were grateful to learn new home building techniques, and have so many opportunities to learn about home repairs, home electrical wiring, painting, etc. We can grow our garden in our own backyard. My children can have friends sleep over at our house to play and have fun.

Thank you, Habitat, and all the volunteers. You are helping us rise above our challenges and struggles to lead my family and my community to have a brighter future.

Bhuiyan & Madhabi Family, *Habitat homeowners for six months, Renaissance on the Park neighborhood in Fitchburg*



CHANISE

My daughter, Chaveah was in kindergarten when we moved into our Habitat home. I was attending Globe University part-time and working full time. I had my downfalls and qualifying for a Habitat home picked my spirit right up off the ground and raised me straight to the Lord.

Today, I work full-time at Meriter Hospital and have been in my Habitat home for almost nine years. Our family of two is now a family of five! Chaveah is now 15 years old, and I am married. My husband and I have added a son and daughter to our growing family.



Giving back is important to me. Over the years I have served as team captain for March of Dimes in honor of my daughter who was born a preemie. My family has also made Thanksgiving baskets for those in need and enjoy ringing bells for the Salvation Army at Christmas.

We are so grateful for Habitat for Humanity and what they do for families like ours.

Chanise's family *is celebrating 10 years as a Habitat homeowner this year, Northport neighborhood in Madison*

KIERA

I have two sons, Lerontae, who is 15 and Courtavien, who is seven. My family loves doing outdoor activities; we spend a lot of time at sporting events, but in our free time we like to go camping and fishing. As a family we also enjoy doing fundraisers for the teams the boys are involved in to help raise money for tournaments, like car washes, selling bake goods, etc.

As a child, I was very fortunate to have both my parents in my life, however when I was 16, I found out I was pregnant. I attended Sapar, a school for teen parents and with their help I was able to walk across the stage in June of 2007 with my son in the audience. As a single mom, I started to work at the airport, to be able to afford needs for my son. I moved into my first low-income town house when I was 18, which helped me be able to afford rent and daycare. Eight years later I gave birth to my son Courtavien and that's when I realized the 2-bedroom townhouse was not big enough for my family.

I had gone to a Habitat meeting and once I seen the qualifications, I knew I was not going to get in the program. I applied for the section 8 lottery and got a 3-bedroom duplex. I started working on building my credit and paying off debt because I was determined to give my kids what my mom gave me, stability. I reapplied to the Habitat program, and I was approved. I have always felt like I never did anything to make my parents proud of me as I was growing up, so to give them this news and hear them say how proud of me they are gives me motivation.

Without Habitat I would never have been able to be a homeowner and give my children the stability and structure of hard work paying off. I am so very thankful we got to work with Habitat and the volunteers on building my new home.

I am thankful for all the educational classes and knowledge that Habitat teaches you about being a home buyer and getting you ready and prepared for your future home and the things that come along the way. Thanks to Habitat I have a place I can feel safe and call home.

Kiera, *Habitat homeowner for one year, Tennyson Ridge neighborhood on Madison's Northside*



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