



[See more pictures HERE](#)

17 families will move into the new Plaza Roosevelt homes. [Watch the video](#) or [see more pictures](#) of our socially-distanced parade to celebrate the homeowners!

A Time to Celebrate!

What to do when a pandemic keeps you from having home dedication celebrations?

[Hold a car parade!](#) On October 5, World Habitat Day, we celebrated 17 families who are now Habitat Kent homeowners in the Roosevelt Park neighborhood on the southwest side of Grand Rapids.

It's the culmination of our [Bright Future Campaign](#), and joy and gratitude filled the air during this very special event.

Even COVID-19 masks couldn't completely hide the smiling faces of the 75 children and their parents as they stood proudly on the front stoops of their new Plaza Roosevelt homes.

A stream of cars and trucks went by filled with volunteers, donors, construction partners, and others who care about supporting these amazing families. There were sounds of honking, sirens, laughter, and shouted wishes of congratulations.

If you want to smile too, [watch this video of the parade](#) and know that because YOU care about affordable housing, you helped make this possible.

The Case for Affordable Housing

During these times of wide-spread economic hardship, housing costs are a very real burden for many in our communities. Habitat Kent is 100% dedicated to providing affordable homeownership pathways to all of Kent County with a focus on three specific neighborhoods: Baxter, Black Hills and Roosevelt Park.



Home prices have increased as much as 185% in many neighborhoods over the past 5 years, pricing out many people who have lived there historically.



48% of renters in our focus neighborhoods are cost burdened, meaning that more than 30% of their income is spent on housing costs.



40% of residents are children under 18, compared with just 24% for all of Kent County. Focusing on these three neighborhoods gives us the opportunity to impact more children.

Our Volunteer of the Year!

Introducing Judd, Habitat Kent's Volunteer of the Year!

Background: U.S. Army veteran & retired carpenter

Hours: 800 hours spent on our construction sites this past year and more than 4,700 over the last ten years!

What Judd brings to our sites: Besides being highly skilled and clearly reliable, Judd is a kind and patient teacher for other volunteers, and a quiet leader of group projects.

Why does he give so much of his time to Habitat Kent?

[Watch this video and hear from Judd himself!](#)

But wait, there's more! Judd's 11-year-old grandson made Christmas wreaths as part of a Boy Scout project and wanted them to go to Habitat Kent homes in honor of his grandpa. Judd spent many hours working on a Habitat Kent duplex in Roosevelt Park so the wreaths were given to the families there!

Thank you for your many years and hours of service, Judd, and for one of the greatest gifts: passing on the value of giving our time and talents to help build up our community to future generations!



Our MVP Volunteer of the Year, Judd talks about his experience volunteering with Habitat Kent and why he keeps coming back year after year.

The need is great...

...greater than ever. You can support Habitat Kent's mission and local families by donating [here](#).

And by joining our [Bright Future Society](#) through setting up monthly donations, your consistent support will add up to huge impact.

Bright
FUTURE
SOCIETY

Thanks to our "Home for the Holidays" Matching Partners!

All of this Habitat Kent good news would not be possible without the caring community of corporations in West Michigan who support access to affordable housing with the power of their giving. Our deepest gratitude to the following for their generous matching gifts during our "Home for the Holidays" celebration:

