

building together

2018 Impact Report

celebrating
35 years!

2018 building together

“Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”

—Matthew 17:20

The first seeds of Habitat for Humanity were planted during the civil rights movement at a place called Koinonia Farm, where Habitat for Humanity founders lived together and began the concept of partnership housing. They had the audacious goal of healing racism and combatting social injustice by bringing people together to build stable, healthy, and safe communities where neighbors could thrive.

In 1983, Habitat for Humanity of Kent County was founded by a grassroots coalition of passionate people with a similarly audacious goal: bring people together to partner with local families to build healthy, stable, affordable homes.

Thirty-five years later, Habitat Kent is reflecting on the decades of transformational change that have grown from that seed that was planted in 1983. Planted by the hands of volunteers, given roots through the determination of homebuyers, and nurtured and brought to life by the support of people **like you**.

Over time, our city has grown and changed, and the housing landscape in our community has shifted dramatically. Grand Rapids has become one of the hottest housing markets in the country. Land is scarce and homes are increasingly more expensive. Even in this market, you’ve had a significant impact.

You have helped Habitat Kent homeowners build strong roots so their families can flourish. You have given families who know the pain of being uprooted a chance to heal and build a stronger future. You have helped neighbors who know the importance of community raise



their hands to lead. In these pages you will read stories of empowerment, growth, and lasting change. We hope our gratitude echoes throughout these pages, because **these stories wouldn’t be possible without you**.

Over the last thirty-five years, you have helped us see what is possible for families when the anxiety of unstable housing is replaced with hope for a bright future. By helping build healthy, stable, affordable homes, you have changed the direction of thousands of lives. And staying true to our roots, you have inspired us to ask bigger questions—like what might be possible if we think beyond the walls of one home, and help bring that same life-changing hope to an entire neighborhood?

To borrow a line from a Habitat homeowner in these pages, **we can’t wait to see what’s possible** as we continue to work together.

Because of you, we believe the future of affordable housing in Kent County is bright. Our faith is bolstered by the courageous, trailblazing spirit that connects our past to our future—an unshakable spirit thirty-five years in the making. A spirit of bringing people together to build homes, communities, and hope.

To the next 35 years of building together,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'BriAnne McKee'.

BriAnne McKee
Executive Director

last year's (July 2017- July 2018)

impact at a glance

12 homes were finished



29 homes were repaired

—and we're completing 33% more critical repairs than 3 years ago

218 families were served through Habitat Kent's programs



homebuyers completed a total of 5,242 sweat equity hours

27 children moved into safe, healthy homes



over 5,000 volunteers donated 60,200 hours



160 neighbors participated in the Roosevelt Park neighborhood curb appeal contest



Habitat Kent was recognized as a LEED Power Builder for the second consecutive year by the U.S. Green Building Council



Restore donors & shoppers saved 650 tons of waste from the landfill

board of directors

Sonali Allen
Jeff Dykstra
Bruce Emery
Maria Erazo
Chris Fridsma

Mark Mossing, Chair
Mary Angelo, Vice Chair

Jorge Gonzalez
Sara Gonzalez
Steven Hoekzema
Fred Johnson III, PhD
Kim McLaughlin

Melisha Roberts, Treasurer
Marsha Veenstra, Secretary

Jeff Ott
Alexis Rangel
Soroya Pierre-Vanartsen
Carmen Villahermosa de Cox
Jenny Waugh

BriAnne McKee, Executive Director

James White
Lizzie Williams
Members Emeritus
Dan Molhoek
Craig VanEss



27 children in safe, healthy, affordable homes

“This is truly the
American dream – to
have something that is
yours, where you can
raise a family and also
**build the
community.”**

*-Anthony and Champagne,
2017 Homeowners of the Year*

Anthony and Champagne moved into their Habitat home five years ago after living in a cramped three-bedroom, one bathroom house with three growing boys.

“We knew once we got into the program, we would succeed,” said Anthony.

Since moving into their home, the family has grown. Their children are thriving at school and giving back to their community through volunteerism. Their home has also become a gathering space for friends, family, and neighbors. They say they are proud to provide a safe place where kids from the neighborhood can come play.

Anthony and Champagne’s safe, healthy, affordable home has changed the course of their children’s future—but it’s also made them a stabilizing force for good in their neighborhood.

“[We’re] using our home for that purpose: bringing people together.” ■



21 veterans served

Iraq war veteran, Jonathan, went through a painful process reintegrating to civilian life.

“When Jon first came home, there were layers to him that needed to be peeled back...he was constantly looking over his shoulder, constantly paranoid, constantly on edge,” his wife, Lindsay, said.

With everything the family was going through, their dream of homeownership felt like an unattainable goal. But then a friend recommended they apply for Habitat Kent’s homeownership program—and everything changed.

Jonathan and Lindsay learned that their goal to provide a safe and stable home for their kids was not only possible, it was right within their reach. Working toward their dream together brought the whole family closer as Jonathan began to heal.

“I’m a lot happier now than I was two years ago, that’s for sure,” Jonathan said, with a genuine smile. “It’s a start to a new life.” ■

**“I’m
happy to
see him
happy.”**

*-Lindsay,
New Habitat Kent homeowner*



“The main thing is feeling connected.”

-Felicia, Habitat Kent Homeowner and Neighborhood Partner Committee Member

The Roosevelt Park Neighborhood Partner Committee is helping shape the future of their community. With support from Habitat Kent, this group of neighborhood leaders is planning events and developing programs to strengthen their neighborhood.

“It really has brought a big part of me back to life,” said Felicia, a Habitat Kent homeowner and member of the Neighborhood Partner Committee.

She said that the committee contributes an honest voice on behalf of their neighbors—they haven’t had a platform in the past.

“It’s about trust and building relationships and respecting each other and our community.”

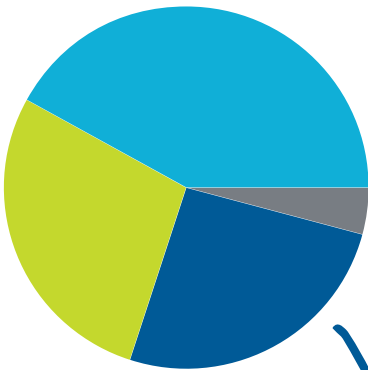
Felicia is proud of the goals she’s helping to move forward for her neighborhood, including improved sidewalk lighting, an accessible pharmacy, and more safe places for kids to gather. Most of all, she is excited for what’s to come in Roosevelt Park as people continue to work together. ■

fiscal year financials (2017)

support & revenues

Total: \$6,692,635

- Unrestricted contributions, sponsorships, revenues, grants, and in-kind donations – **42%**
- Revenue related to home sales – **28%**
- ReStore revenues – **26%**
- Other revenue – **4%**



Thanks to our community's commitment to shopping and donating to ReStore, 100% of your financial gifts support Habitat Kent's construction and programs.



expenses

Total: \$5,954,162

- Construction/program costs – **83%**
- Fundraising costs – **9.3%**
- Administration costs – **7.7%**

Ending Net Assets: \$738, 473



Thanks to your support, Habitat Kent has become a national leader in building energy-efficient and environmentally-friendly homes. Now we're taking our commitment to efficiency to a new level.

We're using land more efficiently by building multi-family homes in higher density areas. A LEED-certified, four-unit townhome complex was built on 4th St. NW this past year (below) with help from many Catholic parishes, businesses, and civic groups. This provided a healthy, stable, and affordable home for four local families all on one site. Currently, we are taking the next steps in high-density home construction with six townhome units on Clyde Park Ave SW.

To help build these townhomes, Habitat Kent opened a new panelization workshop (see above photo), which gives volunteers a space to build components of the home in a climate-controlled environment. This makes the construction of new homes more systematic, which saves time and money and reduces waste.

With the demand for affordable housing rapidly growing, these innovative practices will help us scale up our model to meet the growing need in years to come. ■





425 Pleasant Street SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
(616) 774-2431
www.habitatkent.org



Habitat Kent is intentionally focused on eliminating racism and working to ensure that all people, regardless of their race, have the resources and opportunities they need to reach their full potential.

Visit www.habitatkent.org for our full financial report and 990 form.