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building the 'american' dream

The building going up on 46th Avenue South in Moorhead is more than a home. It's fulfilling a dream for the Hagen family.

"It's a better neighborhood that I won't have to worry about my kids playing outside," says Tony Hagen. "It's a piece of land that is more or less ours. It is the American dream."

Angie and Tony Hagen were granted one of two Habitat for Humanity homes going up in Fargo/Moorhead this summer. They were notified of their good fortune while they were at church. Pete Christopher, Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity Resource Development and Marketing Director, made the announcement that they were selected during a worship service. It was an answer to prayers for the Hagen family.

"I was just shocked," Angie Hagen says, "and was in awe that it was happening."

One of the four Hagen children, Abby, even dubbed it a miracle and a fresh start for the family. Their mobile home has been deteriorating and the family is ready and excited to put in the sweat equity required by Habitat to work on their home.

"It is an awesome opportunity to be able to put my hands to work and literally build this dream," Tony says. "To know that I helped build our future together. God heard our prayers and has answered them with this amazing community."

Angie knows it will be a huge accomplishment when they are able to move into the home they worked to build. She and Tony are also thrilled about the kids having their own rooms, having a garage, and having a yard with space for a garden.

"I've always wanted a vegetable garden," Tony says. "My mom had one when I was a little kid and I miss picking fresh peas."

Angie agrees, "We can finally have a garden. Our own land we can do something with."

With their home nearing completion, the Hagens are well on their way to having their new home, which will be the 56th Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity home and 18th home in Cass and Clay Counties sponsored by the

Thrivent Builds Program. Other major sponsors include: Wells Fargo, Jordahl Custom Homes, Royal Jewelers, & First Lutheran Church. The Hagens envision their new home helping them build a new foundation and legacy for their family.

"I was just shocked," Angie Hagen says, "and was in awe that it was happening."

"Through prayer and faith and hope, we are here today," Tony says. "We cannot say 'thank you' enough to all those that helped make this happen and will get their hands dirty with us. God is good and so is this community."



#HeroBuild17

what is a hero?



Photo Credit: Michael Vosburg / The Forum

Hero. Survivor. Two words that have become so ubiquitous in everyday speech, like awesome, amazing, or absolutely, that they have nearly lost their true meaning. But once in awhile, something comes along to remind us of the true intent of these words.

This year, Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity is dubbing their 57th home build, "Hero Build". This build is meant to honor our community heroes who have chosen to come to the aid of those in need, whether that is our emergency personnel or the many wonderful donors and volunteers who have helped us build homes over the last 26 years.

The Hero Build will take place at 308 9th Avenue North Fargo, a site that represents great tragedy for our community. A site where two men, Fargo Police Officer Jason Moszer and Marcus Schumacher, lost their lives in February 2016. It is the collective hope that out of the rubble of this tragedy will come a new future for a family that has lived through a tragedy of their own.

Danielle John and her family are the future homeowners of the Hero Build house. Danielle

is not only a mother and a survivor, she is also considered a hero to many members in our community. She works at Youthworks, where as a human trafficking survivor advocate, she works with youth who are victims to human trafficking and helps guide them through the next steps in life as survivors just as she had to. You may have seen her story as a part of the WDAY Trafficked series.

With the blessing and support of the Schumacher and Moszer families, the Fargo PD, and the surrounding neighborhood, it is our hope that the Hero Build will help us bring our community a little closer together. A special thanks goes out to Michelle Schumacher, who wanted something good to come of her former home and suggested a Habitat build.

Thank you to our sponsors, John Deere, Wells Fargo, Case New Holland, Country Financial, Thomsen Homes and more, for helping kick off the fundraising efforts for this build. Our work is not done, however. If you'd like to help make the 2017 Hero Build a success, please consider a donation at <http://bit.ly/HeroBuild>, or send your contribution to 210 11th Street N Moorhead, MN 56560. It would be absolutely awesome if you did.

giving a home and a family a fresh start



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

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY'S MISSION STATEMENT.

This statement is the driving force that helps us maintain focus on what we are working to achieve. It helps us remember that we are doing more than building homes. We are helping families have hope. Hope is a powerful thing. We've seen time and time again the great effect it can have on a family.

It also reminds us that, while our main focus is the families we partner with, we are also helping build and improve communities and neighborhoods. This has never been more true than with one of the projects we worked on in

2016, when we had the unique opportunity to renovate a home that was donated to us.

One of our great supporters introduced us to a lovely woman, Donna, who owned a home near Moorhead High. After Donna's husband, Dick, became ill, they moved into a more suitable apartment. Donna had hoped to move back into the home, but with Dick's passing, her own health concerns, and the growing list of items that needed to be completed at the home, moving was no longer possible. She decided the most gratifying thing for her would be to

before



after



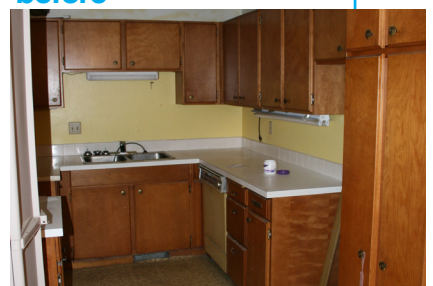
before



after



before



after





donate it so that another family could use the home to rewrite their story.

This home had been vacant for quite a few years, so there was plenty of work to be done, but nothing that our great crew leaders and volunteers couldn't handle. The home had great bones and a relatively new roof, but everything else was replaced. Donna's family, our volunteers, and sub-contractors cleared out landscaping, gutted the home, and helped us rebuild it. Many neighbors came out to help, donate, or just visit. They were excited

about the improvements being made in their neighborhood and to meet the new neighbors.

In October, after completing their sweat equity hours, Alla, Ruqaya, and their kids, Fatima and Hussian, purchased their new home and moved in. Before this home, they had been living in a mobile home in an area of town where it was not safe for kids to play outside, due to crime in the area. It is hard to imagine, but there are many kids who face the same issues in our community. Now, they have a great back yard to play in and are surrounded by neighborhood

kids to play with. Alla has taken this once overgrown yard and made it one of the best on the block.

This story is a quadruple win! Donna was overjoyed to be helping a great family and relieve the burden this house had on her, the city no longer has a problem house to deal with, we were able to serve a family for considerably less money than new construction, and the family now has a safe, well-built and affordable home that will allow them to thrive.

There are many people to thank for helping with this project. Of course, we want to thank Donna for her amazing generosity and Francis Flaig, who also donated a home to us, which we sold and used the proceeds to help pay for the renovation of this home. Thank you Wells Fargo, Rainbow Cleaners, Flywall Finishing, and FM Area Foundation for your sponsorship. And last but not least, donors and volunteers for their financial support and hard work, as well as the neighbors for welcoming us and the Akhbari's into the neighborhood. Like all of our homes, this would not have been a success without you.



The home donor, Donna, and her daughter, Debbie



The Akhbari Family



from the board chair

2017 is an exciting year for us here at Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity. Since 1991, we've had the privilege of serving Cass and Clay counties, forming and sustaining partnerships with our staff, community leaders, civil servants, NGO, and commercial organizations. Also, we're thankful for faith community members, individual volunteers, our partner families, and everyone else who supports us in fulfilling our mission to build homes, our communities, and hope.

This coalition of diverse individuals all working toward a common goal to help qualified families realize the dream of home ownership, is

an inspiration for me every day in my professional and community roles. We're also part of a larger effort to tackle the global social issue of generational poverty, and to bring aid to those who are experiencing heartbreaking losses at the hands of hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

We are currently wrapping up the first of our builds and getting prep work started for our second build. We've also started the selection process to identify our partner families for the 2018 build season. To add an interesting wrinkle to the routine of our typical year, we are in the process of selecting a new executive director. We're grateful for the tireless service of our outgoing ED, Rob Rich, and we wish him all the best as he begins a new chapter in his life as the owner of his own construction business. We are eager to see

what the future holds for our organization, as we add a new leader to the organization.

We are always looking for ways to involve those individuals and groups in our community who are called to help us achieve our mission. In addition to our fantastic build site volunteers, we also need help at the ReStore, on our various board committees, and the board of directors. Our mission also depends on the generosity of our community to raise the financial capital needed to build safe, efficient, and affordable housing for qualified families. As our partner families fulfill their obligations to pay their mortgages, those funds help us build the next houses and the next, and so on.

Thank you for your commitment to making our community better!

Josh Hoper



LAHFH strives to eliminate sub-standard housing right here in the Fargo/Moorhead community by constructing new homes in partnership with low-income families. We believe that every man, woman and child should have a simple, durable place to live in dignity and safety. We believe that decent shelter in decent communities should be a matter of conscience and action for all.

Can you help make sure we have the ability to make a huge impact on our community?

Make your gift today.
Lakeagassizhabitat.org/donate
 210 11th Street N Moorhead, MN 56560



**donut day
 benefiting
 habitat for
 humanity!**

Mark your calendar for Monday October 2nd, when \$1 from every dozen donuts sold at Sandy's Donuts in West Fargo and Downtown Fargo will be donated to the great work we do at Habitat for Humanity.

Stop by either location or pre-order online for pick-up or delivery!



**follow us on social to stay
 up to date on how habitat
 is making a huge difference
 in our community and the
 world.**

facebook.com/lakeagassizhabitat
twitter.com/LakeAgHFH
instagram.com/lakeagassizhabitat

Spectrum Aeromed donates \$25,000 to Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity

A Habitat home is only able to happen because of great individual, corporate, foundation and church support. One of our newest supporters, Spectrum Aeromed, joined us because of a special date we had in common. And boy, did they go all in with their support!

2016 was a special year for Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity and Spectrum Aeromed, as we were both celebrating our 25th anniversary. To honor our shared anniversary, Spectrum donated \$25,000 towards our 25th Anniversary build in Moorhead, a home built in partnership with Stacy and her kids, Brianna and Spencer.

"We are ecstatic to have Spectrum Aeromed as a partner on our 25th anniversary build," said executive director for Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity, Rob Rich. "This \$25,000 donation in honor of our shared anniversary took a major chunk out of the funding needed for this home."

Dependable shelter is so important to thriving and we are honored to be a part of the process of providing a family with their very own quality home.



It covered all the plumbing, lumber, roofing, and drywall on this home. More importantly, it will provide Stacy and her family a simple, decent, and affordable home for many years to come and help them break their cycle of poverty."

"Dependable shelter is so important to thriving and we are honored to be a part of the process of providing a family with their very own quality home," said chief operating officer, Chad Kost.

"Volunteering is part of the very fabric of Spectrum Aeromed. The enthusiasm from everyone involved is very inspiring," said Kost. "Home ownership is part of the American dream. We are thrilled to empower the home owners to grow and succeed in the future by providing this home."

The Spectrum team wasn't just there to present

a check, however. They spent multiple days on site helping us do things like installing insulation and laying the floor. They were a fantastic partner and we are excited to be welcoming Spectrum back in 2017 as a supporter of our Hero Build.

Spectrum's motto is "Supporting Life" and we thank them for not only supporting the lives of those going through medical emergencies, but supporting the lives of our partner families as well.

Spectrum Aeromed is a Fargo based producer of top-quality air ambulance interiors.

Visit spectrum-aeromed.com to learn more.

upcoming events

Hero Build Wall Rising
Thursday, September 28th, 2017
11:30 am
308 9th Ave. N. Fargo, ND

Donut Day
Monday, October 2nd, 2017
Sandy's Donuts

give TO THE MAX
NOV. 16, 2017

Give to the Max Day
Thursday, November 16th, 2017

Giving Hearts Day
Thursday, February 8th, 2018
givingheartsdays.org

Tour de Habitat
March, 2018



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habitat@lakeagassizhabitat.org

stories of your impact inside.

GIVE
WHERE
YOU
LIVE

