



From Behind the Gavel

— Ken Mumm, President

Forty years ago, my family and I moved to Kearney. We often saw bumper stickers and store signs as well as heard on the radio a theme: “Can Do Country.”

Little did I realize that within those 40 years, Kearney would be the “Can Do Country” for an amazing movement started in 1992 by four faithful individuals and a “Temporary Committee” of some 51 more.

Twenty-Five years later, those fifty five people share the credit for---76 homes built here in Kearney and lived in by families with countless uplifting stories, funding more than 130 homes in third world countries, hosting thousands of Saturday volunteers, providing church lunches/prayers, generating vendor support and enjoying City of Kearney cooperation.

It is a story worth telling, repeating, and remembering. I’m reminded of the Margaret Mead quote, “*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.*”

In Kearney, there is no question that a relatively small group came together with their “Can Do Country” spirit and created Kearney Area Habitat for Humanity. Because of that spirit, 76 Kearney families have their own homes, and with God’s help and guidance three more families will move in before Christmas. As a result, Kearney Habitat has truly “changed the world” for families here and abroad.

Please join us for “Habitat Week” July 30-August 5 in the many activities we have planned to celebrate the “Can Do” attitude of you and all others who have made the dream of home ownership come alive through the hand up that you have provided these past 25 years. Here’s to the next 25 and beyond.

“If you find in your heart to care for someone else, you will have succeeded.”

Maya Angelou

KAHfH Celebration Week

Date/Day	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
Sunday/July 30	Prayers for Habitat	Bulletins in all Churches	
Sunday/July 30	Ecumenical Prayer Service	Habitat Build Site- 1307 E 17th St.	1:30 PM
Monday/July 31	Vendor Appreciation Day	All over town	
Monday/July 31	Family/Volunteer Picnic <i>sponsored by Nebraskaland National Bank</i>	Habitat Build Site	5:00-7:00 PM
Tues/August 1	Ministerial Work Day	Habitat Build Site	9:00-1:00 PM
Weds/August 2	Chamber Day	Habitat Build Site	8:30-9:30 AM
Thursday/Aug 3	Work Day - Buffalo Co Board of Realtors	Habitat Build Site	9:00-1:00 PM
Friday/August 4	Former Board Members/ Committee Members Reunion	St. James Church	5:00-7:00 PM
Saturday/Aug 5	WORK DAY	Habitat Build Site	8:00-3:00 PM

Introducing our 2017 Homeowners

Angelita Hernandez

Hello! My name is Angelita (Anna) Hernandez. I have three children: Ivan (16), Amelia (14), and Ariana (8). I work at the Buckle full time and have been there for two years. A friend of mine suggested that I should apply for a house through Habitat, and here we are today! The most exciting part of building is getting to participate in building my own home. We greatly appreciate this opportunity and all the men and women who have helped us make this dream come true! Thank you!

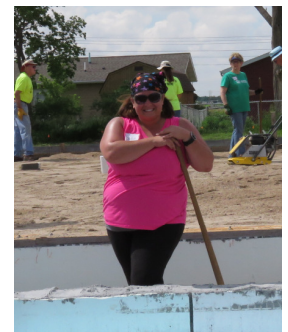


Melissa Kelsey

Hello, we are the Kelsey family. My name is Melissa, and I have three children: Michael age 20, Emily age 19 and Lillie age 11. We moved to Kearney in spring of 2004 in the search of a better future. I heard about Kearney Area Habitat for Humanity in 2006 while watching the news. I knew that would be the only way I would ever be able to own a home. It was the beginning of my 10 year goals: college education, professional employment and homeownership. Mike is out on his own now. Yet, he has been a part of the dream too just not in the same way I had dreamt it. He is my building partner. I have an identical twin sister that will be relocating to Kearney in the pursuit of her own goals and dreams. Because I've learned that with enough motivation and hard work, you can accomplish anything. What I am most excited about this 2017 building season is ending the moving cycle as this will be my forever home. I'm also excited for the friendships that will develop along the way. I work fulltime for Dr. Martin G. Tilley MD., DDS., PC. as his Billing and Insurance Coordinator. My entire family thanks all those who are a part of making my dream a reality. Because without you, I would still be dreaming. Kearney is a wonderful community who truly cares about one another. I am blessed to call it home.

Sadie Brandt

My name is Sadie Brandt, and I have a 13 year old son, Aiden Brandt. I am a program specialist at the Kearney Housing Agency, and it is my job to assist low income individuals and families to find safe and affordable housing. I am also finishing up my degree in Maternal & Child Health: Lactation Consulting. I will be done with school this fall. I co-run a mother support group where moms can come for lactation questions or pretty much any other issues they may need addressed. Aiden will be starting the 8th grade this coming fall. He swims competitively for the YMCA year round and mows lawns during the summer. We found out about KAHfH through my work. I am most excited for the planning aspect of everything to do with the house and all of the choices that go along with it. I cannot even begin to express my gratitude toward everyone I nvolved with Habitat for Humanity, from those doing the planning, to those helping build, even to the volunteers who bring us meals and water at the work site, thank you. This has been a tremendous experience so far, and we are only part way through! I cannot wait to see where the rest of the summer and fall take us!



Newsletter Spotlight on Support Partners

Support is not something that we can always count on from other people. More often we give ourselves pep talks to get through tougher situations. Thankfully, the homeowners don't have to rely on just themselves for this pat on the back once they become part of the Habitat family.

Each homeowner is paired with a support partner, also known as a nurture partner, from the community. Support partners are there to offer prayers as well as be the liaison between the building committee and the homeowner. The partners help field and answer questions that arise during the building process.

Judy Drown, a long time Habitat volunteer, and Sandra Hansen, a retired teacher, are both support partners for Angelita Hernandez. Pat and Deb Fox, who recently moved from Gibbon, are partnered with Melissa Kelsey, and Amy Jo Nelson, who brings her experience with Habitat in Grand Island, is partnered with Sadie Brandt.

The support partners have all have been working behind the scenes as well as on the build site to help swing a hammer, shovel some sand, or offer some advice. All of our support partners past and present are blessings to the homeowners as well as the organization. So next time you are at the build site and see a support partner, please give them a pat on the back because they are not only working hard to provide shelter but also working hard to *support* God's people in need.



From Behind the Hammer

— Jerry Marlatt, Building Superintendent

The 2017 Habitat Building season is well under way. We have three houses under construction 1209, 1305 and 1307 East 17th St. so we have plenty of jobs for all volunteers. The construction has been progressing very well so far. 1209 is ready for insulation and drywall, 1305 is ready for roofing and is getting enclosed and 1309 is still in the framing stage. We are looking forward to a good summer and lots of volunteers. Please come and help so we can complete houses # 77, #78, and # 79 in a timely manner this fall. **See you at the job site.**

Thank God for our Faithful Kearney Area Churches

—*Rena Zimmer*, Church Relations/Volunteer Coordinator

I have the privilege of visiting with several area churches in Kearney and am amazed at their commitment and love for not only their congregations but for their community.

As churches sometimes struggle with memberships, budgets, and keeping up with technological advancements, I find many have the spirit of giving both locally and globally.

We are very grateful for all the churches that have donated time, money, food and resources to Habitat of Kearney. Not only this year, but for the past 25 years. Some churches go above and beyond, but all gifts are appreciated.

St. Helena Society of St. George Orthodox Church is a great example. They met in March of 2017 and decided to donate the proceeds from their upcoming bake sale to local charity. KAHfH was selected and the bake sale was held on April 1, 2017. St. George promoted the bake sale in the newspaper and social media and had a large crowd. Close to \$1,500.00 was raised for KAHfH.

Another great story is Holy Cross Lutheran Church of Kearney. Habitat was contacted by Michelle Bombeck, the VBS coordinator. She asked for more information about Habitat. I visited with Michelle about Habitat and extra brochures were delivered to the church to hand out to the congregation. We are very grateful they thought of our organization for their VBS donations.

The story of habitat is the story of ordinary people accomplishing something extraordinary. Habitat is also about helping folks help themselves. Story after story of giving and kindness are shown in our community through our service organizations and our churches.

It is good to take time and reflect and be grateful for the many churches that step up every year for Habitat. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

“For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything.” (Hebrews 3:4, NIV)

Churches who have served from 2011 through 2017

Campus Lutheran Church, Countryside Christian, Cornerstone Berean, Faith United Methodist, Family of Christ Lutheran. First Baptist, First Christian, First Lutheran, First Presbyterian, First United Methodist, Gibbon Baptist, Grace Fellowship, Havens Chapel, Holy Cross Lutheran, Hope E-Free, Kearney E-Free, Living Faith Fellowship, Loup City United Methodist, Prince of Peace Catholic, St. George Orthodox, St. James Catholic, Trinity Presbyterian, Wellspring Christian, Zion Lutheran

ELANE WILCOX SCHOLARSHIP FUND HELPS HFH HOMEOWNERS

Elane Wilcox was one of the first Hospitality workers for KAHfH Saturday builds. She was known as a very generous and compassionate lady who believed in Habitat and in Education.

When Elane passed away in January of 2010 she left a memorial to KAHfH to be used by the Board at their discretion. Because of Elane’s love of education, the Board decided that a good choice for part of the money would be to offer it to KAHfH homeowner families who indicate an interest in furthering their education. This stipend can also be used to attend the English Language Institute at UNK. KAHfH offers any member of a habitat family a \$500.00/semester stipend for two years to be paid to the college of their choice as long as the student maintains a 2.25 Grade Point Average.

Since the first year offering this stipend in 2013, KAHfH has awarded stipends to 17 different students at nine different institutions. Seven of those 17 students have graduated from college or completed their courses of study and are now in the work force. One of the students completed an English as a Second Language course. We think this is another way for our Kearney Affiliate community to help our families with a HAND UP and hope it continues for another 25 YEARS!



Do you like to take pictures?

Would you like to help a family document the building of their new house?

We Need A Photographer!

We have three photographers who take photos every Saturday at the site so that we are able to provide homeowners with a photo album of the building of their house. It is presented at their dedication. Photographers work approximately one Saturday monthly. We provide a media card to use on your day to work. Just take candid photos of the homeowners working on their houses and the volunteers who help. Then leave the card at the site for Bonnie to pick up. That’s all you do. We will do the rest!
Can You Help?

If this interests you, please call Bonnie Mumm at 440-1709 for more information.

2017 Kearney Area Habitat for Humanity

Ken Mumm President
Marshall Everitt . Vice President
Charlie PickensTreasurer
Beth ForbessSecretary

Committee Chairpersons

Jerry Marlatt Building
Randall Heckman . .Co-Building
Renee Zimmer Church Relations AND Vol. Coordinator
Kathy Everitt. . . Family Nurture
Tammy Jeffs . . Family Selection
Jim McKenzie . . . Fund Raising
Bonnie Mumm Hospitality
Glennis Nagel . .Public Relations
John Zulkoski . . . Site Selection
Cindy Barney Finance
Barbara Clark Technology

Other Board Members

Gary Arentsen, Carol Erickson, Judy Fisher, Paul Jackson, Fr. Christopher Morris, Darrell Tepley, Mel Weins, Lucy Witt

Summer 2017

Kearney Area

Habitat for Humanity

1815 First Avenue

Kearney, NE 68847

Check the website and Facebook and
Twitter for current information

habitat.kearney.net



Newsletter Printing donated by
LIPS Print Service

FREE FOOD !

You are Invited to a Picnic

25 years of Homeowners and all past and present volunteers !

Sponsored by NebraskaLand National Bank

Monday, July 31 5-7 pm

at the work site: 1307 E. 17th Street, Kearney NE

We want to honor your commitment these past 25 years !!!

Address changes & Other Business

Call 234-6030 (office)

kahfh@yahoo.com

Requests for address changes can be left on the answering machine. Leave a clear, concise message so that Julie can get back to you ASAP. **Or send via email BEST WAY** You can also request an email copy of the newsletter

Kearney Area Habitat for Humanity † 1815 First Avenue, Kearney, NE 68847 † 308-234-6030 (office)