

### **Brandon and Jennifer Pierce**

We are the Pierce family: Brandon, Jennifer, Allie-13, Javier-10, Morgan-5, and Lucas-3. Brandon has 15+ years working in public service, and he is currently at the Central Nebraska Veterans Home in Kearney and part-time with Compass NE as a Family Support Worker. Brandon is a Cub Scout Chairman and Lion Den Leader. He volunteers with our daughter in Girl Scouts and helps at church in the welcoming committee. With all of that, he still finds time to watch sports or fill out his fantasy teams.

Jennifer just graduated from CCC with an Associate's of Arts Degree this spring, being the first generation in her family to earn a degree. This fall, she will be attending UNK working towards her Bachelors Degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Management of Information Systems. Jennifer is a Cub Scout Den Leader, Girl Scout volunteer, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society officer and member, National Society of Leadership and Success member, occasional church volunteer at New Life Assembly, and stay at home mom.



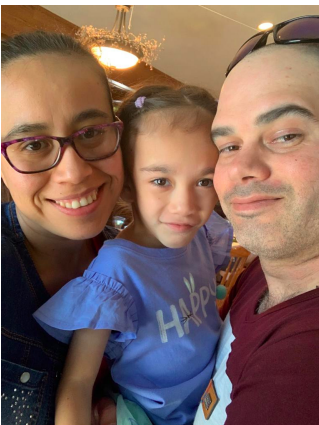
Our children are active in Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, sports, the school play, and church. Although we are an active family, we are close and enjoy spending time together with family. We are super excited for the building of our home. It has been a dream that God has made come true, and we look forward to putting up the walls and even to painting the rooms. Our first night might be like a big sleepover because our families are so excited for us too. They have all expressed such a deep happiness that we will have a home to call our own!!

We have so many people, and above all God, to thank for this new opportunity and our new "community" of friends and neighbors through Habitat for Humanity. A BIG, very BIG thank you to everyone who donates time, money, or items to Habitat for our build season this year!!

## *Meet the Homeowners*

### **Daniel and Ingrith Medina**

We are from Puerto Rico and Colombia. I work at Good Samaritan Hospital as a Sterile Processing Tech. Ingrith is studying English, and our daughter, Daniela, is in preschool. We heard of Kearney Habitat for Humanity through Community Action. We enjoy family time and helping others. We are blessed and humbled to be selected as new homeowners for Habitat, and we are looking forward to this great experience of building our home. Thank you and God bless you all.



### **Amie Maxwell**

My name is Amie Maxwell, and I have a small family of three. I am a single mom of two boys, one in high school and one in elementary school. Weston is my oldest son, and he is 15 years old. Braiden is my youngest, and he is 10 years old. My boys love playing outside, sports, fishing, and playing fortnight on the PS4.

I currently work as a CNA at Mother Hull and a DSP at Development Services of Nebraska. My hobbies are going to my kid's sports events and activities as well as camping, fishing, welding and looking on Pinterest for ideas of things to make. I heard about Habitat through the local Kearney Housing Agency. I am excited to get to know the neighbors and their families. It's amazing seeing a community grow and getting to meet new and amazing people.





## From Behind the Hammer

— Jerry Marlatt, Building Superintendent

## The Landscape is Changing

If you haven't been down to the job site lately, the landscape has changed. The paving of 17th Street from the existing street to Ave P street and Ave P to 16th Street has been completed. With this new paving and infrastructure in place we now have 17 lots left to build on after the three houses for this year are finished. This does not include the new property to the north that we purchased this spring which will have approximately twenty-eight lots when plated. We will be able to build for quite a few years before we run out of property again.

Building is going along very nicely so far this year thanks to all of you that have volunteered your labor. The two houses that we have started this year at 1309 and 1310 are coming right along. We have the framing up on 1309 and are about ready for the floor to be poured on 1310. It is amazing what we have accomplished between rains. Before you know it we will have all three houses in the building process. That means there is plenty of room for everyone to work. Be sure you are there to put your stamp on this year's houses. We look forward to seeing you on Saturdays all day and Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

## God @ the Center: Remembering Our Mission of Putting God's Love into Action

Over the past two years, Habitat for Humanity International has pushed an initiative that they call "Keeping God @ the Center". I haven't pursued the initiative as much as I would have liked, but I turned there when searching for a message for this season's newsletter. I am so glad that I did, because this is the best thing that Habitat can do to fulfill our mission and vision. It's so easy to get caught up in the thousands of little tasks that must be done to select families, organize volunteers, and build houses. At times we cannot see the forest for the trees. During these moments it is important to remember our roots. Our collective devotion and faithfulness to answer the call and put God's love into action is what makes all of this possible.

You're probably aware that our affiliate tithes 10% of donations back to International for the building of homes abroad. This has been done since our founding in 1992. Last year I got a phone call from Habitat International in which they asked me what our affiliate's secret of success was. The sense that I got from them is that consistent tithing is not the norm for affiliates across the country. At the time, I didn't know what to say. My response included statements about



## From Behind the Gavel

— Marshall Everitt, President

the quality of board members and other volunteers, the tireless work of our fundraising committee, and the penny-pinching "Fix it don't buy a new one!" attitudes of Jim and Jerry (which of course we need and appreciate). While these factors are of course important, they miss the mark.

Our secret to success isn't a secret at all. We are blessed. We answer the call and seek to love our neighbors as Jesus commands us. We do this entirely as volunteers. Not a single board or committee member expects any form of compensation other than the friendships built and the satisfaction of being faithful to God in the building of His kingdom right here and now. I am a firm believer that God blesses those who are faithful, and that is why we have been able to build 82 homes and still tithe back to Habitat International.

Thank you to all those who faithfully sacrifice so much of their time, effort, and money to make this possible. My time working with you has been the best lesson of living one's faith that I have ever experienced, and my hope is that through faith we can continue to build homes for and with God's people in need.

### TWO IMPORTANT TOPICS -

The insert covers two important topics. The photo page gives a few examples of the significant impact a donors gift will have. The other side of the page focuses on an extremely important group of donors, The Carpenter's Club, who's loyal support has been key to our continuing to build three homes each year! We hope to expand the number of folks donating in this way. Please take a few minutes to review both. Thank you! *The Fundraising Committee*

## Building a house with Habitat requires hard work and dedication

KEARNEY — Aaron Williams and his wife Chelsea Smith are delighted with their new Habitat for Humanity home, but they're realistic about the hard work and fiscal responsibility they had to do to get it.



"We were spending upwards of \$800 a month on rent for apartments, and we realized we could apply that same amount to a mortgage," Smith said. "We knew we could afford it."

But when the couple applied for a Habitat house three years ago, they had too much student-loan debt to qualify. Undaunted, they set a goal. During the next three years, they paid off their student loans. In late summer 2017, when they applied for a house again, Habitat accepted them.

First, they were required to put in 20 hours of what's called "sweat equity" by helping volunteers finish the three Habitat houses under construction in the fall of 2017.

In April 2018, when work on their house began, the couple was required to put in 400 hours of labor. That included 250 hours of their own effort and 150 hours from family and friends. Smith painted inside walls while Williams, who does maintenance at Grandview Apartments in Kearney, used his expertise on dozens of tasks.

"My husband is handy, and they put him to work," Smith said. "We had a part in everything."

In mid December, 2018 they moved into their new house. It has a living room, a spacious kitchen, a bathroom and bedrooms for themselves and their three sons: 5-year-old twins Aaron and Anthony, and baby Abel. They have a small yard for their dog, too.

"It's really going well," Smith said. "The kids love it." The couple still is unpacking a few items, but they've hung pictures on the walls and are settling in. "It's absolutely worth it if you're willing to put in the work and the commitment," she said. "We are thankful."

Kearney Hub Feature Article

By MARY JANE SKALA

Dedication December 18, 2018

# 2018 Homeowners



## Home Dedication Celebration

1208 East 17th Street



**Dawn Chadrick**  
Christian and Haylee

November 27, 2018



## Home Dedication Celebration

1304 East 17th Street



**Jackie Vasquez**  
and Ellie

December 6, 2018

## Cans for Habitat

You can put them (secured in bags please) in the cage box on the north side of the Habitat building at 1815 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue.

You can take them and other aluminum items to Anderson Wrecking on Avenue M and ask them to put your donation on the KAHfH account.

OR, if you have a place with a lot of cans, our "can man" Charlie will come and pick them up. Just call 234-6030 and leave a message for him.



Many cans or just a few . . . every little bit helps the "can" cause.

## 2019 Kearney Area Habitat for Humanity

Marshall Everitt. . . . .President  
Paul Bartlett . . . Vice President  
Charlie Pickens. . . . .Treasurer  
Amanda Gifford . . . . .Secretary

### Committee Chairpersons

Jerry Marlatt . . . . . Building  
Randall Heckman . . Co-Building  
Cindy Hayes . . Church Relations  
Volunteer Coordinator  
Kathy Everitt. . . Family Nurture  
Tammy Jeffs & Paul Bartlett . .  
Family Selection  
Margaret Messbarger. . .

Fund Raising  
Bonnie Mumm . . . . . Hospitality  
Glennis Nagel . . Public Relations  
Cory Christians . . Site Selection  
Cindy Barney . . . . . Finance

### Other Board Members

Carol Erickson, Judy Fisher,  
Deb Fox, Deb Hansen, Jim  
McKenzie, Rita Lindvall, Ken  
Mumm, Nancy Osterbuhr,  
Darrell Teply, Mel Weins

## SPRING/SUMMER 2019

Kearney Area

**Habitat for Humanity**

1815 First Avenue

Kearney, NE 68847

Check the website and Facebook and  
Twitter for current information

**habitat.kearney.net**

Thanks



Newsletter Printing donated by  
**LIPS Print Service**

## BUILDING SCHEDULE

Saturday building begins at 8:00 a.m.

*Building committee works on  
Tuesday & Thursday mornings, too*

Come and work for an hour or two OR more. Experience is not required. Tools are provided but you can bring your own if you wish. Lunch, snacks and soft drinks are served, FREE of charge.

### Work site information

- ◇ InfoLine: 234-4636 selection 4310
- ◇ KGFW during the Sat 8 a.m. news
- ◇ Web Page: [habitat.kearney.net](http://habitat.kearney.net)
- ◇ Facebook: Kearney Area Habitat

**Volunteers needed every Saturday all day and Tuesday and Thursday morning. Come and help build with and for "God's People in Need."**

## TWO Important Topics Inside

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### Address changes & Other Business

Call 234-6030 (office)

[kahfh@yahoo.com](mailto:kahfh@yahoo.com)

Requests for 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 in color

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