



Fort Collins

Habitat
for Humanity®

2016-2017 Fiscal Year Report



every child

deserves a decent place to live.

SETTING GOALS AND ACHIEVING DREAMS



Habitat homeowner Denise Gusinde is a thin, short woman with bright blue eyes and a firm handshake that tells you she's a "go-getter." And, when you consider that this single mother built and bought her own home, landed her dream career, and paid to send her two kids off to college, it's clear that Denise goes after her goals.

Denise will tell you that her journey really started in 1997, when she found herself divorced and alone with a one and two-year-old to raise. She had been going to school to become a teacher at the time, but this change in plans moved that goal to the back burner and she took a job at the local hospital which she was grateful to have, but it barely paid the bills. Things were tight, but relatively stable until she was told that her landlord would be selling their building, and she had to find a new place to live. Denise knew that she couldn't find a place that worked with her budget the way this one had, and she began to worry about where she would go.

That's when Habitat became part of her story.

A co-worker was considering applying for a Habitat home, but had too high of an income to qualify. Knowing Denise and her situation, she gave her the application with a week left until the deadline, and Denise filled it out that night. Like all the other applicants, Denise went through the rigorous process of an orientation, home interviews and a background check. Finally, all that was left to do was wait.

"I remember being in my apartment right before Thanksgiving. The kids were in bed and it was dark outside, when through the silence I heard a knock at the door. Ordinarily, in my neighborhood, I never would have answered it, but through the peephole I saw one face that I recognized, but the rest were strangers with big smiles on their faces and, I don't know, I just knew I had to open it."

Denise was greeted with the news that she had been selected as a Habitat partner family, and was handed three bright yellow hard hats—one for her and each of her two children.

To say that Denise worked hard for her house would be an understatement. As a single parent, she put in over 500 hours working on her own home – 2 years of Saturdays in the sun, snow, rain and sleet. After every build day, she and her kids would fill a jelly jar with beans—one bean per hour completed. She still has that jar to this day.

When her home was finally complete, Denise couldn't have been more excited or proud. Her kids were thrilled to have their own rooms, to have a place to call their own, and to be able to play outside without fear or worry.

Everything had changed for the better, and with the newfound time (after all, she wasn't building every Saturday anymore) and financial stability, Denise went back to school to get her Masters in Education and soon after she accepted her dream job as a Kindergarten teacher in the Poudre School District where she has taught for 16 years.

"Not only did Habitat provide me with an opportunity to pursue my dream career, but it also taught me and my kids a lot about the value of hard work, time management, and the good in the community. I was worried what would happen to my kids before Habitat came along, but now I know that the cycle of worrying about jobs and where to live has been broken because of Habitat. Recently, my son received a promotion at his construction job, and I told him how proud I was, to which he responded, 'Everything I know about hard work and reaching goals I learned from you, Mom.'"



THEN



NOW



Gusinde Family



ReStore

The Fort Collins Habitat for Humanity ReStore is a nonprofit home improvement store and donation center that sells new and gently used furniture, appliances, home accessories, building materials and more to the public at a fraction of the retail price. Proceeds are used to help build strength, stability, self-reliance and shelter in Fort Collins. The ReStore also accepts and picks up donations of items—call 970-488-2703 for more information.

Number of Donors

3,761



Hundreds of Thousands

of pounds of goods are diverted from the land-fill each year and reused, recycled and repurposed.

Mortgages paid by Habitat homebuyers

\$103,348

Paying it forward to build more homes!



WE BUILT IT TOGETHER

280 Homes Built!

In the Fort Collins area:

70

Internationally:

210

For every home built here, 3 homes are built internationally. Through our Tithe program, Habitat affiliates are not only eliminating poverty housing from their own communities, but also in communities around the world.



1,306 volunteers contributed over 16,764 hours of service
THANK YOU!

FINANCIALS

RESOURCES IN

Individuals	\$294,789
Home Sponsorship	\$950,677
Fundraising	\$99,284
ReStore	\$132,180
Grants	\$47,949
Team Builds	\$19,625
Donation of Materials & Services	\$26,000



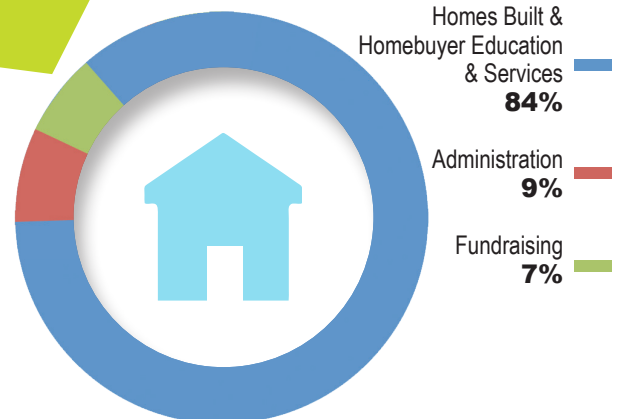
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84¢ of every \$1 you give goes to program services.



RESOURCES OUT



48 HOMES MEANS PARTNERSHIPS AND PEOPLE

harmony
cottages



24,000
Volunteers



to lift a
hammer

144
Individuals



experiencing stability
after building and
buying their
home

4 Poudre
Builds with
320
Students



learning
math through
Geometry in
Construction



1
Person

to help make it possible –
YOU by serving,
giving and supporting

PROVIDING AFFORDABLE SOLAR POWER

Affordability stretches beyond just a 0% interest mortgage. To make our Harmony Cottages homes truly affordable, a key project requirement was to create a product that was highly energy efficient as well. For families earning a low to moderate income, paying for heat often falls to the wayside in the interest of other, more critical needs. Therefore, a design that would keep homebuyers comfortable at a very low energy cost was key. Thanks to the support of local partners, and the guidance of an invested planning committee, we are pleased that Harmony Cottages will have solar power on its homes.

Solar would not be possible without the partnership of New Belgium Brewing, Namasté Solar and the City of Fort Collins Utilities Department. Thanks to them, the utility costs of homebuyers will be lowered by up to 70% a month.



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**Our vision is a world
where everyone has a
decent place to live.**



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Celebrating 25 years of Service

Marking the 25th year of Fort Collins Habitat for Humanity in 2018, it seems only fitting that if the symbol of a 25th Anniversary is silver, ours should be a nail.

Of the 300 total homes (built locally and globally) can you imagine the number of nails firmly holding together those studs or ALL the strong hands that hammered them? Those nails seem a fitting representative of a model where every single one is required.

In 1992, the year before Habitat began in Fort Collins, a fable was formed within Habitat for Humanity – a fable with nails as the central character. Like many good fables, this story is mostly true.

“Although thousands of homes in South Florida were obliterated or damaged beyond repair by Hurricane Andrew, 27 units built in Dade County by the volunteer group Habitat for Humanity withstood the brunt of the storm.

‘All the homes are inhabitable and safe,’ said Kevin McPeak, administrative coordinator for Habitat for Humanity of Greater Miami. McPeak said he toured the homes and found windows broken and water damage, but no structural damage.”

This story of the homes that survived in the eye of the storm has been retold 1000s of times over with a twist, that Habitat homes withstand storms because where a traditional builder would put 2 nails, a Habitat volunteer will put at least 4! Then everyone laughs, an insider laugh, because we believe it to be accurate. That the homes stay standing not because of the nails exactly, but because of the heartbeat of hammers pounding, and because of the tough-as-nails homebuyers giving hundreds of hours of sweat equity, paying back a mortgage, because they are more than a structure.

They stand because WE build them with love for our neighbors that helps them craft a new story for their lives. WE are Habitat. This 25th anniversary year, our goal is to gather and share the community stories that are Habitat here. Stories of faith, of generosity, of action, and of success that make Habitat for Humanity.

Please share your Habitat story with us.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristin Candella".

Kristin Candella, CEO and Executive Director





October
10-14

Carnegie Center
for Creativity

Save *the*
Date

for Habitat's 25th Anniversary Exhibit:
25 Years of Stories.