

The concept behind "Give Back 5" really began in 2019, when John Barberio, a local, retired construction management consultant, saw his son struggle to afford a home in Fort Collins--the very place he grew up. Here is John's story:

"When my wife and I bought our first home, the total cost was twice our yearly salary at the time--a stretch, but attainable. Now, just a few decades later, I watched my son try to buy in the same place, but with prices that were more than five times his annual income. I realized then how hard it was for folks to purchase something affordable in Fort Collins, and I wanted to help.

Habitat for Humanity is the only builder that offers truly affordable units in Fort Collins, and even then, the 'bricks and sticks' still cost over \$100,000 per home. I didn't want families to have to wait for sponsorship dollars to pour in before their homes could start, so I decided to try to gather 20 of my close friends and ask them to give \$5,000 each to reach the \$100k needed for sponsorship.

As I was assembling a list of potential donors to call, though, it became apparent that I knew more than 20 people who believed in the need for housing. I also quickly realized that the amount of \$5,000 need not be hard and fast. It was humbling to watch as my network of friends, family, and contacts from my old business days raised the full house sponsorship via individual gifts.



We are pleased to see the success of Give Back 5 turn into an annual sponsorship model, and I welcome any and all who wish to join our team in this effort. Whether you choose to give to this particular build, or even consider how YOU might be able to formulate your own Give Back 5 model to make a difference, I join you in lifting a hammer for Habitat!"