



the GIFT of HOME

May 2010

...the Key to Success!

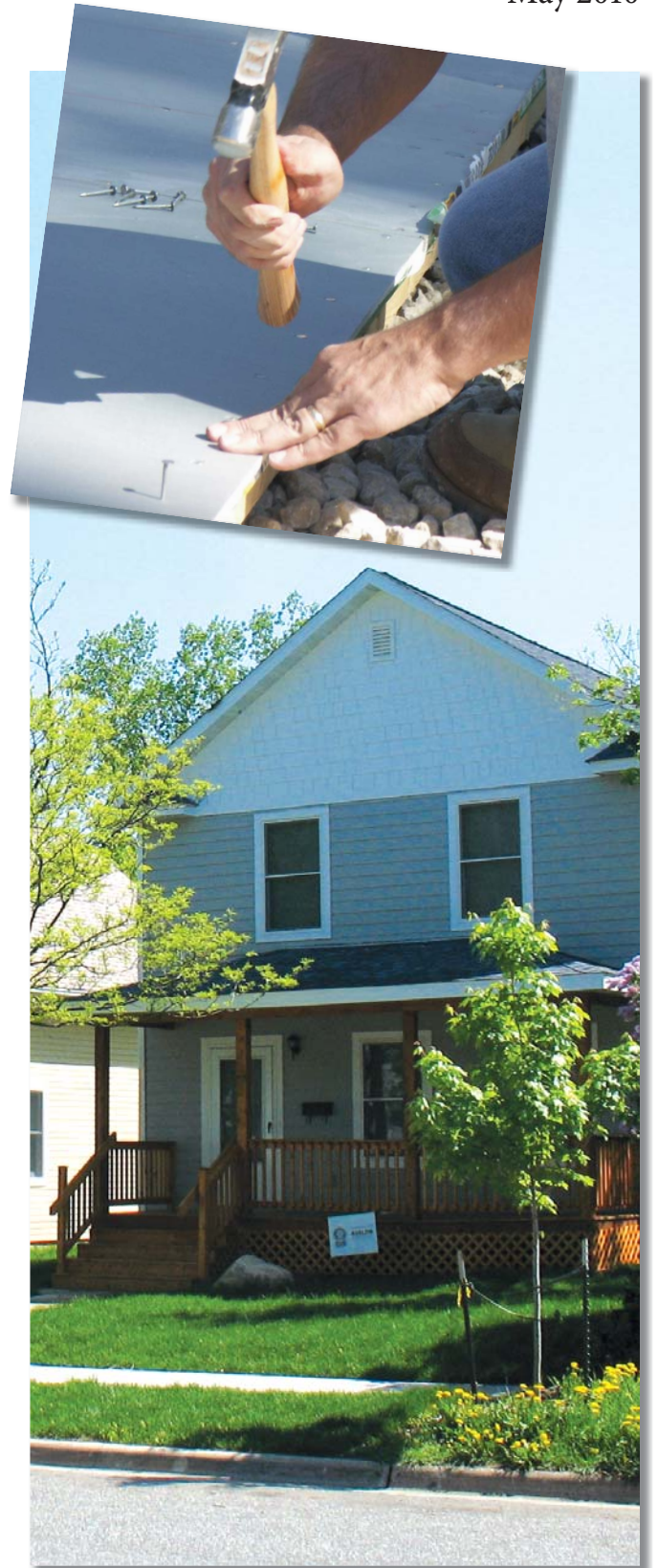
More than 2,500 years ago, Aesop told a story that is now known as The Lion and the Mouse. The moral of that fable is “No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.”

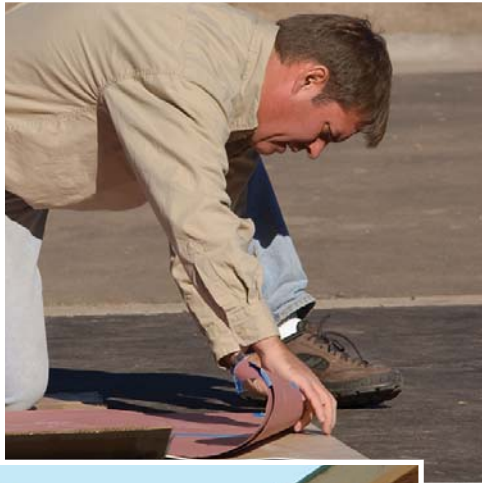
What does this have to do with Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity? I am more direct than eloquent, so I would deliver the message this way: **Your continued support, no matter the amount of your gift, will count in a big way.**

I have volunteered on several Habitat build sites. My wife Kathy and I have been supporters of Twin Cities Habitat for more than 20 years. We’ve watched the organization gain strength and expand its services. We’ve gotten more involved because **we know that Habitat changes lives.** It changes the lives of families who:

- move into new or renovated Habitat homes
- get a “fix-up” through the A Brush with Kindness program
- avoid foreclosure through the Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Program

I believe in working hard. I believe that having a **hard-working family living in a decent house down the street is good for me—and you.** It’s good for the entire community. Affordable housing provides a family with stability, enhances health, and improves educational outcomes— all of which ultimately allow people to take roles as productive members of society.





Take, for example, Kate and Thomas Thao who started life with two babies in a cramped, rodent-infested, apartment in an unsafe neighborhood. Kate believes that buying their Habitat home in St. Paul in 1994 completely changed her family's life. The affordable mortgage helped them to weather some tough economic times. And, Kate tells us, "Having a steady home has helped my children do well in school, make friends that helped shaped them to be good people, and gave them the heart to give back to others."

It doesn't get any better than that.

Now, you may be thinking that you do not want to contribute your hard-earned dollars to provide a handout for folks who ought to be making it on their own. I agree. I don't make that kind of contribution either; that's not what Habitat is about. Every person who moves into a Habitat house does so only after being carefully selected, contributing hundreds of hours of sweat equity, completing many additional hours of classes designed to make them successful homeowners, and signing a mortgage that requires them to pay for the home—and allows Habitat to build the next home. **Habitat's homeowners are people who only need a hand getting started and, once that happens, the stage is set for success.**

Here is where you come in. There are thousands of families in the Twin Cities area who make too little at their jobs to afford decent housing. **Hundreds of those families turn to Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity every year.** From those hundreds of applications, each year Habitat has the resources to build about 50 homes, and to provide badly needed maintenance services to another 100 families through A Brush with Kindness.

We need to do more because the need is so great. The only way we can do more is if people like you provide support.

This is your chance to make a difference once again. You can join with others to improve the life of a family in the Twin Cities and, in the process, improve our community. **Please give generously: to someone, it may mean more than you dare imagine.**

Sincerely,

Norman Baer

Member

Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors

PS: The contribution you make today will be the Key to Success for a family's tomorrows.

