



# You build equity

Twin Cities  
 **Habitat for Humanity®**

# Habitat

## HERALD

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*As a young teacher, Keon didn't think homeownership would be attainable anytime soon. He was sharing a small apartment with his partner Sharianna. They were looking at a future of trying to keep up with rising rents, moving regularly, and wondering how they'd start a family and build generational wealth.*

That all changed one evening when Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity announced a partnership with *Black Men Teach* to provide pathways to homeownership for Black male teachers in our community.

"It was an emotional day for a lot of us," Keon remembers. "I got in the car and called Sharianna immediately. I was just like *Hey, we got something to look forward to.*"

The mission of *Black Men Teach* is to recruit, prepare, place, and retain Black male teachers in elementary school classrooms. Minnesota ranks last nationally in disparities between Black and white student graduation rates. But having just one Black teacher in grades 3–5

decreases the likelihood of a low-income Black student dropping out of high school by 39%.

"As an educator, we talk about all the racial gaps that we have in Minnesota," Keon says. "And that also translates into homeownership."

Thanks to the new partnership, Keon and Sharianna participated in our *Advancing Black Homeownership* program. With Habitat's homeownership education and additional down payment assistance through the partnership, they were able to buy a home.

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"It doesn't feel real until you're in it."

**Keon**

*New Homeowner in 2025*

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## KEON cont'd from 1

Now they live in their Habitat home in the same community where Keon teaches. It's bigger and better than they could have ever imagined.

"This will be the home where we're able to start a family," Keon says, Sharianna beaming beside him. "We're in a position where as young as we are, we're setting ourselves up for future success. We'll be able to build equity in this home, and this is our future. I hope this really sets the tone for what can be in Minnesota, and I hope people learn from it."



Keon and Sharianna close on their new home in the community where he teaches.

### Volunteer Voices

## Experience the Joy of Volunteering



**Julie Loomis** reflects on her **10<sup>th</sup> annual "Birthday Build,"** which brought together friends and family to experience the camaraderie of a volunteer day—and she encourages everyone to give it a try.

"We need more joy in the world right now. Working together gives us the opportunity to make an impact, and that is the big difference—**joy with the impact.**"



**Dave and John Yarusso**, long-time Habitat volunteers, spent a week in a familiar neighborhood during the **2024 Carter Work Project**. The golf course in their childhood neighborhood is being transformed into The Heights, our largest development ever!

"We grew up about a half a block away, and we spent a lot of time up here...my brothers and I caddied here. One brother worked on the grounds crew, my sister worked as a waitress, and I was a busboy. It's really cool to see it developed," said Dave.

John says, "**It brings a lot of joy and it feels good** to volunteer to help people get that pride of homeownership and transform their lives... and it's great to see new life and new energy put into the East Side of St. Paul!"

### Upcoming Events



## 19th Hole Happy Hour

**Monday, July 28, 2025 | 4:00 p.m. at Minneapolis Golf Club**

Get tickets now for our signature summer event! Enjoy complimentary refreshments, yard games, awesome auction items, and an inspiring story from a Habitat homeowner. Plus, make a donation at the event for a chance to win a \$500 VISA gift card!

[tchabitat.org/happy-hour](https://tchabitat.org/happy-hour)



## Home Celebration

**Saturday, August 9, 2025 | 1:00–3:00 p.m. at Recreation Outdoor Center (ROC), St. Louis Park**

Come to a community celebration to welcome new homeowners to the Habitat family at this free, fun-filled day of family-friendly crafts and games, and the adjacent water park will be open for more fun.

[tchabitat.org/celebrate](https://tchabitat.org/celebrate)



## Hard Hat & Black Tie Gala

**Saturday, April 25, 2026 | The Depot – Minneapolis**

Mark your calendars now for the best gala in town! Perennial festivities include live and silent auctions, sumptuous dinner, games, dancing, and live music. It's the only shindig where you'll see Carhartt and Versace in the same ensemble!

[tchabitat.org/gala2026](https://tchabitat.org/gala2026)

**Find your joy today and sign up to volunteer!**





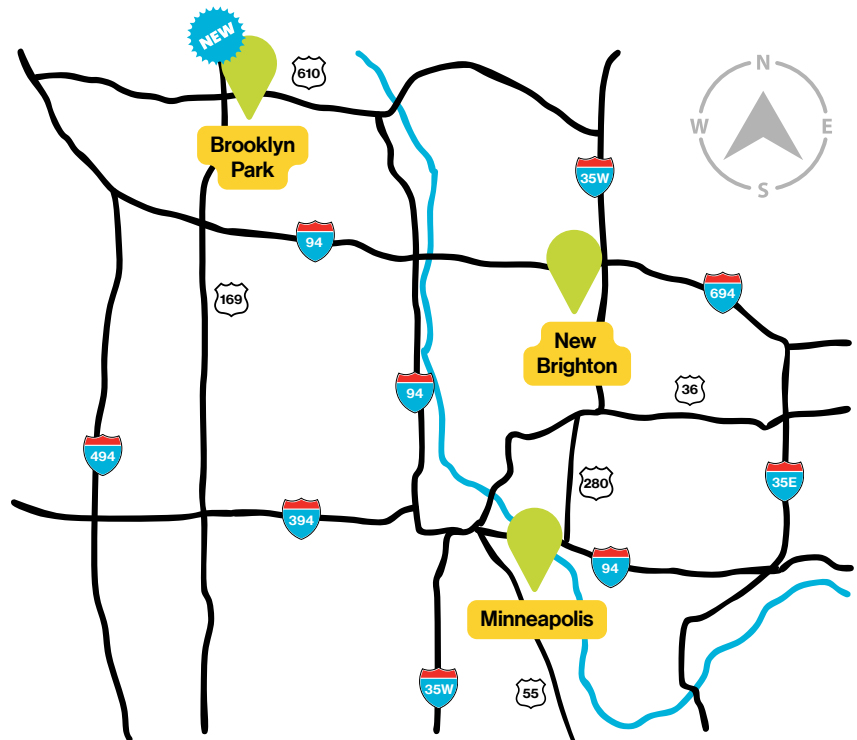
# Brooklyn Park ReStore

## Coming Soon!

**We're bringing ReStore to the northwest metro!** Our third location will open in Brooklyn Park in late summer 2025.

This new ReStore will make shopping, donating, or volunteering more convenient for everyone in the northwest and west metro. Your support is key to expanding our mission and sustainability practices.

Learn more at [restore.tchabitat.org/brooklyn-park](https://restore.tchabitat.org/brooklyn-park)



### Help Stock the Store

We need your help to fill the new store with amazing items! Donate by visiting ReStore in Minneapolis or New Brighton, or request a free or priority pick up and our drivers will come to you. Although we're grateful for every donation, we can't accept everything. Please review our **donation guidelines** by scanning the code before your visit.

