

"This house is a dream come true," Alex, future homeowner

Alex will be living in Rhinelander in our 26<sup>th</sup> new home build.

Alex (front) with friends, family, and volunteers in front of his future home.

Born in Russia with a rare childhood disease, Alex lost his legs at an early age. Unable to care for him, his parents placed him in an orphanage. This is where Ed and Robin met Alex, adopted him, and brought him home to Illinois.

In 2011, the family moved to Rhinelander, where Ed became the Pastor at Northwoods Baptist Church. Alex was homeschooled, then attended Nicolet College. After college, Alex took a job with Walmart as a self-check-out clerk and later began a second job as a cashier at Culvers.

Alex currently rents with a roommate, but has always dreamed of home ownership, "This house is a dream come true," says Alex, "I look forward to moving in later this summer." With the help of friends and family, Alex's future home is progressing nicely. He is well on his way to completing his required 250 hours of sweat equity, already accumulating over 100 hours.

**90%** of surveyed Habitat homeowners in 44 U.S. cities said they could not have owned a

home without help from Habitat.

The partnership between Habitat and Alex has truly been a shining example of working together, side by side, to build not just a house, but everyday skills and self-reliance.

When Habitat for Humanity Northwoods Wisconsin partners with a potential new homeowner; we look first, at these criteria:

- In need of better housing current housing is unaffordable, inaccessible, or inadequate.
- Willing to partner with Habitat help build their own home, 250 hours of "sweat equity" per adult in the household.
- Able to pay an affordable mortgage Habitat Northwoods' homeowners work with USDA to obtain an affordable mortgage for their home.