



**Habitat
for Humanity®**
Northwoods Wisconsin

**quarterly
newsletter**

february 2025

Newsletter Note

I moved to the Northwoods last year, and this is my first proper winter.

The move was voluntary, which is to say I knowingly signed up for the many miseries of the season, like not seeing the sunshine for days at a time; my skin and lips cracking and bleeding; watching my friends subject their dogs to the humiliation of wearing booties and a coat; not to mention the pang of guilt that comes with allowing my boyfriend do all of the shoveling. And it goes on for months, because this far north, March means nothing.

In past winters, my go-to coping strategies have been eating chocolate, staying inside, and fantasizing about life in a more temperate locale (basically as close to hibernation as someone can get while remaining employed).

Of course, real Northwooders have it all figured out. No one's denying that it's cold, but I hear few complaints about the weather, even though it's objectively inhospitable to human life. In fact, most people seem grateful for the snow and the ice, and excited to participate in their chosen winter activity.
Continued on page 2



Construction Manager Ann Sorensen with her students. In addition to time in the classroom, students from Rhinelander High School have been volunteering on builds during their free time on the weekends. The students' work has a lasting impact on their lives and community.

■ **Gale Wilcox Makes Historic Donation**

This January, Rhinelander resident Gale Wilcox donated \$100,000.00 to Habitat for Humanity Northwoods Wisconsin, the largest donation in our affiliate's history. Wilcox has made several other large charitable gifts to our community this year, and Habitat is thrilled by her generosity and the impact that the gift will have on the Northwoods.

In the past, Wilcox and her husband have volunteered, building Habitat houses. If you or your organization is interested in making a donation to Habitat, please reach out to executive director Dave Havel.

IN THE NEWS: [LEARN MORE ABOUT GALE'S DONATION](#)

■ **Bids for Builds Starts February 13**

The first week of Bids For Builds, Habitat's annual Facebook auction begins Friday February 13. Check out the items for this year's auction, share with your friends and family!

FUNDRAISING: [BIDS FOR BUILDS WEEK ONE](#)

Jimmy Carter's Legacy Lives On in RHS Students

WXPR's Katie Thorensen reported a beautiful story on the legacy of Jimmy Carter, and on his impact on Habitat for Humanity in the Northwoods.

In the story, you can hear the voices of many of the RHS students. You can listen to the story [here](#) (keep a tissue handy).

From page 1

Sometimes it's more than the weather that gets you down. There's so much going on in the world right now, the phrase "collective anxiety" is almost passe. If you've found your own form of hibernation from the headlines, I don't blame you.

Winter in the Northwoods has reminded me to focus on the relationships and activities I am grateful and excited for. If you're looking for inspiration and good news, Habitat is a great place to start.

In the past quarter, Northwoods Wisconsin Habitat for Humanity has experienced incredible growth and generosity. Rhinelander's Gale Wilcox donated \$100,000.00, to Northwoods Habitat, the largest donation in our history.

Work on our builds has continued, and volunteers, partners and families have continued to show up despite the cold weather.

The students at Rhinelander High School, whose two periods of residential construction are the highlight of their day, have been coming on weekends to volunteer. If that doesn't warm you up, I don't know what will.

- Abbey Edmonds, Marketing Chair



Marlette with the Larsen Drive road sign. The road was named for Marlette's family.

Habitat Receives \$10,000 Matching Grant

Habitat is excited to announce that Marlette Larsen, a Rhinelander resident, has made a gift of \$10,000. The gift is a matching grant, which means that every dollar up to \$10,000 donated to Habitat for Humanity Northwoods up until June 1, 2025 will be Matched by Marlette.

From now until June 1, we encourage individuals and businesses to donate to Habitat to give their gifts the maximum impact.

Habitat Needs Your Help

Habitat is thrilled by all the great news and exciting updates we are able to provide in this newsletter, but we still need your help. There are so many ways you can contribute to Habitat, and each one is important and necessary, so consider this our wishlist to you, our donors and volunteers. You're the reason we can continue our mission of creating safe, affordable places to live to for our neighbors.

1. Land

Habitat is still looking for lots and land in the Woodruff and Eagle River areas. Are you a Realtor who wants to get involved in community service? Or perhaps you're land rich and cash poor, and don't know what to do with a spare parcel of land in Eagle River? We will take it off your hands!

2. Volunteers

Habitat's two ongoing builds are going well despite the cold and snow, and we are very thankful to our high school students, partners, and volunteers. Habitat is still looking for groups and weekend volunteers as we work to complete both homes.

3. Donations

Come one, come all! The Re-Store and auction need your donations (they're tax deductible!)

4. Partner Families

The current need level in our community for safe and affordable housing is high, however Habitat is still searching for partner families. If you have someone in mind, please reach out to dave.havel@habitatnorthwoods.org to get in touch.

SCAN TO
WIN:
BIDS FOR
BUILDS



SCAN TO
DONATE:
MAKE A
GIFT

