



UFF-DA!

Useful Facts and Figures— Data for Affiliates

Advocacy

Advocacy – June 2018

At every level of Habitat, having local, state, and federal laws and funding that support Habitat for Humanity is not only a great benefit but also necessary to making homeownership a reality for families. Advocacy means that those most connected to housing issues and needs are able to share with their lawmakers how important affordable housing is for citizens and communities.

Habitat on the Hill, Washington D.C.

February 13-15, 2018

350 Habitat staff and homeowners from all over the country traveled to the US Capitol to meet with legislators and advocate for affordable housing. Habitat International hosts the gathering each year.

2018 Minnesota Attendees: Rice County Habitat, Rochester Area Habitat, and Twin Cities Habitat

Habitat on the Hill, Minnesota

April 26, 2018

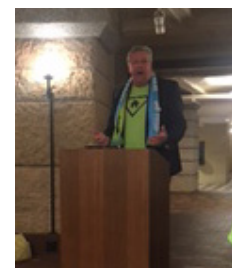
More than 115 Habitat staff, volunteers, homeowners, and other advocates gathered at the State Capitol. Attendees heard from President and CEO of Twin Cities Habitat Sue Haigh; Minnesota Housing Commissioner Mary Tingerthal; Representative Alice Hausman; Senator David Senjem; Habitat Minnesota Executive Director Chris Vosbeek; and Twin Cities Habitat homeowner Hunde. Hunde worked for more than six years attempting to purchase a home before he finally partnered with Twin Cities to get a Habitat mortgage through their open market program. Those attending met with more the 60 legislators around the state!

2018 Attendees: Fergus Falls Area Habitat; North St. Louis County Habitat; Rice County Habitat; Rochester Area Habitat; Twin Cities Habitat; Western Lake Superior Habitat; and Winona-Fillmore Habitat

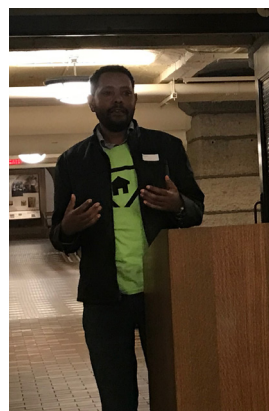


Housing
Commissioner
**Mary
Tingerthal**

Twin Cities
Habitat Policy
& Advocacy
Manager **Pam
Johnson**



Habitat Minnesota
Executive Director
Chris Vosbeek



Twin Cities Habitat
homeowner **Hunde**

**Speakers
from
Habitat
on the
Hill MN**



Twin Cities Habitat
President & CEO
Sue Haigh

Session Recap

Homes for All is a statewide coalition that advances shared policy initiatives with the goal of housing stability for all Minnesotans. The coalition supports statewide investment across Minnesota’s Housing Continuum. Habitat Minnesota, along with 8 other Habitat organizations in Minnesota, has signed on to their goals. In the 2018 legislative session, Homes for All successfully secured **\$120 million in bonding for housing** in the bonding bill, which is a historic level of support! Governor Dayton signed the bonding bill at the end of May.

Here is how the funds will be allocated:

- \$10 million: General Obligation bonds for public housing preservation
- \$50 million: Housing Infrastructure bonds for affordable housing development and preservation
- \$30 million: Housing Infrastructure bonds for permanent supportive housing for individuals with behavioral health needs
- \$30 million: General Obligation bonds for mental health crisis centers. Because of the connections between mental health and housing stability, these centers are a critical component of the emergency end of the housing continuum.

In 2018, Twin Cities Habitat also advocated for the Workforce Homeownership Minnesota (WHOM) bill, which sought to generate \$10 million per year for affordable homeownership development statewide. Despite strong bipartisan support from bill authors and Homes for All partners, funding for WHOM was not included in the final tax bill. While disappointing, work on the WHOM bill helped build new relationships inside and outside of the Capitol that will be crucial in future years.

From North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity

“We have considered advocacy as an integral part of our work in addressing affordable housing in our community, country and world. Habitat is just one partner working on a very complicated and layered problem of affordable housing. **We recognize that if we wish to see a world where everyone has a decent place to live, it will come through many avenues including advocating for that vision across the world.**”

How they advocate:

Local:

- Great relationships with county commissioners, planners, and auditors
- Relationships with city leaders in 14 communities, including mayoral attendance at groundbreaking and dedication ceremonies

These relationships helped gain county funding and discounted land for building and led to towns donating lots and discounting fees.

State:

- The affiliate brought a partner family to Habitat on the Hill MN in 2017 and 2018 to share firsthand accounts with representatives.
- State senators keep involved with construction projects, including volunteering on home builds.

Federal:

- Representative Rick Nolan and Senator Amy Klobuchar have helped install sheetrock on a project in Aurora.
- Local office representatives come to events to represent federal legislators and keep them updated on the affiliate’s activities.

From Rice County Habitat for Humanity

“Our increased engagement is a direct result of a looming affordable housing crisis felt by all of us in the state of Minnesota and the nation. Wages are not rising at a pace consistent with the rise in the cost of housing. It’s in the best interest of ALL of us when people have an affordable and safe place to live. The great thing is—everybody loves Habitat. They’ve been incredibly receptive to meeting with us. **It will take the efforts of our government, nonprofits and other public and private efforts to help solve this affordable housing crisis we’re in—that’s why we’re involved in advocacy.**”

How they advocate:

- Working closely with city councils and other elected leaders
- Increasing state and federal advocacy by attending Habitat on the Hill MN in 2017 and 2018 and Habitat on the Hill in Washington DC in 2018
- Including advocacy information in email newsletters to keep donors and other supporters updated

“I want my child care provider to not be stressed about rising rent prices—that makes my provider a better provider. I want the nursing assistant(s) at our local senior care center to not have to drive 45 minutes to a 6AM shift because they can’t afford to live where they work. This is why we’ve engaged with our state and federal elected leaders.”

