



# UFF-DA!

## Useful Facts and Figures— Data for Affiliates

Age in Place – October 2021

**“Everyone deserves the opportunity to age with dignity in their own home and community.”**

10,000 Americans turn 65 every day—one of the fastest-growing age groups in the US. About 19 million of these older adults are living in homes that are inadequate for their needs or in disrepair, and they are unable to access resources to make home safe and livable. Habitat for Humanity understands the positive impact that staying in your own home and community can have; this knowledge and these statistics on aging guided the creation of Age in Place, a nationally recognized Habitat program that helps people ages 65 and older remain safely in their homes by improving their house and quality of life where they live now. The program completes both indoor and outdoor modifications or repairs, made affordable for the homeowner.

### Background

The Habitat repair program *A Brush with Kindness (ABWK)* was created to fill a need: repairs for low-income homeowners. **In FY19, 52% of repairs and modifications completed by Habitat were for adults age 65 or older**, many of whom wish to stay in their homes but cannot do so safely. Twin Cities Habitat began the *Age in Place* program as a way to support those seniors, and several other Minnesota affiliates have recognized the same need in their communities. Some affiliates continue to serve older homeowners through their repair programs, while others have created specific programs:

- Douglas County Habitat: Aging in Place
- South Central MN Habitat: Aging in Place
- Twin Cities Habitat: Age Well at Home
- Two Rivers Habitat: Critical Home Repair/Home Preservation
- Western Lake Superior Habitat: Age in Place
- Winona County Habitat: Aging in Place

**Only 3.8%** of housing units in the US are suitable for individuals with moderate mobility difficulties.

Center for Disease Control and Prevention



Twin Cities Habitat: Homeowner enjoys their new lift chair

## Why Age in Place?

- Over the next 20 years, **households in their 80s will be the fastest-growing age group.**
- Close to **90% of seniors want to remain in their homes** as long as possible.
- Unprecedented growth in the baby boom generation will create an **unsustainable strain on Social Security, Medicare, and especially housing.**
- In the state of Minnesota, the population of **those 65 and older will more than double by 2035.**
- **16,400 houses** in Minnesota (32% of low-income older adult homeowners) **need home rehabilitation or improvement**

to **successfully age in place** over the next five years. Many homes were not designed for safe aging: narrow doorways, steep stairs, poor lighting. **Falls are the number one reason older adults need to leave their homes.**

**Habitat’s Age in Place program aims to combat these issues and help older adults improve their homes and quality of life.**

Sources: Habitat International Aging in Place resources  
[Wildor Research](#): “An Assessment of Home Renovation and Rehabilitation Needs of Older Adult Homeowners in Minnesota” December 2016

### Cost Comparison of Strategies to Meet Older Adults’ Needs

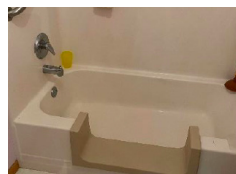
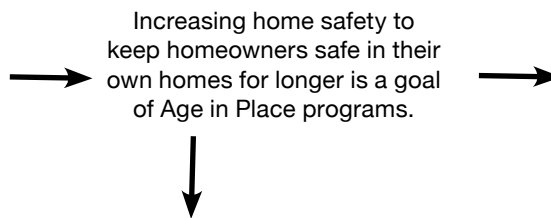
Estimated monthly cost of:

Aging in place (home rehab/home and community-based services): **\$3,346**

Assisted living: **\$4,357**

Skilled nursing facility: **\$7,567**

[Wildor Research](#): “An Assessment of Home Renovation and Rehabilitation Needs of Older Adult Homeowners in Minnesota” December 2016



Douglas County Habitat: Homeowners Arlene (left) and Roger (right) pose with safety improvements made to their homes: a ramp for Roger and levered door handles and a tub cut out for Arlene.

# Minnesota Projects & Updates

## FY21 Projects Completed

**15 projects**

Douglas County Habitat

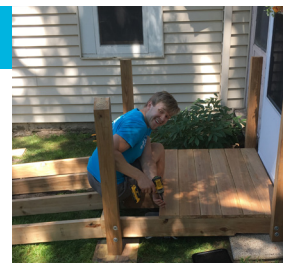
**30 projects**

Twin Cities Habitat

**2 projects\***

Two Rivers Habitat

\*Program currently on hiatus \*\*data unavailable for South Central Minnesota Habitat



Twin Cities Habitat: An AmeriCorps member works on a ramp build

**4 projects**

Western Lake Superior Habitat

### Two Rivers Habitat: Aging in Place

Two Rivers Habitat's program began in 2017 as a Home Preservation Initiative and is currently on hiatus, wrapping up new projects while assessing how to carry out work in the future. FY21 projects included one homeowner that received a roof repair, storm door and some window replacements, and broken light switches replacement. A smaller project included grab bar installation and handrails for outside steps. Program sustainability, cost, and community response are all under consideration as Two Rivers Habitat plans for future programs to best support their community.

### Twin Cities Habitat: Age Well at Home

In FY21, the Age Well at Home program served 30 homeowners. Originally called "Age in Place," this program was renamed to reflect the program's holistic, housing/health focuses. In partnership with community organizations and the homeowners themselves, the program aims to serve 40 homeowners in FY22 and increase the racial diversity and accessibility of the program.

In addition to current modifications (grab bars, ramps, etc), Twin Cities Habitat is looking to expand smart home products such as sensor controlled lighting and automated doors to enhance aging in place.

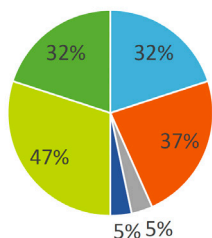
*"As the number of older homeowners who want to age in place soars so does the need for home modification services." Twin Cities Habitat plans to expand the program to meet "this tremendous need in our communities." —Pat Lund, Age Well at Home founder*

### Douglas County Habitat: Aging in Place

In FY21, 15 Age in Place (AIP) projects were completed in Douglas County, including 12 that were CAPABLE projects (partnership with occupational therapist (OT) and registered nurse, along with home modifications). In the next year, Douglas County hopes to begin the Housing Plus program, which includes OT visits and home modifications.

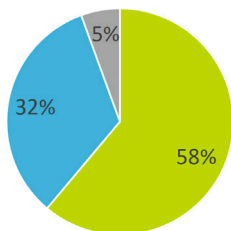
In total, Douglas County has completed 40 AIP projects since their program began in September 2017. Some of their program results are below.

Since the project was completed, I feel safer in these areas:



■ Walking  
■ Getting out of bed  
■ Going to the bathroom  
■ Bathing  
■ Dressing  
■ Using Stairs

I experienced improved independence.



■ Strongly Agree  
■ Agree  
■ Neutral



*"Habitat's Aging in Place work has allowed me to live independently in a safe environment without fear of falling. To be able to live in my home means so much to me and gives me a positive attitude every day." —Dennis, AIP homeowner*

### Western Lake Superior Habitat: Age in Place

In FY21, Western Lake Superior completed four AIP projects, with mostly exterior access work (deck repair, railings, steps). Moving forward, the affiliate plans to take on small-scale jobs that are lower in cost, time, and volunteer labor, as well as building to some larger jobs such as decks or ramps. The program also plans to expand into interior work.

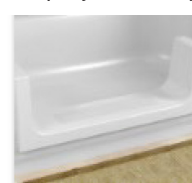
### Winona Habitat: Aging in Place

Learn more about Winona County Habitat's new Aging in Place program, which kicked off in July of 2021! [Visit their website here.](#)

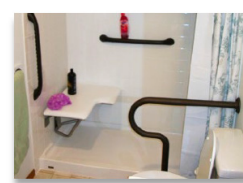
Some AIP project examples below



Ramps



Walk-through tub cut outs



Grab bars

### Learn More!

[Douglas County](#) • [Twin Cities](#) • [Two Rivers](#) • [South Central](#) • [Western Lake Superior](#)

Questions about Aging In Place? Contact [AIP@habitat.org](mailto:AIP@habitat.org) to get in touch with Habitat International staff. [More Aging in Place Resources](#)

every one

has the right to age in their home with dignity.