



# UFF-DA!

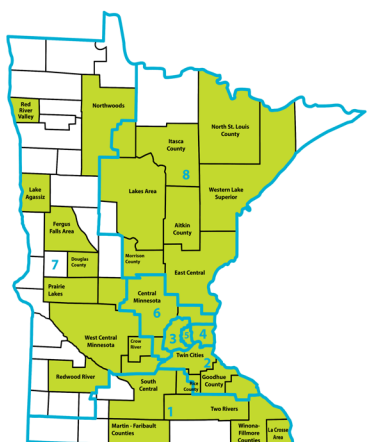
## Useful Facts and Figures— Data for Affiliates

Advocacy – August 2021

*“Not only will Habitat lift our hammers...we will lift our voices as one to declare that every family should be able to afford the cost of home.” —Jonathan Reckford, Habitat for Humanity International. As the COVID-19 pandemic continued impacting the US, Habitat staff and advocates continued advocating for increased access to quality, affordable housing across the country. The need for safe and affordable homes only increased, and so did our efforts! As one Habitat leader said, “This is long-term work.”*

### 2021 Habitat on the Hill D.C.

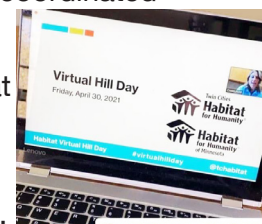
- Participants gathered virtually in 2021, allowing nearly double the number of attendees: More than **700 Habitat supporters**.
- **20 Minnesotans** from Habitat Minnesota and 6 Habitat affiliates joined the event.



- The group had **10 meetings** with legislators and their staff.
- **All 8 congressional districts** in MN were represented at the event.
- Habitat MN served as state coordinator, partnering with Habitat International for a successful event.

### 2021 Habitat on the Hill MN

- The 2021 event was virtual and coordinated by Twin Cities Habitat and Habitat Minnesota. Several Minnesota affiliates, plus Habitat Minnesota, were among **133 attendees** on the virtual event.
- Habitat staff coordinated more than **90 virtual lawmaker visits**.



### COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program (CHAP)

Habitat Minnesota and other affordable housing providers advocated for housing assistance for low- and moderate-income households to include homeowners to cope with COVID-19 impact. CHAP began in August of 2020 through a statewide network of administrators, including Habitat Minnesota and nine Habitat affiliates.

- More than **35%** of household served were by Habitat.
- Habitat affiliates processed more than **1,000** applications & approved **more than \$1.1 million** to be disbursed.

#### Participating Affiliates

- Aitkin County Habitat
- Crow River Habitat
- Goodhue County Habitat
- Itasca County Habitat
- Northwoods Habitat
- Rice County Habitat
- South Central MN Habitat
- Twin Cities Habitat
- Two Rivers Habitat

### Cost of Home: 2 Years & Housing Access for 4 million

On June 12, 2019, hundreds of Habitat organizations launched Cost of Home, Habitat’s first national advocacy campaign. Through the 5-year campaign, local Habitat offices, partners, volunteers, and community members are working together to find solutions and help create policies that will allow **10 million individuals to afford the cost of home**.

- In the first two years, Habitat increased access to affordable housing for **more than 4 million people!**
- **370 Habitat organizations from 46 states and Washington, D.C.**, are part of the campaign.
- **12 Minnesota affiliates** are part of the campaign.

In Minnesota,



# 1 IN 9 HOUSEHOLDS

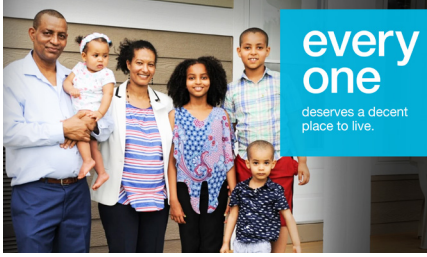
spend half or more of their income on housing.

### 2020 World Habitat Day Panel



On October 4, 2020, Habitat Minnesota hosted a panel: “Equity in Homeownership,” featuring local and national experts on homeownership and racial justice with **142 attendees**.

Panelists: Natosha Reid Rice, Habitat International; Kirsten Delegard, Mapping Prejudice Project; Henry Rucker, Project for Pride in Living & Bancker Realty; & Tawanna A. Black, Center for Economic Inclusion



## What Does Advocacy Look Like?

**Habitat Minnesota** is a Cost of Home field organizer and advocate for affordable ownership. We keep affiliates updated on policy pursuits and seek to work in partnership with affiliate leaders on relevant priorities. We connect affiliates with resources, such as the American Rescue Plan and other federal programs, Cost of Home, and state-level resources and policies that impact their work. We also work with the Homes for All and Homeownership

Minnesota coalitions to pursue funding and policies to support statewide affordable housing.

**Douglas County Habitat, Lake Agassiz Habitat, North St. Louis County Habitat, and Two Rivers Habitat** connected with representatives and senators from their service area, hosting the lawmakers on build sites, interviewing them, or having calls to discuss homeownership and its importance.

**Rice County Habitat** worked with the City of Northfield Housing & Redevelopment Authority (HRA) to increase down payment assistance funding. They also encouraged the city of Faribault to create a down payment assistance program, which is still being

considered. “Somebody once told me that ‘Progress against poverty is likely to be small and local.’ That’s why the work of Habitat is so important. We are local. Most of us are small. But, oh what a difference we make in the lives of families!” —Dayna Norvold, Rice County Habitat Executive Director

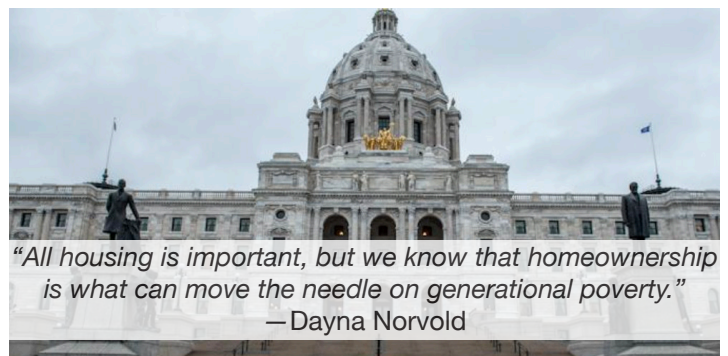
**Many affiliates** have had success in similar methods as those detailed above, as well as including advocacy in newsletters, inviting legislators to their builds and home dedications, serving on housing-related task forces, and working with local leaders to find unique ways to partner, such as getting land donated.

## Session Recap

Habitat Minnesota and 13 other affordable homeownership nonprofits form **Homeownership Minnesota (HOM), a statewide coalition**. This coalition works to elevate homeownership as a critical component of solving our statewide affordable housing shortage and as a necessary step toward closing wealth disparities and addressing racial inequities. This year, members of HOM advocated for increased investments in the preparation, production and preservation of affordable homeownership.

In a bipartisan effort this legislative session, leaders in the Senate GOP and DFL and the House DFL, with much support from members of the People of Color and Indigenous (POCI) Caucus, demonstrated their commitment to increasing affordable ownership opportunities in our state and working toward closing terrible racial gaps in ownership. Funding this session included **\$18.33 million** (of \$100 million in Housing Infrastructure Bonds) **set aside for new home production** and **\$3.25 million for the Workforce Homeownership Program**, specifically focused on affordable ownership.

Minnesota continues to explore ways to resolve racial inequities and the affordable housing crisis. Investments in the full affordable housing continuum were also made this session with new investments of **\$10 million annually** for the Affordable Housing Tax Credit; supports for Local Housing Trust Funds (LHTF) that allows cities to direct increment generated by a housing rural innovation fund into a LHTF; and the entire Housing Infrastructure Bond bill, supporting multiple types of affordable housing.



## More Ways to Get Involved

- [Subscribe](#) to Habitat Minnesota’s monthly newsletter and receive advocacy updates and action steps!
- [Enroll in](#) the Cost of Home campaign to increase Habitat’s impact, access resources, raise your organization’s profile, and increase community engagement.
- Follow [@CostOfHome](#) on Twitter for updates.
- [Sign up](#) for Action Alerts from Twin Cities Habitat to hear about upcoming advocacy events and ways to engage your legislators at federal, state, and local levels!
- Visit Twin Cities Habitat’s [Virtual Advocacy Resource Center](#) for meeting outlines, talking points, and guides for virtual lobbying and telling your story.