

# 2021 Annual Report



## Dear Friends,

*2021 certainly brought its issues and challenges, but the dedication, perseverance, and creativity of our local affiliates was truly inspiring! We saw soaring prices for construction materials, canceled or reimaged events, and continued restrictions for volunteers due to COVID, and yet through it all, Habitat continued to build and repair homes for low-income working families.*

*As the support organization for local Habitat affiliates throughout the state of Wisconsin, we've worked hard to find ways to assist our affiliates during these challenging times. This report highlights and celebrates a few of our accomplishments for 2021.*

*I am so honored and proud to have had the opportunity to work with a group of extraordinarily talented and mission driven staff and volunteers at affiliates throughout Wisconsin as well as in our own office, and I look forward to a great 2022!*

*In partnership,*

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sara Kierzek".

*Sara Kierzek, Executive Director*



**Working toward a world where everyone has a decent place to live.**



**Habitat**  
for Humanity®  
of Wisconsin

# 2021 Annual Report

## Advocating for Affordable Home Ownership

A few years ago, a small group of affiliate leaders and the director from HFH-Wisconsin began to meet periodically to talk about advocacy strategic priorities and to explore possible collaborations at a state level. In 2021, funding to the states and municipalities from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and other programs prompted the participating affiliates to invest funding to match a grant from Habitat International to hire our first lobbyist and register with the State Ethics Commission. Meetings with the governor's office and a number of legislative offices have given us the opportunity to share information about the affordable housing crisis in our state, and to offer our ideas and expertise in finding solutions.

HFH Wisconsin's board of directors has chosen advocacy as a strategic priority for 2022 and beyond. We'll be providing advocacy training for affiliate staff and volunteers and a "Habitat at the Statehouse" day for legislative visits this spring, and will continue to raise awareness about Habitat's work and our willingness to partner with federal, state and local government agencies, businesses, and other nonprofits to address the growing need for affordable housing in Wisconsin.

Habitat for Humanity has been providing home ownership opportunities for low income working families throughout Wisconsin for nearly 40 years, and has become one of the largest and most respected builders of affordable housing in our state. It is essential that we leverage our knowledge and experience to become a stronger and more powerful voice on behalf of the thousands of Wisconsin families who are living in substandard housing or who are severely housing cost burdened.

**Watch our 3-part  
Badger State Advocacy  
series and learn more  
about our advocacy  
efforts on our website.**

[habitatwisconsin.org/  
advocacy](https://www.habitatwisconsin.org/advocacy)



# 2021 Annual Report



## AmeriCorps VISTA Program: Building Capacity

In 2020 we widened the focus of our VISTA Program to general capacity-building and long-term sustainability for all Wisconsin nonprofits fighting to alleviate poverty. This change allows us to partner with organizations outside of the Habitat family, helping us to keep our program strong. Our VISTA Leader, Dan Nelson, connected us with Riverwest Food Pantry (RWFP) in Milwaukee, and currently we have ten members serving with their organization, ramping up food pantry operation and expanding services to meet more community needs including a robust referral program to help folks with employment, rental and housing assistance, health services, and more.

VISTA members continued to make great strides at Habitat affiliates, including: creating marketing and storytelling strategies to illustrate Habitat's impact in the Fox Cities; raising funds to complete Habitat's first Veteran Home build in La Crosse; and developing a home repairs program for seniors and veterans in the Baraboo area.

# 5967

**The number of hours served by volunteers who were recruited or managed by our VISTA members in 2021.**



**Colin Mackey, who served with HFH WI River Area, received the AmeriCorps VISTA Member of the Year award from Lt. Governor Barnes**





**Habitat**  
for Humanity®  
of Wisconsin

# 2021 Annual Report

## She Serves 2021

More than one in four Wisconsin veterans pay too much for housing, which prevents them from having enough income for other basic needs, and that percentage is even larger for female veterans. With over 30,000 female veterans in the state of Wisconsin alone, Habitat for Humanity of Wisconsin wanted a way to honor these women while also bringing light to the unique challenges affecting them. As a part of our larger Veteran's Build Program to improve the homes of the state's veterans, we started the She Served program.

She Served was kicked off by our Her Story project, which highlighted not only the veterans that served our country but the frontline workers who served us during the COVID-19 pandemic. This project included stories of our state's everyday heroes, and led into the actual She Served Week in September. While wanting to show an emphasis on women veterans, but not excluding male veterans, 20 affiliates held 22 special events to honor our state's veterans, varying from build days and improvement projects, to veteran dinners and flag ceremonies.

she★★★  
served

## Participating Affiliates

Door County HFH  
Greater Fox Cities Area HFH  
Greater Green Bay HFH  
HFH of Adams-Juneau County  
HFH of Dane County  
HFH of Fond du Lac County  
HFH of Green County  
HFH of Kenosha  
HFH La Crosse Area  
HFH Lakeside  
HFH of Oshkosh  
HFH of Sawyer County  
HFH of Washington & Dodge  
Counties  
HFH of Waukesha County  
HFH of Wausau  
HFH of Wisconsin River Area  
Manitowoc County HFH  
Marshfield Area HFH  
Wild Rivers HFH  
Wisconsin Rapids Area HFH



# 2021 Annual Report



## ★she★served★2021



**Sue participated in the woman veteran volunteer day HFH WI River Area held in Baraboo.**



**HFH Door County recognized veterans, like Nellie DeBaker, at a special luncheon.**



**Volunteers cut siding during HFH Oshkosh's veteran volunteer day.**





**Habitat**  
for Humanity®  
of Wisconsin

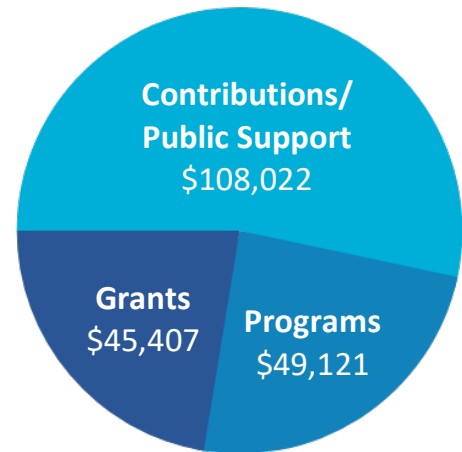
# 2021 Annual Report

## Board of Directors

- Russ Wanta – Board President
- Morgan Pfaff – Board Vice President
- Matthew Durtsche – Board Treasurer
- Jennifer Johnson – Board Secretary
- Nick Ariens
- Steve Baker
- Shannon Dennhof
- Paula Grantt
- Ben Groboski
- Steve Hanrahan
- Aaron Melnarik
- Jeff Menzel
- Mike Milsted
- Mike Mueller
- Andy Scheiderer

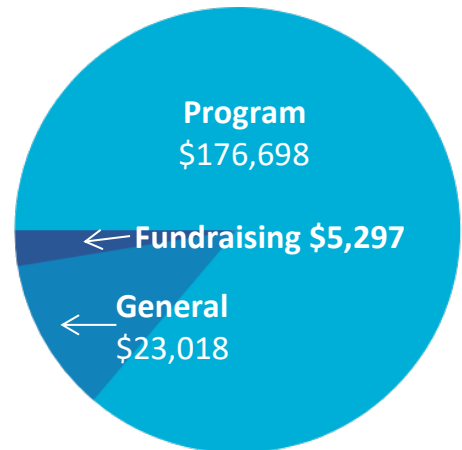
### FY 2020 Revenue

\$202,550



### FY 2020 Expenses

\$202,013



As a state support organization, we do not actively solicit individual donations, but do welcome individual contributions and participate in employee giving programs. HFH Wisconsin participates in the Combined Federal Campaign, Wisconsin State Employee Combined Campaign, Thrivent Choice, Amazon Smile, Network for Good, and other giving programs.

