

## Inside this issue:

Comings and Goings .....	2
Chili Cook Off .....	3
Construction News .....	4
Help Us Go Paperless .....	4
Raise the Roof .....	5
Vernon County Update .....	5
ReStore Review .....	6
Top Eight Wish List .....	6
ReStore Store Closings .....	6
Calling All Volunteers .....	7
ReStore Sales .....	7
Building Notes .....	8
House of Hope .....	8
Counting Our Blessings .....	9
Women Build 2009 .....	10
World Habitat Day .....	10
Support Habitat .....	11
Cars for Homes .....	12

### CONTACT US

For more information, to become a volunteer, or to make a donation, please contact us:

Habitat for Humanity  
La Crosse Area  
P.O. Box 2123  
(Offices at 434 Third Street South)  
La Crosse, WI 54602  
608-785-2373  
[www.habitatlacrosse.org](http://www.habitatlacrosse.org)  
[hello@habitatlacrosse.org](mailto:hello@habitatlacrosse.org)

Habitat ReStore  
434 Third Street South  
(between King and Cass Streets)  
La Crosse, WI 54601  
608-785-2375  
[www.restorelacrosse.org](http://www.restorelacrosse.org)  
[restore@habitatlacrosse.org](mailto:restore@habitatlacrosse.org)

## Habitat Happenings

By Cori Skolaski  
Executive Director



### Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity times Two!

La Crosse County Thrivent Chapter | Houston County Thrivent Chapter

Working to make adequate shelter a matter of conscience and action, Habitat for Humanity challenges individuals, businesses, churches, and other organizations to join in partnership with people in need to build simple, decent, affordable homes. Since 2006 the alliance between Habitat for Humanity and Thrivent for Lutherans has allowed hundreds of Habitat affiliates and thousands of families in need across the nation to experience the joy of homeownership.

2009 marks the fourth year of Habitat for Humanity's alliance with Thrivent for Lutherans in the Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity program; along with the thousands of homes built nationally, this has allowed us to build six homes in our community. Thrivent for Lutherans provides 65% of the funding for each home; local Thrivent members provide 10% of the funds, and the remaining 25% is raised locally by us through our fundraising efforts.

Locally, the lives of six families have been changed because of this generous program: one in Vernon County, three in La Crosse County, and right now we are working on two Thrivent-sponsored homes - 910 Hope Court in Holmen, WI and 305 Kilbourn Street, Houston, MN.

**Thrivent®  
Builds**



### Land Trust

The Xiong/Yang home (currently under construction) at 910 Hope Court will be a part of the Coulee region community land trust. The land trust is a non-profit organization that buys land on behalf of the community and holds it in trust, yet selling the homes which are on the land. This unique tool provides permanently affordable housing, and serves to shield the community from both land speculators and the dislocating effects of gentrification.



# Comings and Goings

## Officers

Ken Kryzenske - President  
Kurt Schuldes - Vice President  
Jeff Wrobel - Treasurer  
Tom Claflin - Secretary

## Board of Directors

Chris Blaylock  
Chris Crye  
Paul Fairchild  
Gina Gerrard  
Tom Kieffer  
Tom Knothe  
Mike Poellinger  
Todd Restel  
Myrna Schmidt  
Linda Temte

## Staff

Executive Director  
Cori Skolaski  
cori@habitatlacrosse.org

ReStore Manager  
Steve Baker  
restore@habitatlacrosse.org

Construction Coordinator/  
ReStore Driver  
Jason Mather  
jason@habitatlacrosse.org

Administrative Assistant  
Jenny Sanders  
jenny@habitatlacrosse.org

Fund Development Coordinator  
Sara Halberg (VISTA)  
dc@habitatlacrosse.org

Volunteer Coordinator  
Rachel Eaton (VISTA)  
volunteer@habitatlacrosse.org

Habitat for Humanity-La Crosse Area works in partnership with God and people everywhere to develop communities with people in need by building and renovating houses, so that there are decent houses in decent communities in which people can live and grow into all that God intended.

We're pleased to welcome two new people to our staff: Sara Halberg and Rachael Eaton are AmeriCorps VISTA members and will serve one year with us as the Fund Development Coordinator and Volunteer Coordinator, respectively. If you see them around, please say hello.

**Sara Halberg** joins Habitat as the Fund Development Coordinator. She will be working to establish an annual campaign, donor recognition program, and increase awareness of Habitat Happenings in the La Crosse area to further generate monetary and in-kind donations. We are actively seeking individuals for a fund development committee; please contact Sara at [dc@habitatlacrosse.org](mailto:dc@habitatlacrosse.org) or Cori at [cori@habitatlacrosse.org](mailto:cori@habitatlacrosse.org) if you are interested in becoming a charter member of this committee.



**Rachael Eaton** will be serving as the Volunteer Coordinator. She is new to Wisconsin and brings greetings from Iowa. A biologist at heart, she is gratefully and enthusiastically joining the Habitat La Crosse staff in order to assist the good work of Habitat for Humanity and experience a new adventure. She will be serving the volunteers of the La Crosse affiliate and the ReStore by developing a volunteer recruitment plan and improving orientation, retention and recognition efforts. We are preparing a volunteer committee to support the efforts of the Volunteer Coordinator. Interested individuals can contact Rachael at [volunteer@habitatlacrosse.org](mailto:volunteer@habitatlacrosse.org).



At the end of July we said goodbye to Mowita Kelly and Jake Wilkinson who each spent a year of service with us through AmeriCorps State/Local. We wish them the very best.

In news from the Board of Directors, we bid a fond farewell in June to Kim Riemenapp and Jackie Kuhlman who both spent six years on our board. Kim was involved with fundraising events and establishing partnerships in the community. Jackie served on our Family Selection committee, and served as the Secretary and President of the board for two years each. Their vision and commitment were much appreciated and we are thankful for their service.

In August, Gina Gerrard was elected to our board of directors. Gina has been involved with Habitat for Humanity through her church for the past few years, First Congregational United Church of Christ, and we are delighted to have her increase her commitment and support of Habitat for Humanity with her service on the Board of Directors.

State Bank Financial's

18<sup>th</sup> Annual

**CHILI**

**COOK-OFF**

**Saturday, October 10th**

**State Bank Financial Parking Lot**

**Downtown La Crosse**

**Cooking and chili tasting will**

**take place from 11:30 - 1:30**

**Don't miss the CHILI PEPPER EATING CONTEST at 1:00**

**RAFFLE DRAWING, entertainment, awards to follow**

**Tickets available for \$5 each or 5/\$20!**

**Visit a State Bank Financial location**

**to purchase tickets or log-on to**

**[www.statebankfinancial.com](http://www.statebankfinancial.com)**

**for a full list of ticket vendors!**

ALL proceeds go directly to

**D.A.R.E.**

**CREAT**  
Caring, Resource, Educator, And Trainer

**Habitat**  
for Humanity®  
La Crosse Area

**Visit [statebankfinancial.com](http://statebankfinancial.com) for more information about how to cook & compete or just have fun and eat!**

**Tickets are available at the ReStore!**

# Construction News



**B**y the time you read this, we hope to be just about finished with one home at 910 Hope Court in Holmen, in partnership with Kou Xiong and Ger Yang and their two daughters, a niece, and baby-on-the-way. This four-bedroom home has been sponsored by Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity; other partners include the La Crosse Community Foundation, State Bank Financial, Western Technical College's architectural/drafting program, Lowe's, and Coulecap.

Please check our website at [www.habitatlacrosse.org](http://www.habitatlacrosse.org) for news about and an invitation to our Dedication Ceremony. We'd love to have you join us to celebrate the start of the Xiong/Yang family's new life, and take a tour of the completed Habitat home.



As fall rolls around, we are just beginning a home at 305 Kilbourn Street in Houston (MN) in partnership with Karen Jonsgaard and her three daughters. This is the first time we have built in Houston County and have been so pleased with the warm welcome we have received in the community, and the outpouring of support for us and for the Habitat partner family. This home will be completed and Karen will be able to purchase it and move in by Christmas. If you're interested in helping with this project, contact Audrey Hegland at [hegland@acegroup.cc](mailto:hegland@acegroup.cc) or visit our website at [www.habitatlacrosse.org](http://www.habitatlacrosse.org).



*Karen Jonsgaard Family  
ground breaking took place  
on August 2, 2009.*

*(Left) Karen Jonsgaard and family, Habitat staff, Thrivent Representatives, and Mayor Connie Edwards breaks ground.*

*(Right) Mayor Connie Edwards (far right), with Karen and her daughter.*



## Help Us Go Paperless!

Add your name to our e-mail newsletter list by logging on to <http://habitatlacrosse.org/news/newsletter> or e-mail Jenny at [jenny@habitatlacrosse.org](mailto:jenny@habitatlacrosse.org) and let her know you want to go paperless!

# Save the Date!

## RAISE THE ROOF

February 20, 2010

The La Crosse Center

with  
**THE REMAINDERS** 5  
Great Classic Rock  
dance to great classic rock!



## Vernon County Chapter Update

By Paul Fairchild

Work is progressing on our current house building project, for the Landis family. The house is located on Coon Prairie Avenue in Westby. The house is closed in and the siding is going up at the time of writing. The sub-contractors are on the job, and when the siding is complete, the volunteer crews will move indoors to complete the interior work. The Landis's have worked very hard in the construction process. Completion is projected for October. Stay tuned for information regarding a dedication and house warming ceremony. In the spring, the Building Trades class from Westby High School built a garden shed for the house which has recently been moved to the site.

Our Chapter was dealt a setback and progress was slowed when our long time Construction Coordinator was forced to resign due to health considerations. But opportunity shines where needs arise. Local contractor and Habitat volunteer, Jim Schaller has agreed to become our paid Coordinator for the duration of the project.



The Landis Family



Our Fundraising Committee has been very busy planning our major fundraising event for the summer, the BEAUTIFUL MAILBOX CONTEST AND AUCTION. Local artists have donated their efforts in painting mailboxes. The auction was held on Saturday, August 29th at the Viroqua Farmer's Market. We raised \$2290.00!



# ReStore ReView

By Steve Baker, ReStore Manager



**H**abitat ReStore is YOUR bargain used and surplus building material outlet (don't forget – we carry furniture too!) As we approach three years of operations, I find myself looking back on what has happened this past year. As a volunteer driven program, ReStore has accomplished quite a bit in recent months.

The ReStore continues to grow even though we are only open four days a week. For the 2008-2009 fiscal year ending we contributed more than \$112,500 toward the building of simple, decent, and affordable homes in the Coulee Region. In the same fiscal year, the ReStore grossed \$185,242.94. Our daily sales were \$928.96. Those sales equate to the diversion of more than 185 tons of building materials from the landfill.

It takes a lot more than sales to make the ReStore go. More than 20 volunteers work each week for more than 115 hours receiving and processing donations, helping our driver make pickups, cashiering, working in the office, and volunteering on our ReStore Committee. If you think you might have four hours free a week to volunteer, contact Rachael at [volunteer@habitatlacrosse.org](mailto:volunteer@habitatlacrosse.org).

Last year we received more than 1,000 donations from businesses and individuals. Without donations, our store has nothing to sell. Our part-time driver, Jason, picks up donations on Wednesdays and Thursdays. However, the vast majority of our donations are brought to the door. Thank you to everyone for thinking of ReStore before disposing of your items in other ways.

As we continue to grow, we are increasingly constricted by the size and layout of our facility. This past year, we have rebuilt shelving in the door section and added racking for flooring and cabinets at the back of the store. We've also made other subtle changes with an eye toward a complete relay of the store in the next year or two.

ReStore isn't just growing in La Crosse. There are now thirteen stores in Wisconsin: Appleton, Barron County, Cameron, Fond du Lac, Green Bay, Janesville, Madison, Milwaukee, Plymouth, Racine, Sauk County, Sheboygan, and West Bend and another eight in Minnesota including Winona. More are on the way in 2010.



## Top Eight Wish List

1. An electric paper folder
2. Pallet racking
3. 30-36" end frames
4. Bricks
5. New or excellent condition large commercial windows
6. Someone with expertise in fixing concrete
7. A commercial entrance door
8. Double large dimensional lumber treated and non-treated

## ReStore Store Closings

So our volunteers and staff can enjoy the holidays with their families the ReStore will be closed for the following dates:

Oktoberfest

Saturday, September 26

Thanksgiving

Thursday, November 26  
Friday, November 27

Christmas

Friday, December 25  
Saturday, December 26

# Volunteer ~ Donate ~ Shop



## CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!



The ReStore needs your help!  
Openings available Thursday through Saturday  
Contact Rachael at 608-785-2375  
or [volunteer@habitatlacrosse.org](mailto:volunteer@habitatlacrosse.org)  
Help us build **homes** and **hope**  
in the La Crosse Community!



## ReStore Sales

**50 % Off**  
**Lighting**

September 16 - 30



**50 % Off**  
**Plumbing**

October 1 - 15



### Habitat ReStore

434 3rd Street South  
(between King and Cass Street)  
La Crosse, WI 54601  
(608) 785-2375  
[www.restorelacrosse.org](http://www.restorelacrosse.org)

### ReStore Hours

Wednesday 10 am - 6 pm  
Thursday 10 am - 6 pm  
Friday 10 am - 6 pm  
Saturday 9 am - 3 pm

### Our Mission

- ... To raise money for the building of Habitat houses.
- ... To sell usable merchandise at reasonable prices.
- ... To recycle building materials, keeping them out of our landfills and in circulation where they can benefit the La Crosse area.
- ... To promote awareness of Habitat for Humanity-La Crosse Area and it's goal of eliminating poverty housing in our community.

### What We Do

The Habitat ReStore is a unique building materials retail outlet that enables you to buy the supplies you need for home or office renovation, remodeling, and decorating projects at a fraction of the cost.

We collect new and used building materials and sell them at a fraction of retail prices. All profits go directly to Habitat for Humanity-La Crosse Area for building more houses and to remove families in need from poverty housing.

# Building Notes

By Jason Mather, Construction Manager



**E**nergy Star is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy helping us all save money and protect the environment through energy efficient products and practices. Results are already adding up. Americans, with the help of ENERGY STAR, saved enough energy in 2008 alone to avoid greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those from 29 million cars — all while saving \$19 billion on their utility bills.

Habitat for Humanity-La Crosse Area has been building with an eye to these standards for several years, but in 2008 we took the steps to have our homes be officially designated as such. To our delight, we discovered we're doing a good job!

One of the homes we built last year, 918 Hope Court, was tested and ranked in the top 5% of Energy Star tested homes in Wisconsin, and because of new (to us) techniques we've been incorporating into our projects, the homes we're building this year should surpass that.

Thanks to our Board member Tom Claflin for his research and encouragement to participate in the program, and to Eric Skinner of Renewal Home Energy for his enthusiastic help and support.

New construction techniques we are incorporating:

- « Insulated concrete forms (ICF). This building product produces a tighter, better insulated basement and

can also be used for above grade exterior walls. (The home we're building in Houston County will have ICF above grade walls). Another distinct advantage to using ICF is that it is installed by volunteers in a process that they were not involved in before when we poured a cement foundation.

- « Advanced framing- Without getting too technical, this technique removes un-needed wood from the exterior walls while strengthening the structure to reduce the amount of heat transfer through the studs. This can lower heating bills by 25%!

We've been very lucky to have had a spectacular volunteer turnout to help with our Hope Court home. We've hosted groups from the La Crosse Jaycees, the US Army's 327<sup>th</sup> Vertical Engineering Unit, La Crosse County employees, Wesley United Methodist Church, Altra Federal Credit Union, Bridge of Life Church, St. Elizabeth Anne Seton Church, the La Crosse, Onalaska, and Holmen Rotary Clubs, Women Build with Habitat for Humanity, the La Crosse, Trempealeau, Monroe, Buffalo, and Vernon County Thrivent Chapters, First Congregational United Church of Christ, Lion's Club, and SAP Business Objects. (If we've missed your group – please accept our apologies!)

Thanks also to the following individual construction volunteers for their outstanding service and dedication: Al Pedrazoli, Mike Hartley, Don Eppelheimer, Tom Ward, Lu Diamond, and Carlene Roberts. They – and all of our volunteers – have made my job less a "task" and more a rewarding pursuit.



## House of Hope

**H**abitat for Humanity-La Crosse Area's signature event is the HOUSE OF HOPE. For 15 years, individuals, businesses, churches and other organizations have dedicated time and money to make this a highly successful event. Thank you for your continued support! By the time this newsletter went to print, 2x4 and 2x6 boards with collection boxes had been distributed, but not yet collected. Signed boards are used to build a mini HOUSE OF HOPE for Habitat for Humanity-La Crosse Area's float in the annual Oktoberfest Maple Leaf and Torchlight parades. All of the signed boards and money raised will go to build the next Habitat for Humanity house for a La Crosse area family in need.

Watch for the House of Hope float this year on Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am in the Maple Leaf Parade and on Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00pm in the Torchlight Parade!



# Counting Our Blessings

**A**long with cash contributions, Habitat for Humanity is lucky to receive many in-kind donations from businesses. It's a huge benefit to us - we receive goods and services at discounted prices or at no cost.

Here is a partial list of our in-kind heroes. If we have inadvertently left your business name off of this list - please let us know, and accept our apologies!

Thanks to **Andrew Dahl, Dahl Automotive, and Line-X and Clearview Designs** for their donation of a Mazda pick-up truck! This will take the burden off of our volunteers and staff, who have been using their own vehicles to haul tools and materials to our worksites. We deeply appreciate it!



**AVS Group:** Much thanks and appreciation to AVS Group for redesigning and developing our website. They spent many, many hours on our new site and the results are fabulous! Check it out at [www.habitatlacrosse.org](http://www.habitatlacrosse.org). We love it!

**Anonymous Donors:** Some of our in-kind donors prefer to remain anonymous. You know who you are; thank you very much for your generosity!

**Builders Flooring:** Thanks for the many donations to the ReStore.

**First Supply:** First Supply is our landlord and gives us a great deal on our rent for our ReStore and office space. It also donates materials for the homes we build.

**Home Construction:** Thanks to the following businesses who have contributed towards our build at 910 Hope Court - Advanced Multimedia Solutions, Jim Keil Drywall, River City Ready Mix, and Tri-State Insulated Concrete Forms.

**House of Hope:** Event Sponsors - Coulee Bank, Culvers (Onalaska), First Supply, Gundersen Lutheran, Health Traditions, Kwik Trip, Roncalli Newman Parish, State Bank, The La Crosse Radio Group, The Remainders, Trane Company, & Wal-Mart (Onalaska); Other Sponsors - Brown and Brown Insurance, Christian Science Society, WalzCraft Industries; Board Sponsors - we thank the more than 100 board sponsors throughout the Coulee Region and Houston County: businesses, churches, and organizations; Individuals - thanks you to everyone who has given to our 2009 House of Hope.

**John Lautz Construction:** Thanks for the many donations to the ReStore.

**Local Banks:** Associated Bank and State Bank Financial have both been wonderful partners by providing creative in-kind support. We are the mortgage lender for all Habitat homes, but Associated Bank processes the mortgages for us which saves us a tremendous amount of work and staff time. And State Bank gave us a zero-interest loan for the parcel of land we purchased, developed, and named Hope Court which will be the location of five Habitat homes.

**Madtown Printing:** Thanks Madtown Printing for your in-kind donation towards our volunteer and staff t-shirts for the Affiliate and the ReStore.

**Valspar Paint:** Valspar donates interior and exterior paint for our homes.

**WebTeam (La Crosse):** Thank you WebTeam for hosting our website at no charge and working with AVS to get our new website up and running!

**Whirlpool Corporation:** Whirlpool donates new stoves and refrigerators to ALL Habitat homes built in the United States. We deeply appreciate and honor this outstanding corporate partner.

*"If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has not pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love, in word or speech, but in truth and action. "*

*1 John 3:17-18*

# Women Build 2009



**I**n the days leading up to Mother's Day 2009, more than 7,000 women volunteers, including recording artist Trisha Yearwood, pounded nails and raised walls at more than 200 Habitat for Humanity construction sites throughout the United States. The pre-Mother's Day activities were part of Habitat's second annual **National Women Build Week, May 2 - 10**, sponsored by Lowe's.

National Women Build Week annually challenges women to devote at least one day to the

effort to eliminate poverty housing. This was the first year we participated in the program locally, and we had a lot of fun! It was a cold, blustery, drizzly May day, but we had a good turnout and got a lot accomplished. We plan on hosting a Women Build in 2010; if you're interested in participating, let us know and we'll let you know when we have the details.



# World Habitat Day - October 5, 2009

**D**id you know that one in three American households spend more than 30 percent of income on housing, and one in seven spends more than 50 percent? Or that every week, more than a million people are born in, or move to, cities in the developing world? This will result in the urban population of developing countries to double in the next 30 years. Habitat for Humanity International combats poverty, inadequate housing, and homelessness on a global scale. In fact, the second house built by Habitat was in Ethiopia, immediately giving the organization an international scope. Habitat has been widely successful domestically and internationally for over 40 years and we would like to CELEBRATE!

October 5<sup>th</sup> has been declared World Habitat Day by the United Nations. Why, you may ask? Because by the year 2030, an additional 3 billion people (about 40% of the world's population) will need access to housing; there is a need for 4,000 new affordable housing units every hour. Or because one out of every three city dwellers lives in a slum, which is classified by a lack of water, lack of sanitation, overcrowding, non-durable structures and unstable residency. And more than 14 million refugees and internally displaced people live in tents or other temporary shelters. Clearly there is a need to build and renovate

affordable housing – it is a very real problem that we can actively work to improve.

Poverty is a worldwide issue, but fighting homelessness and providing affordable housing is one primary way to improve poverty issues around the world. In the US, children who live in poverty housing have lower educational attainment and a greater likelihood of being impoverished and unemployed as adults. But there is hope! Homeownership increases intergenerational wealth accumulation through improved educational achievement in children, which leads to greater earnings when these children enter the workforce.

You may be asking yourself "what can I do to help?" Here are a few examples of how you can help fight poverty and give the gift of hope today. Learn more and spread the word at [www.advocatewithhabitat.org](http://www.advocatewithhabitat.org). Support Habitat for Humanity locally; your donations to us will benefit not just families in the La Crosse area but also those in Thailand (we tithe 10% of our unrestricted income to Habitat Thailand). Write to your local, state and national politicians. Encourage book clubs to read about poverty housing. Come see our World Habitat Day bulletin board at the ReStore. Volunteer. Donate. Pray.



**Every donation helps change someone's world.**

**Imagine your contribution combined with those of other individuals, businesses and organizations from around our area. Imagine what you could mean to a family in need of a safe and decent house.**

**Please give today.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Contribution Amount**

- \$480+ Architect's Club
- \$240 Homebuilder's Club
- \$120 Carpenter's Club
- Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**My business / church / group will be a House of Hope Sponsor!**

- \$2500 Major Sponsor
- \$1000 Homebuilder
- \$ 500 Toolbelt Sponsor
- \$ 240 Gold Sponsor
- Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



**Payment Method. Thank you!**

- Check enclosed made out to Habitat for Humanity-La Crosse Area.
- Please Bill Me:  Monthly  Quarterly
- Charge my:  Visa  MasterCard. Name as it appears on card: \_\_\_\_\_
- Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Habitat for Humanity-La Crosse Area, PO Box 2123, La Crosse, WI 54602-2123 or contribute online at [www.habitatlacrosse.org](http://www.habitatlacrosse.org)



**P.O. Box 2123**

**La Crosse, WI 54602-2123**

**Address Service Requested**

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**D**id you miss out on the 'Cash for Clunkers'<sup>TM</sup> program? Perhaps your vehicle didn't qualify for the government program? Donate your vehicle to build Habitat for Humanity homes in the La Crosse Area through Habitat International's Cars for Homes<sup>TM</sup> program! Simply call 877-277-4344 or visit the [www.carsforhomes.org](http://www.carsforhomes.org) to donate cars, trucks, boats, RVs, motorcycles, airplanes or other motorized vehicles – running or not!

Accepted vehicles are sold through wholesale auctions, salvage yards and automotive recyclers. Donors are sent acknowledgment from Habitat for Humanity International and the forms required by the IRS regulations. Net proceeds are disbursed to affiliates, based on zip code of the donor, as unrestricted funds to help build more homes.

Give the gift of hope by donating your vehicle to Cars for Homes<sup>TM</sup> – help Habitat-La Crosse continue to fund houses for families in need!

**DONATE a CAR**  
to help build homes.



**Habitat**  
for Humanity<sup>®</sup>

**Cars for Homes<sup>TM</sup>**



**877.277.4344**

**www.carsforhomes.org**