1+1=6

With our recent merger of 6 metro counties, Habitat for Humanity of Kansas City is greater than the sum of all our parts making a greater impact and building more bridges among:

Faith communities
Backgrounds
Neighborhoods
State lines

As servant leaders, we are all called to build homes, communities, and HOPE

A letter from our Board Chairman

Just as many of our staff and administrators started as Habitat volunteers, I too was recruited to a work site by a friend at one of my former companies. My son and I joined a crew on a chilly day in the Quindaro neighborhood of Kansas City, Kansas. We were helping put a soffit support system on the roof of a new home. It wasn’t until I met the homeowners and they shared with me hopes and dreams for their family and how this home could make those a reality, that this build became personal for me. It became more than just building a house. I was helping build their home.

I’ve been serving in some volunteer or board capacity ever since that day. I believe we have a responsibility to make people’s lives and Kansas City’s communities better. There are few other organizations I know where CEOs roll up their sleeves and get dirty with homeowners and volunteers from every race, religion, or socioeconomic background from every part of the metro to revitalize neighborhoods. Habitat for Humanity of Kansas City is the great equalizer and an example of servant leadership at its best.

We are able to dream bigger because of our recent merger. Although our core values remain the same, the difference we are making in Kansas City is already starting to show in the number of:

- Families Impacted
- Neighborhoods Revitalized
- Community Partners Connected to Our Mission
- Stakeholders Brought Together to Build Bridges

Join me as we erase the boundaries that divide us. Habitat for Humanity of Kansas City builds so much more than just homes. We build hope in the future.

Sincerely,

J. Reed Nixon

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Learn More! Click here for more information on what we do, and to see who serves on our Board of Directors
Kansas City’s spirit and strength are nothing short of #Habitastic.

“Strength comes when Kansas City joins hands to build homes, community, and hope,” said Pat Turner, Habitat for Humanity of Kansas City President/CEO, “and we call that #Habitastic! I see it every day when volunteers, homeowners, and sponsors work side-by-side to create change. Ordinary people from all walks of life make a conscious effort to show up for someone else, neighbor helping neighbor, inevitably transforming neglected neighborhoods, lives, and future generations.”

Our foundation of volunteers and donors is corporations, young professionals, CEOs, men and women’s groups. Some are religious congregations uniting with other faith communities to complete homes through Apostle Build, Global Village, and House of Abraham projects. Volunteers show up energized and leave inspired with new friends, a new skill and a renewed sense of hope. When Kansas City comes together to construct new homes, rehab properties, preserve existing homes, and complete weatherization projects through Neighborhood Revitalization, everyone’s lives are impacted.

Part of what makes Kansas City a strong community is the willingness of its people to aspire to greatness. Our applicants show enormous courage and strength, too, from the moment they attend one of our homeowner informational sessions, through the thorough application, interview, and selection process, until they finish the 300 sweat equity hours required to receive their keys.

“The general meeting I attended was so crowded there must have been 300 to 400 people,” said Geneva Murphy (pictured on page 11). “The presenter said that most attendees would not actually do the work to fill out and return the application paperwork. That was all the motivation I needed and I was determined to be one of the selected into the program.” She and her 18 year old daughter, Nichala, moved into their rehabbed 1907 home in Kansas City’s Boston Heights Mount Hope neighborhood in September 2017. Everyone deserves a decent place to live. Through support of individual volunteers, business partners, financial contributors, and ReStore donors and customers, you make affordable homeownership a reality for more Kansas City families. You make us #Habitastic!”

“Strength comes from overcoming obstacles and difficult tasks we never thought imaginable. This is a lesson I teach my kids. Perseverance is the key to making our dreams come true.”

Seneitra’s Story!
“I was determined my daughter would never live the way I did growing up amidst drugs and violence,” said a resilient Geneva Murphy. With unwavering tenacity, Geneva worked herself, literally, out of Section 8 housing and into an apartment, good job, and a local community college. Along the way, she took the initiative to begin saving and understanding credit.

But, it wasn’t enough. After paying $655 every month for rent, that left little for utilities and the basics. Even as rent continued to climb, their landlord refused to make repairs or replace unsafe wiring. Geneva’s fortitude, along with her steady income, employment, and rental history, qualified her as a perfect Habitat home partner.

“I understood how lucky and blessed I was to have the opportunity to own a home of my own and to give Nichele a safe and stable environment from which to thrive,” said Geneva. “I couldn’t wait to get my hands dirty and put in the sweat equity hours and courses needed to fulfill this dream.”

As the 7th oldest affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, Habitat Kansas City leverages resources to break the cycle of poverty and substandard housing in Kansas City. We’ve grown in 39 years to encompass six counties and operate the third largest Restore program in Habitat’s footprint. Thanks to you, Habitat Kansas City is STRONG, STABLE and more SELF-RELIANT, just like the thousands of homeowner partners we’ve served.

As we look ahead, we want to do more than build houses. We aspire to rewrite family histories and change the course of blighted neighborhoods. We’re taking a more holistic approach to Neighborhood Revitalization to impact sustainable communities and address the root causes of inadequate housing. To meet these objectives Habitat Kansas City must: 1) build community impact by improving housing conditions; 2) build sector impact by creating partnerships that increase shelter access; 3) build societal impact by inspiring action to end poverty housing.

Your support matters:
Housing stability improves educational outcomes.
Stable homes and communities are healthier.
Employment opportunities, financial stability, and wealth accumulation result from homeownership.
Safe, stable neighborhoods reap economic growth.

Over 2,500 individual and corporate contributors

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In 2009 Moe and Min moved their family from Thailand to the United States looking for a better life. Moe worked as a butcher in the US for 5 years before qualifying for a Habitat home. Now, their tight-knit family has room to grow as their oldest daughter begins college.

“...My parents helped me by taking care of my children when I did the sweat equity hours I needed before I purchased my home. My next big goal is to provide a better future for my children.”

Paulina Ramos
ReStore operates 5 stores within Kansas City’s service area with win wins for all:

- Customers find heavily discounted products, donors receive a tax deduction for their charitable contributions.
- Our environment is protected by us diverting the used items from local waste streams.
- By shopping and donating, you are providing homes and fighting poverty in our communities with one of the most trusted non-profits in the country.
- Open to the public

"Bring one of the most efficient in the world at funding Habitat homes and programs, we have plans to provide even more," he continued. "Our strategy is to grow individual, business, and corporate donations.”

ReStore's new marketing plan includes electronic, digital, and print, all providing a solid mix of communication along with personally-assigned, business-specific representative liaisons. ReStore is working to streamline our supply chain of donations. The supply chain will be a customer-centric strategy that aligns transactions and lifetime value with the type of donations. As a result, additional funding creates more donors to improve our communities.

Habitat Kansas City manages ReStores with limited resources, therefore we rely heavily on volunteers. Partner homeowners that we rely on are recipients of the homes we build or rehab, and are required to complete sweat equity hours as an example of Habitat’s philosophy of giving a hand up and not a hand out. Still others volunteer because they want to give back and make our communities better.

Our market share analysis tells us we can grow from the $4.8 million in revenue today to $15 million. We want to do that within five years. It is aggressive, but given the right structure in the right time and the right place, the team is motivated to accomplish the goal. We also will divert some 19.5 million pounds of product from landfills up from the approximate 6.2 million pounds today.

ReStore gives Habitat Kansas City a hand up

2017
- $4.8 million revenue
- Donations 21,467
- 6.2 million lbs. landfill diversion
- 6 trucks
- 90,000 sq. ft. store space

5-year goal
- $15 million revenue
- Donations 27,000
- 19.5 million lbs. landfill diversion
- 10 trucks
- 120,000 sq. ft. store space

Learn More! Click here to learn about Habitat for Humaniti’s ReStore and our five area locations.
Every man, woman and child deserves decent shelter.

“As a homeowner, I feel comfortable saying I’ve reached the status of middle class,” said Geneva Murphy through tears of joy. “I’ve always dreamed of a place to call my own where I can host Thanksgiving, family meals, and gatherings. This house is my baby. I love it, I worked hard for it, and I would do anything to protect it.”

The Murphy’s renovated, two-bedroom home is on a revitalized block of Highland Avenue in the Boston Heights Mount Hope neighborhood. They join the community of families who have been impacted through new construction, rehab, home preservation, or weatherization projects.

Geneva is living her dream thanks to Habitat Kansas City and the sponsorship and generosity of Bank of America. They are the first in their circle of friends to own a home. In Geneva’s immediate and extended family, only she and her aunt and uncle are homeowners.

With a mortgage payment half of their previous rent, mom and daughter are doing more than just getting by; they are building equity for their futures. Geneva is finishing an Associates program in Art and will pursue a four-year Bachelor’s degree. Nichols, a licensed cosmetologist, wants to learn mortuary science. Now Geneva puts the money she saves every month aside for a new car and her goal is to pay off her 30-year loan in 15 years.

Habitat Kansas City does not give away homes for free but instead sells them at appraised value to qualified partners without interest. We act as a mortgage company, carrying a $14 million mortgage portfolio. Volunteers and donors help make the rest of the process possible by investing their time and money to cover program delivery. Mortgage payments made by homeowners go into a revolving fund to continue the support of Habitat Kansas City.

As a STRONG, STABLE, SELF-RELIANT non-profit, Habitat Kansas City not only helps clients acquire SHELTER, it is providing solutions to the affordable housing crisis. More than 600 Kansas City homeowners 22 new builds and rehabs under construction 122 weatherization projects 16 neighborhoods touched by our projects countless lives transformed in the Kansas City area

© Beth Stratbucker Photography
Jack has become an iconic figure in the life of Habitat for Humanity of Kansas City. His welcoming presence as a volunteer coordinator sees him greeting volunteers as they arrive first thing in the morning, and working alongside them on jobs throughout the day. When not involved in these efforts, Jack can be seen fixing things around our offices, handcrafting awards for our volunteer and employee appreciation events, delivering refreshments to construction sites, and even carving watermelons for going away parties.

Jack Mitchell embodies what it means to be a “Jack of All Trades,” and truly shines as an example of how to be fully engaged in the life of our affiliate.

Service has been a lifelong affair for Jack Mitchell. Beginning his career with Habitat for Humanity as an AmeriCorps staff member in New Mexico, Jack finished his year of service there and applied for another with our Kansas City affiliate. Jack’s wide-ranging skill set and can-do attitude have shown through during his time at Habitat, and after he finished his time as an AmeriCorps staff member in Kansas City he was hired on as an employee.

“I am humbled everyday at Habitat KC because the work I do effects so many lives for the better. I feel that for our homeowners building their dreams has to start now.”

Jack Mitchell
No matter the location of the build site, the religion, gender or ethnicity of the homeowners or volunteers, there is a sense of authentic community that links Habitat partners.”

Jimmy Carter,
39th President of the United States

Vision: A world where everyone has a decent place to live.