

**Changing the trajectory  
of families' lives**



*Seeking to put God's love into action,  
Lakeshore Habitat for Humanity  
brings people together to build  
homes, communities and hope.*

## Strengthening our Lakeshore Community

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### Making a Long Term Impact in our Lakeshore Community

Lakeshore Habitat for Humanity has been providing safe, affordable, and decent homes to deserving families in need since 1990. To date we have served more than 170 families. These families would not have been able to secure a conventional mortgage and they would likely still be living in the cycle of poverty housing. Now we have an opportunity to do more, much more. We have the opportunity to shift from not only building or restoring homes; we can be a change agent in struggling neighborhoods that need renewal through vital home repair. This is our vision. We have begun to collaborate with other agencies in the Lakeshore area to carry out community revitalization. The cost is significant, but the rewards are enormous.

**Almanza Family**



**Hudjurovic Family**



**Clark Family**



### Changing the Trajectory of Families' Lives

Through new home builds, home restoration and vital home repairs, Lakeshore Habitat for Humanity is improving the quality of life for families and children. Families who become Habitat Homeowners are able to break the cycle of unstable and poverty housing and enter a new path. Owning a home is powerful. It empowers people and helps build much-needed stability for many families. Children in particular reap the benefits of growing up in decent, stable homes. Safe, stable living conditions have long-term positive effects on development, health, and school performance of children. Ultimately, these children become members of our community who will shape the future of our Lakeshore area.

*"My son is happy that he can  
bring people over to his house.  
I'm happy because I get to be a  
better mom to my son. . . ."*  
—Habitat Homeowner Partner

*"My son was so happy and grateful  
to God and Lakeshore Habitat for  
Humanity. Now, he lives in San  
Antonio, Texas and has been  
volunteering for Habitat for Humanity."*  
—Habitat Homeowner Partner

*"My children have not had to  
change schools or worry that  
they won't have a home."*  
—Habitat Homeowner Partner

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**We are a hand up,  
NOT a hand out**



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## Strengthening our Lakeshore Community



### **Lakeshore Habitat is poised to effectively respond to the housing challenges in our community and meet the basic NEED of safe, decent, affordable housing:**

**Impact:** Since 1990, we have been a successful ministry providing 155 homes to over 700 adults and children in Ottawa and Allegan counties. However, the need is great: Forty-four percent of Ottawa Co. renters are unable to afford 2 bedroom fair market rate apartments; the percentage of people living below the poverty level in the City of Holland is higher than both state and national averages; and at any given time, Lakeshore Habitat has over fifty families on our waiting list.

**Impact:** Lakeshore Habitat has a unique and effective ministry model that provides long-term housing to those who would not otherwise qualify for a conventional mortgage, providing a hand up not a hand out. Based on community need, we plan to increase our capacity by serving up to ninety additional families in the next five years.

**Impact:** Habitat for Humanity was ranked the sixth largest home builder in the United States in 2011 by Builder Magazine. The combined market value of Habitat homes in our service area is estimated at over \$13.4 million. We have invested \$9.1M in building, renovating and repairing homes for families, and homeowners have paid \$1.7M in property taxes since 2000.

**Impact:** Through new home builds, home restoration and vital home repairs, Lakeshore Habitat utilizes the Habitat model to create sustainable neighborhood and community impact. We are engaging with Habitat Michigan's campaign to build our volunteer base through their 'One in a Million' campaign. Volunteers are essential to what we do and the experience is incredibly rewarding, but we need to expand the number of people supporting our ministry in this way. Currently, over 2000 volunteer hours go into each home construction project.

**We are building more than just homes – we are building communities, dignity and hope:** The need in the area is great and the impact on our families is significant. When Habitat families move from poverty housing into their own homes, they report better health, increased stability, and their children do better in school. Also, by assisting low-income, working families with a zero-interest mortgage and Energy Star construction, we improve the lives of these families and the neighborhoods where they live.

### **What Lakeshore Habitat for Humanity means to me:**

*"A blessing, comfort and a new family. With them we found new meaning to happiness."  
- Habitat Homeowner Partner family*

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