

***Building houses, building hope  
in Cass, Crow Wing and Hubbard Counties***

It is not easy for families to share stories of difficult times with others. Future LAHFH homeowners have graciously agreed to tell theirs here so more families may receive the gift of a simple, decent and affordable home where they can feel safe and have a chance to thrive.

## A House of Our Own...

*Teasha Scheeler will soon be signing mortgage papers on her Thrivent Builds home in Southeast Brainerd.*

Teasha Scheeler would be the first to say that you learn from your mistakes; and that as a young woman she made some choices that have made her a much wiser person now.

When faced with the option of her boys, Dakotah and Micah, being placed permanently in foster care she found the courage to leave her abusive mate and father of the boys. She moved back home with her mother and obtained an order of protection.

Teasha tells her story, "I started making some life changes, including finishing high school. I enrolled in college in Communication Art & Design." She now works with a local non-profit organization managing and designing their website.

Teasha was able to move into a mobile home with the boys and feels blessed that they are together. But what she can afford on her salary alone cannot pay for a rental that meets the needs of the family. She describes some of their current housing issues; "Every winter the



*Teasha eagerly began helping LAHFH with its web and social media sites before construction on her house began, trying to fit her volunteer hours into the busy life of a single mom. After helping with the construction on her home, Teasha feels she may be able to help Dakotah and Micah build the tree fort they are wishing for.*



*NorSon, Inc. donated a re-designed floor plan so that the home would blend in with the architecture of the surrounding homes.*



Thrivent Financial provides 55 percent of the cost of a Thrivent sponsored home. Thrivent members and members of area Lutheran congregations raise additional funds and help construct the home.

In addition to the Thrivent contribution, employees and customers of Wells Fargo Bank volunteered on the site, securing a \$15,000 donation from the Wells Fargo Housing Foundation for materials.

pipes freeze, sometimes for days at a time. I keep buckets of water set aside just in case. I have tried various things to keep the pipes from freezing, including running a space heater nonstop. My electric bill doubled and it still didn't work. The electrical is unsafe. I recently unplugged a space heater and the end of the plug was burnt and melted."

One of the most difficult things for the family is the lack of space. To allow the boys separate rooms so they can have peace at bedtime, Teasha has the living room double as her bedroom. "I don't have my 'own' space and I have no where to keep my personal belongings." She has suffered from headaches and tiredness while living in the mobile home and is hoping that will resolve itself when they are moved.

Teasha and the boys are eagerly waiting to make the move into their new home. She comments, "One of the most exciting things about getting a Habitat house is that we will have our own house that we could NEVER have been able to afford on one income and we will each have our own room. This is truly a dream come true."

# Move Accomplished....



Lakes Area Habitat for Humanity came through a major move and ReStore makeover since the beginning of the year. Much credit goes to the wonderful volunteers who stepped up to remodel the new space and consolidate the old ReStore and the old office/warehouse under one roof.

Stop in and let us give you a tour. You will be as pleased by the new space as we are.



*Sixty football players from Central Lakes College, along with coach Greg Medeck, spent a Saturday morning helping with a variety of clean-up tasks for LAHFH.*

**Thank You!** It was a good time had by all who attended our annual dinner and auction at Breezy Point in June. We sincerely thank all who made this a successful event. The support of area businesses, organizations and individuals over the past 21 years has changed the lives of 74 families.

We thank the area businesses and individuals who donated to the live and silent auction. We sincerely thank our sponsors: Brainerd Savings and Loan, Hunt Family of Businesses, Westwood Professionals, Baxter Chiropractic, Chuck & Sandy Burton, Bremer Bank, Close-Converse, Nancy and Roger Houg, Ladyslipper Travel, Nor-Son, In Memory of Tom Rosenberger, Randy & Kathy Seifert, Widseth Smith Nolting & Associates, Inc.

We appreciate the support of all who attended the event and made the evening so enjoyable. We especially thank the dinner committee: Sally Jacobsen, Chair, Diane Anderson, Linnea Anderson, Mary Jo Best, Joanne Forrest, Tessa Hall, Shirley Langland, Eric Larson, Marilyn Ismir, Bonnie Lewis, Laura Pederson, Sandy & Erv Reuther, Betty Rosenberger. We thank Jim Olsen- music; Darrell Swanson- MC and Auctioneer; Scott French, Steve Augustinack- AV; Bob Burns, Brandon Pederson, Eric Larson, Zahi Ismir- tickets and auction assistants; Clare Carpenter- registration.

**SAVE THE DATE FOR NEXT YEAR'S DINNER... JUNE 14, 2012**

# Remodel Opportunity...



The Churchill family has patiently been waiting four years to begin construction on their home.

They had hoped to stay in Crosby, but the only land LAHFH has in Crosby is currently unbuildable while city water sewer projects are pending. No other affordable land was found in the Crosby area.

The family has since moved to Brainerd and is excited to begin the remodel on an existing house in east Brainerd. (Formerly the Brainerd Oaks sales office and before that the Elvig family home.) This brings full circle a connection for Loyd. He used to help Mr. Elvig and will now own that very same home.

Loyd and Karen are looking forward to hosting family gatherings with their children and grandchildren.

## Needed for Loyd and Karen's house

We are here: \$9,000

Needed: \$55,000



# This Old Home

*Marlene Cheshire and her children will be working alongside volunteers on their new home in Pine River this fall. This is their story...*

In 1984 Marlene Cheshire purchased a plot of land in Pine River. She and her future husband found an old house in Backus and moved it to the property.

But as Marlene states, "Life happens." The couple were blessed with two healthy children, Anton and Rose. Clyde, the third child was diagnosed with neurological disabilities.

The family moved to California for a job that ended forcing them back to the Pine River house with no electricity, sewer or water. Marlene proudly says, "We rewired the old house, insulated, put windows and doors in and scratched by."

Life was happening. Marlene divorced her abusive, alcoholic husband and began fending for herself and the children.

Wanting a home that the kids could be proud of and feel comfortable inviting friends into, Marlene purchased a new mobile home in 2005. But bad luck followed again. The title company she had been employed with suddenly went out of business. She was forced to declare bankruptcy, but valiantly tried to hang onto the new house.

She found another job, but at a reduced wage. In an effort to make ends meet, she lowered the coverage on her home insurance. Because she could not afford to fill the LP tank that fall, she installed a wood burning stove-



something that she would come to regret. The home and their possessions were lost in a fire, forcing the family back into the home that has been patched and re-patched to make it a barely tolerable shelter.

Marlene states, "The old house, which had saved us in hard times before, saved us again. I feel really badly that they had to live there all their childhood, embarrassed and ashamed. But we had a roof over our heads." She continues, "The addition to the old house is crumbling with each rain. The old part does not leak but is such a cave. I am thankful for this old house even though I hate living here. We have so much work, time and money into it."

It was Marlene's now grown daughter, Rose who put her mother's name on the LAHFH waiting list to be notified for the 2010 application round. Marlene's words regarding the prospect of building her new home are ones of regret that is outweighed by hope and thankfulness; "As much as I wish I could give it to all my children, I hope they are happy for this new house as a stable future for me and Clyde; for me as I get older and for Clyde to have a place even after I have passed. Getting a Habitat house is kind of like winning the lottery and it is still not real to me yet. It is such an emotional event and I am so very thankful to Rosie, my angel and precious daughter and to Habitat for Humanity."

## Looking ahead....

Two more projects are planned for this fall— a remodel of a donated home in Brainerd and a build in Pine River. There are however funding gaps that could impede progress. \$35,000 has been raised for the home in Pine River, leaving \$50,000 to fill the gap. \$50,000 is needed for the Brainerd remodel. By the end of the year, LAHFH hopes to raise the funds for two more homes to be completed by next spring. If you would like to find out how you can help, call 218-828-8517. Read more about our families and watch for updates on our web site [www.lakesareahabitat.org](http://www.lakesareahabitat.org) or follow us on [Facebook](#).

### Help us build Marlene's house



\$0

We are here: **\$35,000**

Needed: **\$85,000**

**Mail donations in the enclosed envelope or donate securely online at [www.lakesareahabitat.org](http://www.lakesareahabitat.org)**

**E-Newsletter... Go Green– Reduce Waste and Cost. Sign up to receive this newsletter electronically.**

Email Susan at [susan.chandler@lakesareahabitat.org](mailto:susan.chandler@lakesareahabitat.org)

*Please include your full name in your message and you will be added to the electronic delivery list!*

**Save the Date!**  
**September 19**

**Volunteer Appreciation  
at the LAHFH ReStore**

*More information to follow*

**LAHFH Contacts:**

**Board Members ...**

- Steve Jobe, Board Chair
- Mike Riley, Vice Chair
- Eric Charpentier, Treasurer
- Nancy Houg, Secretary
- Chuck Anderson
- George Jurgenson
- Ed Anderson
- Cheri Macklanburg
- Rollie Haugen
- Al Norgaard
- Chris Hoglund
- Laura Pederson
- Chad Rushin

**Staff ...**

- Kevin Pelkey, Executive Director
- Mary Zimmermann, Development Dir.
- Larry Johannessohn, Construction Supervisor
- Laurie Ziebell, Volunteer Coordination/  
Public Relations
- Scott Hall, ReStore Manager
- Debra Mosberger, ReStore Asst. Mgr.
- Jeanette Houle, Office Manager
- Susan Chandler, Office Assistant

## Greater Lakes Bike Ride

**HAMMERIN' THE HIGHWAY FOR HABITAT**  
**Saturday, September 17**



Advance registration for the ride and lodging available on-line:

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

**Or Call Roger at 612-802-8964**

On site registration the day of the event 10 A.M.

*Proceeds benefit regional Habitat for Humanity affiliates*

Lakes Area Habitat for Humanity received funding to help build a house in Brainerd as part of Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity, 2011.

Since 2005, Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity has helped more than 2,500 families in the U.S. and around the world achieve the dream of homeownership.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans continues to be one of the largest non-government supporters of Habitat for Humanity International.

**Thrivent®  
Builds**

