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Pedaling to Build a Cycle of Hope

The 30th Anniversary Habitat 500 Bike Ride to benefit Habitat for Humanity

Saint Paul, MN, March 2022– Since 1993, the Habitat 500 Bike Ride has sent cyclists across Minnesota and the surrounding Midwest annually to raise funds and awareness for Habitat for Humanity. After two years of Bike @ Home events, the 30th anniversary Ride will offer both Bike @ Home and hybrid options for participation, with riders from all over the state and country gathering in Fergus Falls, MN from July 14–17, 2022 for a build day and three days of biking. Riders, volunteers, and staff look forward to joining as a community, both online and in person, all while fundraising for Habitat’s work in their local communities!

Since Habitat Minnesota began coordinating the Ride in 2002, the Habitat 500 has **raised over \$5.6 million** for Habitat for Humanity. In 2021, the Ride raised over \$231,000 with more than 150 participants cycling. Funding supports the efforts of Habitat for Humanity across the state, as it works alongside partner organizations, volunteers, future homeowners, and donors toward a world where everyone has a safe, stable, and affordable place to live. Riders register, ready to pedal and fundraise for a cause that impacts new homeowners now and for generations to come.

“We know that if you have the stability of good housing, you do better in school, you stay healthier; it starts you on that path that we want every family and every child to have that opportunity,” said Jonathan Reckford, CEO of Habitat for Humanity International. In fact, 90% of Habitat homeowners surveyed by Wilder Research said they felt better about their children’s future. Over half of homeowners with children said their children’s grades improved after moving into their Habitat home.

The Habitat 500 Bike Ride brings together a love of biking with an appreciation for sharing strength and stability in the community. As longtime rider Dick Manny said, “The significance of the mission is my number one reason. It does so much locally, nationally, and internationally.” Rider Tim Dellett shared this community sentiment, “I do all the pedaling myself, but I truly feel part of a larger team that is all working hard for the betterment of the world, really.”

The impact of stable housing reaches beyond each family; it improves entire communities. “It is the key component in building generational and community wealth and creating thriving communities that support strong economies,” said Emma Kasiga, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) employee and Habitat Minnesota board member. On July 14, riders and volunteers also have the opportunity for hands-on building at a Habitat for Humanity build site in Fergus Falls. Longtime rider Lilah Aas shared, “I remember a few years ago this little girl was there with her mom and siblings and said, ‘Do you wanna see my bedroom?’ Of course, the house was nothing but studs, but she takes me over to it and says, ‘It’s gonna be pink!’ As a teacher all my life

for my career, knowing the importance of having a good safe home. It's just beyond belief what a difference that makes in the way a kid grows up. That's a huge impact!"

The Habitat 500 and its community of supporters will celebrate 30 years supporting the mission of Habitat for Humanity!

For more information on how to get involved, please visit habitat500.org.

About Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota

Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota, Inc. (Habitat Minnesota) is a statewide support organization for Minnesota Habitat affiliates. Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, community, and hope. Through advocacy, collaboration, and leadership, Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota advances the work of Minnesota's Habitat for Humanity affiliates to create and preserve affordable homeownership. Habitat Minnesota was created in 1997 initially as a financial intermediary, providing centralized distribution of capital to affiliates. Today, Habitat Minnesota offers a range of programs, including resource development, advocacy, training, and networking. For more information, visit hfhm.org.