





“The Habitat for Humanity Interfaith Build Project was conceived as an opportunity for the Abrahamic faith traditions to express their mutually shared values of hospitality and compassion through the building of 10 affordable homes for working families.

Each participating faith tradition, each church, mosque, and synagogue, and each individual was asked to give of their time and of their resources based upon the Biblical verse, ‘Each shall bring his own gift, appropriate to the blessing which the Lord your God has given you.’ The success, thus far, of the Interfaith Build Project can be attributed to both the generosity of large donors combined with the power of many smaller yet significant gifts to help bring joy and hope to our community.”

-Rabbi Shaul Osadchey

2018 Interfaith Build Project Update

The Interfaith Build Project began in 2015 as a unique opportunity for people from all faith communities to come together and put their faith into united action. An ambitious goal was set to raise \$1,000,000 to build 10 affordable Habitat homes for working families to purchase in the community of Pineridge.

Bishop Greg Kerr-Wilson, of the Anglican Diocese and Rabbi Shaul Osadchey of the Beth Tzedec Synagogue, agreed to co-chair a committee to bolster the fundraising efforts in support of Habitat for Humanity Southern Alberta (HFHSA). We would like to acknowledge Les Sawatsky, HFHSA Board member for his passion and dedication in launching this project.

HFHSA relies on community support to fulfill its mission of helping working families achieve strength, stability and independence through affordable home ownership. We are very grateful to the Clergy Leadership team for leading the Interfaith Build Project to support Habitat for Humanity Southern AB.



Thank You *to our participating clergy and representatives*

- **Joanne Anquist** - McDougall United Church
- **Adam Bedford** - Westside King's Church
- **Linda Bossler** - Robert McLure United Church
- **John Chik** - Knox Presbyterian Church
- **Joann Churchill** - Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary
- **Jeremy Duncan** - Commons Church
- **Debra Faulk** - Calgary Unitarians
- **Rabbi Mark Glickman** - B'nai Tikvah
- **Dalton Harding** - Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
- **Imam Hadi Hasan** - Hussaini Association of Calgary
- **Linda Hunter** - Woodcliff United Church
- **Marilou LeGeyt** - Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary
- **Sultan Mahmood** - Baitur Nur Mosque
- **Bishop William McGrattan** - Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary
- **Deacon Robert McLean** - Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary
- **Dr. R.C. (Bob) Mummery** - Holy Nativity Anglican Church
- **Brian Plesuk** - Woodcliff United Church
- **Tracy Robertson** - St. Thomas United
- **Imam Syed Soharwardy** - Supreme Islamic Council
- **Elder Larry Spackman** - Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
- **Darlene Thompson** - Robert McLure United Church
- **Ed Top** - Lantern, Christian Reformed Church
- **Doreen Thibeault** - Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary
- **Mark Tremblay** - Knox Presbyterian Church
- **Les Sawatsky** - Habitat For Humanity Southern AB Board Member
- **Kristian Wold** - Hope Lutheran Church

Coming Together to Build

Since 2015, the project has evolved significantly with the addition of support from the Beth Tzedec Synagogue, the Anglican Diocese of Calgary and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary. With these new partners on board, a collective decision was made to allocate the funds to several communities across Southern Alberta in order to have a greater impact by engaging more individuals in the project.

Please read on to learn the fundraising success to date, details on the selected projects, the impact of your gift and ways to get involved. Thank you to every individual and congregation for participating in this unique initiative. Whether you volunteered to build or make lunches, donated or attended an event, your generous contribution will create a brighter future for families in our community.



Current Achievements

We have currently raised \$800,000 (\$600,000 in cash and \$200,000 in pledges) toward our million dollar goal. This achievement includes generous pledges from the Anglican Diocese for \$200,000 and a substantial gift from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary for \$300,000. In addition, noted Calgary philanthropist, the late Sam Switzer, contributed \$100,000 as part of the Beth Tzedec's Interfaith Campaign. In addition, over 500 individuals have supported this campaign! Thanks to everyone who has come together to build strength, stability and independence for working families in our communities

Our goal is to wrap up our campaign by June 2019. There are still many ways to get involved and make a meaningful contribution in the spirit of interfaith harmony.

Help Us Reach Our Goal— *Only \$200K More to Go!*

- We invite all congregations large and small to come together to help us help 10 hard working families attain strength, stability and independence through affordable home ownership.
- Help with family recruitment, email Laura Dickson at ldickson@habitatsonthernab.ca
- Participate in an Interfaith Build Day or organize your own. Contact Kelsey Murdoch at kmurdoch@habitatsonthernab.ca for details.
- Organize a congregational campaign (please contact us for a Congregational Guide).
- Make a donation that's meaningful to you.





Interfaith Build Days

Members from many congregations and faith groups across the city have supported the Interfaith Build Project. Congregations have rallied through fundraising, bringing lunch for build day participants and participating in Build Days. A hearty group even braved minus twenty-five degree temperatures on our Bowness site for the cause.

Thanks to the Following Interfaith Build Day Participants:

- Interfaith Clergy Builds – August 2016 and February 2017 as part of the Calgary Interfaith Council's World Interfaith Harmony Week
- Westside King's Church
- Calgary Dream Centre Young Adults via Westside King's Church
- Mid-Sun Community
- Woodcliff United Church
- Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary Youth Program with St. Mary's High School and St. Bonaventure Youth Ministry



Building Sacred Bridges

Events like the Building Sacred Bridges concerts brought together musicians from different faith communities across the city, raising awareness of and funds for the Interfaith Build Project. The Naked Faith Band is pictured left.

Amazing Fundraisers

“Woodcliff United Church is an enthusiastic supporter of the Interfaith project. We have made a five-year commitment through participating in Build Days, a benefit concert and our Christmas ‘Homes for All’ project which had members make a donation in lieu of a gift and receive a special card. Our children are involved – collecting change in pop bottles (Dimes for Doors), wheeling around our ‘Johnny Cash’ portable toilet bank (pictured on the right) and even requesting donations in lieu of birthday gifts! We have also been blessed to have had Habitat staff, Board members, Imam Soharwardy and Rabbi Osadchey share their message with our Congregation.”

– **Brian Plesuk, Woodcliff United Church**

We are so grateful to the Robert McClure United Church for all of your efforts to date, from feeding hungry volunteers, participating in build days and fundraising an incredible \$1,900 to date by engaging their parishioners. “Robert McClure United Church was excited about the opportunity to be involved with the Pineridge Interfaith Build Project. What a great way to support new neighbors just around the corner from us!”

– **Linda Bossler, Volunteer Robert McClure United Church**

Westside King’s Church have been generous donors, and have participated in a build day, while mentoring clients of the Dream Centre. “Habitat provides us with opportunities to serve alongside people we wouldn’t get to meet otherwise. When those kinds of encounters take place, the serving becomes not just a blessing to those we help, but to us.”

– **Adam Bedford, Missions Pastor at Westside King’s Church**

If you have a story to share about your congregational campaign, please email Jane at jdafoe@habitatsouthernab.ca



Pineridge Build

Thanks to the Interfaith Build efforts, two homes in Pineridge have been funded by generous donations. The project wrapped up in April of 2018 and the complex now is home to 24 families with 75 children! A home dedication event was held in April and we were delighted to recognize the Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary, Robert McClure United Church and the Woodcliff United Church at the event.

CLAUDE & ANALICIA

SIERRA, T'ZION, MURONYI & JOSIAH

Sometimes, despite our greatest efforts and best intentions, 'life happens'. My family had been renting in subsidized housing for a few years and was finally at the point where both my wife and I had good, stable jobs and were earning a decent income which allowed us to be able to move out and rent outside of the system.

Our family was growing and we were able to secure another home in the neighbourhood that was suitable for us; however, our goal was to save up a deposit which would enable us to become homeowners.

Things started to take a turn when my employment became erratic as there were layoffs with uncertainty of when work would be available again. It became a waiting game where I would work but could expect a lay off which could be three months or more. My wife began experiencing health issues which affected her work. Soon after that her employer made major changes within the company which closed her office down. We now had to rely on my income for stability.

My family has gotten involved in the greater community and try to do our part to pay it forward. We have four children, three boys

and one girl. Two of our boys volunteer at The Drop-in Centre once a month to help feed the homeless, while my eldest son coaches at a track and field club. My daughter recently became involved in a home renovation project in a nearby community. I myself try to do my part giving my time to Brown Bagging 4 Calgary's Kids in my spare time, while my wife volunteers at the children's school and church.

When we first saw the opportunity to obtain a home through a partnership with Habitat, we were a bit hesitant, not thinking this could really be our opportunity. However, we decided to give it a shot and attended an information seminar. We set the application in motion but still did not believe this dream of homeownership was about to become a reality. When I received the call and informed my wife she was ecstatic! Things were really starting to turn around.

While this journey has had its highs and lows, we are happy for the opportunity that has been presented to us and are anxious to build new memories in a place we can finally call our own. Thank you Habitat! We feel truly blessed.



Bowness Build

To help more families to achieve stable housing in Calgary, Habitat is embarking upon a two-phase construction project of 20 homes in the community of Bowness.

This multi-phase buildout began in November 2016 and construction will wrap up by next spring. Altogether, the project will result in homes for 20 families with approximately 60 children. Funds from the Interfaith Build will fund one home in a four-plex that was completed earlier this year and a home in a five-plex that is currently under construction.

ANNETTE

PATRICK & RILEY

Annette, a single mother of two boys is thrilled to be a Habitat homeowner. She works as a school bus driver and moved into her new home in January 2018! Before Habitat, Annette lived in an inappropriate and frankly, dangerous situation. She worried constantly about her children's safety.

"I just want to teach my boys how to be compassionate, caring, responsible young men. It is very hard to do so when there are so many negative things around you," says Annette. The challenges this family has faced include having their car and apartment broken into, being in close and constant proximity to illegal drug activity and the related violence and living in extremely cramped quarters.

"I wanted to become a family member of Habitat because I believe in working hard, being kind, and loving one another. I have always wanted to own my own home but have been financially unable to attain that," says Annette. And, work hard she has, completing her mandatory 500 volunteer hours with enthusiasm!

"I have two wonderful boys and two lovely cats; without my boys, I do not know where I would be. They are such great kids. Patrick is into sports - he loves soccer. He's always helping me out with his little brother and is into volunteering. He also attended one of five levels for leadership training with the Tim Hortons Camp. Riley likes to be outside; he likes tobogganing, snowboarding, and any kind of outdoor activity that he can do. Both my kids are friendly and respectful." – Annette



Silvercreek Legacy Build *creating positive change for generations to come.*

This is Habitat's largest development to date and we are delighted to be building in the established, family friendly community of Silver Springs. Funds from the Interfaith Build Campaign will help construct two of the homes that are part of this 32-unit project.

Plans include four buildings with 8-unit stacked townhouses and the requisite parking. Each home is roughly 1,100 square feet, with three bedrooms, one and a half bathrooms and an open concept main floor. We invest donor dollars to construct energy-efficient homes, reducing the cost of utilities for families.

Construction will commence in the winter of 2019, concluding in December 2021. All told, this project will build a foundation, creating strength, stability, and independence for 32 families with almost 100 children.

A project launch is scheduled for November 30th. Please email Jane jdafoe@habitatsouthernab.ca for more information.

Homes for Rural Families

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary, and the Anglican Diocese will also be funding some homes to help families in some of our regions (Brooks, Olds, Okotoks, Drumheller, and Medicine Hat). More information will be released as projects are confirmed.





Upcoming Events

SILVERCREEK PROJECT LAUNCH

November 30th, 2018 (details TBD)

We will be coming together to celebrate the launch of Habitat's largest development to date! Once completed, the Silvercreek Legacy Build Project will be home to 32 families. Please contact Jane jdafoe@habitatsouthernab.ca for more information.

BUILDING SACRED BRIDGES – INTERFAITH BUILD WRAP-UP CONCERT

May 5, 2019 at the Beth Tzedec Synagogue

In 2018, we had participation from Jewish, Christian, Sikh and Islamic communities. In 2019, we'll celebrate the Interfaith Build Project wrap-up with some returning and some new participants to continue to diversify the event. A crowd favourite, "All of God's Children" choir will return with participants from a broader cross section of faiths. This event has always been a celebration of diversity, goodwill among faiths, great music and an opportunity to raise money to allow hardworking Calgarian families with children more stability through home ownership.





Habitat for Humanity®

Southern Alberta

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