



Building opportunity throughout Burt, Douglas,
Sarpy and Washington counties.

Media Advisory

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Habitat for Humanity of Omaha, Habitat Sarpy County unite to expand reach, community impact

Omaha, NE (July 30, 2020) – [Habitat for Humanity of Omaha](#) will serve more metro area residents through a new partnership between Omaha and Habitat for Humanity of Sarpy County. The two Habitat organizations united under the name Habitat for Humanity of Omaha this month to expand their reach and impact in delivering quality, affordable homeownership solutions to the greater Omaha community. Habitat Omaha will now work throughout Burt, Douglas, Sarpy and Washington counties.

The Sarpy County Habitat Board of Directors initiated the restructuring last year. They voted in November to pursue the arrangement, which was then approved by the Omaha Board of Directors in December. The final steps of the process were completed in June 2020.

“This unification couldn’t have come at a better time. So many of our friends and neighbors are facing difficult financial circumstances due to the pandemic’s economic impact,” said Amanda Brewer, Habitat for Humanity of Omaha CEO. “By joining forces permanently, we’ll be combining the infrastructure, resources and dedicated volunteers and advocates from both organizations to further the impact Habitat has in our communities.”

“It’s never been more important to have a stable, safe place to live,” added Dan Patterson, a former Sarpy County board member now serving on Habitat Omaha’s board. “By joining together, we are positioned to meet these unprecedented times with an unprecedented effort.”

The types of housing needs seen from block to block can vary greatly in the metro. This partnership will allow the organization to better consider the variation of needs and address them as one united group, with resources from both entities and support from Omaha’s well-established infrastructure.

While the combined organization will operate under Habitat Omaha’s name, they will continue their physical presence in Sarpy County through a new satellite office at Bellevue University. Habitat Omaha has modified its Board of Directors to include four new members – Jon Costello, Dan Patterson, Mark Rodgers, and Lucas Weatherly – who are familiar with Sarpy County and passionate about Habitat’s presence there.

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About Habitat for Humanity of Omaha

Founded in 1984, Habitat for Humanity of Omaha is a grassroots organization that builds and renovates houses, forges community partnerships and breaks down barriers. We develop vacant lots and eliminate abandoned homes in blighted areas of North and South Omaha while improving the overall appearance of our community. Habitat Omaha homebuyers are required to complete up to 350 hours of sweat equity before purchasing their homes through 20-to-30-year affordable mortgages. Since 1984, Habitat Omaha has partnered with more than 1,800 families and individuals; this year we will impact the lives of more than 200 families in the Omaha area. In 2020, Habitat Omaha will build or renovate 42 homes and complete more than 150 home repair or improvement projects. For more information, visit habitatomaha.org.

The Need in Sarpy County

As one of the most expensive places to live in the state, the need for affordably priced homes exists in Sarpy County. The average cost for a modest two-bedroom apartment is \$946 per month, according to HUD, and Zillow lists the median home value at more than \$230,000.

According to a housing study conducted by Sarpy County, that need is only going to grow in the next five years when 12,000 more people are expected to move to Sarpy County. The county currently has a housing vacancy rate of 2.1% – meaning there is not enough quality, affordable housing today. If Sarpy County continues to grow its community, workforce and economic opportunity, it will need more housing options.

As a community with 18,000 veterans, there is also an opportunity for Habitat Omaha to serve those who have served by offering Home Improvement Program opportunities. In particular, older veterans and those with disabilities may benefit from the program, which involves professional contractors completing repairs at no cost or with zero-interest.