

**Contact:**

Tracie McPherson, Public Affairs & Advocacy, Habitat for Humanity of Omaha
p. 402-884-6413 / c. 402-312-5911 / e. tmcpherson@habitatomaha.org

\$1.5 Million Gift Helps Habitat for Humanity of Omaha Make Critical Home Repairs for Families who Otherwise may be Left in the Cold

Omaha, NE (December 16, 2020) – It's one of the biggest challenges for families during Nebraska winters – keeping their homes warm. The Harper Family Foundation has committed \$1.5 million to Habitat for Humanity of Omaha, the largest one-time gift in the history of the organization. The Harper Family “Hand Up” Program will help local homeowners make critical repairs to provide families with a warm home for the holidays.

“We’ve seen families heating their homes with space heaters because they could not afford to purchase a new furnace,” said Habitat Omaha CEO Amanda Brewer. “This donation will help pay for the upfront costs of these critical home repairs allowing families to make payments over a longer period of time through an interest-free loan.”

This year, Habitat Omaha is on track to complete 140 home repairs.

“The goal is to use this incredible gift to create a cannon ball effect that leverages additional matching funds from potential donors,” said Brewer. “The additional dollars, along with the loan repayments from homeowners could impact more than 2,600 families over the next 7 years.”

“This donation will go a long way to provide peace of mind for families who cannot afford to make emergency repairs,” said Betsy Murphy, Harper Family Foundation Trustee.

Chris Murphy, also a Harper Family Trustee, added, “We are so proud this gift can be a catalyst and help bring in even more funding to the program. We truly feel it’s an investment in our community’s future.”

Through this program, a furnace can be replaced within 48 hours of submitting a qualifying application. Any homeowner experiencing problems with their furnace is encouraged to apply.

To apply and learn more about qualifications, call Habitat Omaha at 402-457-5657 or visit habitatomaha.org/programs/home-repair.

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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. The organization currently builds, renovates, and repair homes throughout a five-county service area that includes: Douglas, Sarpy, Burt, Cass and Washington Counties. Habitat Omaha homebuyers are required to complete up to 275 hours of sweat equity before purchasing their homes through 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 40-45 homes and complete up to 140 home repair or improvement projects. For more information, visit HabitatOmaha.org.