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Habitat for Humanity of Omaha Receives \$11 Million Donation from MacKenzie Scott To Address Affordable Housing in Omaha Area

*Philanthropist and Author Provides Unrestricted \$436 million Gift
To Habitat International and 84 U.S. Habitat Affiliates*

For Immediate Release: Tuesday, March 22, 2022

OMAHA, Nebraska — Habitat for Humanity of Omaha will receive an \$11 million unrestricted gift from American philanthropist and author MacKenzie Scott to create affordable housing. This gift will help more families in the Omaha area to become first-time homebuyers.

“This donation allows local gifts to go even further to help families in our community have a stable, affordable place to call home,” said Habitat Omaha CEO Amanda Brewer. “We can build more, serve more and accomplish more when we work together.”

More and more families are looking to Habitat Omaha for affordable and stable housing. Last month, the organization received more than 3,000 calls in two-days from people wanting to become homeowners.

“Habitat Omaha has a four-year plan to invest a total of \$108 million in removing barriers to homeownership in the Greater Metro Omaha area,” Brewer said. “This donation is a great start in helping us to reach this goal.”

Habitat Omaha’s four-year goals include building and renovating more houses, providing more mortgage opportunities for families, creating a down payment assistance fund for first-time homebuyers and preserving existing housing stock through their [Home Repair Program](#).

“The City of Omaha and Habitat for Humanity are good partners,” said Mayor Jean Stothert. “This gift will expand our commitment to affordable housing. We are grateful that national and local donors work with Habitat and the city to make a significant difference for families in our community.”

Nationwide, Habitat for Humanity International will prioritize advocacy and programmatic efforts designed to dismantle systemic racism in housing. Specifically, the donation will allow Habitat Affiliates across the country to advocate for policy proposals and legislation that enable millions of people access to affordable housing through its [Cost of Home](#) advocacy campaign; increase Black homeownership in the U.S. by targeting current systemic barriers



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through a new national initiative that will launch this summer; and leverage innovative capital investments that service communities of color.

Amanda Brewer will be available for personal or telephone interviews and limited video opportunities will be available.

About Habitat for Humanity of Omaha

Founded in 1984, Habitat for Humanity of Omaha builds and renovates homes, repairs existing houses, takes down blighted structures and advocates for better laws and systems. We also work with individuals and families to help them acquire the access, skills and financial education necessary to become successful homeowners. In 2021, Habitat Omaha homeowners contributed almost \$900,000 to Douglas County in property taxes. This year Habitat Omaha will help 300 families become mortgage ready and purchase a Habitat home or a house on the open market. Through financial support, volunteering or adding a voice to support affordable housing, everyone can help families achieve the strength, stability and self-reliance they need to build better lives for themselves. Through shelter, we empower. To learn more, visit [habitatomaha.org](https://www.habitatomaha.org).