



BUILDING ON  
**25**  
YEARS  
1987-2012

# The Builder



## Building on our past, present and future!

From its inception in 1987, and first home built the following year, Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg (HFHW) has come a long way. From a few passionate volunteers to a fully staffed operation, Habitat Winnipeg has continually improved its methods in every aspect of the operation in order to increase its capacity to build.

Habitat has never forgotten its roots as volunteers are still the core of the organization. Through contributions to the Office, ReStore, and their passion for helping build homes, the generosity of time and effort made by our volunteers help make Habitat a community-based nonprofit organization like no other.

“We have many long-time volunteers still helping us today, including some of the Founders of the Organization. Each year we see repeat volunteers at the build sites, hammering away, knowing the good they are doing for families and the community,” says Sandy Hopkins, Habitat Winnipeg’s CEO.

Kris Ramanawaj has seen many changes as a build volunteer with Habitat Winnipeg for over 20 years.

“In the early days it was very informal and you just showed up to build. Now they have much more structure, efficient building techniques and strict safety training and procedures that must be adhered to by all volunteers and construction staff”.

“If you look back through the years at the homes we’ve built, they are all of fine quality indicative of their time. But with anything, as time passes, better understanding of building techniques, energy efficiency, design and improved building material or components all lead to better homes for our families,” says Hopkins.

Through the years, Habitat Winnipeg has experienced some significant milestones. The first was the Jimmy Carter Work Project with its first venture outside the USA in 1993. Their arrival in Winnipeg put Habitat Winnipeg on the map. The project on the Jarvis Avenue site was a huge success and was followed extensively by the media with a record 18 homes built in just four days.

*(Continued)* Please see ‘Celebrating’ on page 3

# Homeowner PROFILE

As a young child, Taeng and her family fled the corruption of their homeland of Laos to Thailand. They were caught as illegal immigrants trying to enter the country, and as a result, Taeng spent most of her early childhood years in a refugee camp.

Taeng was nine years of age when the family finally made their way to Canada, eventually becoming Canadian citizens in 1991.

Unfortunately, an unplanned high school pregnancy caused her to drop out of school. Taeng had her second child fifteen months later and was then left on her own as a single mother.

The resilient young mother worked many part-time jobs trying to support her two young daughters, Cami and Brooklyn, but due to limited financial resources they had to move into the basement bedroom of her parent's very modest home.

Taeng wanted better lives for her children so she took this opportunity to advance her education. Extremely motivated, she attained her mature student diploma, while also receiving Office Technology and Microsoft Office Assistance certificates in 2005 and 2007. She has worked full-time as an administrative assistant for the Manitoba Association of Architects for the last three years.

Taeng applied for a traditional mortgage, but on her income, and without spousal support, she did not qualify. The single

mom of two growing daughters, now 10 and 11 years of age, continue to struggle living in cramped quarters with no room to grow. They are at risk of potential health problems from mold and endure many sleepless nights due to the late-night activities of her three younger brothers.

Independence was a must but seemed impossible.



*Taeng with her two daughters, Cami and Brooklyn*

Taeng was hoping her self-improvement would pay off for her children and their futures, but it didn't happen in a way she could have imagined.

It may have been destiny as Taeng's hard work did change her life. As she was making out a donation cheque from her workplaces' charity golf tournament, she noticed it was for Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg.

Curious, she researched the organization through their website and realized she met all the criteria for home ownership.

Taeng was ecstatic!

The family was accepted into the program and now awaits their home to be built this year. She is extremely motivated and has already finished off her non-build 'sweat equity' hours while awaiting this year's Habitat Blitz Build to finish off the remainder.

Taeng is very excited about the new direction her life is taking as she will finally have independence, security and a place for her family to grow!

*Our success depends on your support! To make a donation please visit [www.habitat.mb.ca](http://www.habitat.mb.ca) or mail cheques to Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg, 60 Archibald St., Winnipeg, MB R2J 0V8*

'Celebrating' continued from page 1

The record stood for 17 years and was finally toppled this past year with the building of 21 homes in Winnipeg for a total of 23 homes, including two in Virden.

The Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg Cycle of Hope took off in 1993 and hasn't stopped since, raising over \$2.5 million dollars to date.

The first ReStore in the world was started in Winnipeg and recently celebrated 20 years.

The first official Habitat offices were formed above the ReStore in 1994 at 75 Archibald Street. In 2004, because of continued growth, the organization moved across the street into their own building where it presently resides at 60 Archibald Street.

The Manitoba Lotteries Habitat for Humanity Legacy Build was formed in 2008. Manitoba Lotteries committed to a five-year partnership to contribute up to \$2.5 million towards building homes in Winnipeg, Brandon, Portage la Prairie, Steinbach (South East), Selkirk, Dauphin and Virden.

The program generously matches dollars from other donors up to a potential total of \$5 million. This partnership, along with many other generous organizations, has made a significant difference in how many homes HFHW can affordably build each year. The supporters of Habitat's many special events, along with personal donations, have enabled the total number to grow even further.

The increased financial support through the years has added to Habitat Winnipeg's output as 100 Habitat homes were built in the first 16 years with the capacity doubling in the next eight years. Habitat Winnipeg recently celebrated the building of its 200th home in 2011 along with the honour of building Habitat Canada's 200th home attended by the Governor General of Canada.

As Habitat Winnipeg starts this celebratory year- *building on 25 years*, we look back on our history with pride and satisfaction and look forward to a bright future encompassing many more milestones and continuing growth. The more Habitat homes we build, the sooner our vision becomes a reality of eliminating poverty housing by providing families with a foundation for positive change.

## 360 Build Smart Partnership benefits Habitat Winnipeg



The 360 Build Smart Partnership is a unique granting program designed to make funds available for all Habitat affiliates capacity building efforts across the country. Habitat Winnipeg recently benefited from the program by receiving \$25,000 towards its Regional Development Program to develop new Chapters.

Winnipeg and other Habitat affiliates receive qualifying grants from the program due to Habitat for Humanity Canada (HFHC) securing over \$2 million in financial and in-kind support from several program sponsors/donors. The title sponsors of the HFHC 360 Build Smart Partnership are The Home Depot Canada Foundation and Holcim (Canada). Other supporters include: Loblaw Companies Limited (Everyday Essentials), RBC Foundation, Schneider Electric, First Canadian Title Company Ltd., and Trialto Wine Group.

Affiliates can apply for grants to help offset the costs of activities under each of the five categories of support:

1. **Family Outreach & Education**– Helping Affiliates seek out families in need in their communities and helping partner families succeed with homeownership through training initiatives, including financial literacy and home maintenance.
2. **Homebuilding & Environmental Impact**– Providing access to affordable homeownership opportunities while reducing environmental impact through green builds and ReStore Greening initiatives.
3. **Safety Commitment** – Fostering safety on our build sites, ReStores and all other areas of Habitat's work.
4. **Volunteer Engagement** – Rallying communities and volunteers to participate in Habitat's work.
5. **Local Collaboration & Partnership**– Engaging both public and private partners in long-term solutions

By creating a program that supports Affiliates with these areas, together, we can not only build homes, but also build sustainable communities across the country.

*Our success depends on your support! To make a donation please visit [www.habitat.mb.ca](http://www.habitat.mb.ca) or mail cheques to Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg, 60 Archibald St., Winnipeg, MB R2J 0V8*

# Big support for Habitat's Regional Development

Two big financial partners of Habitat Winnipeg have extended their reach by supporting communities outside of Winnipeg. Manitoba Lotteries and Manitoba Housing together are chipping in about 50 percent of the necessary costs to build every Habitat home in rural Manitoba communities. "This shows a real commitment to the need for affordable housing in rural communities, and makes it easier for smaller communities to raise the necessary funding to build homes," says Steve Krahn, VP, Regional Development for Habitat Winnipeg.

The financial support along with enthusiastic community involvement is paying off as Virden has seen two homes built last year. This year the Southeast, Dauphin, Selkirk, and Portage Chapters plan to build a total of five homes.

Habitat's Regional Development program established only a year ago and is making great strides with plans to build up to 50 homes in Manitoba rural communities over the next five years.



*The first two Habitat homes built in Virden saw two families move in early in the new year.*

## Blitz Build returns to Sir Sam Steele site in 2012

For the past three years, Habitat's annual Blitz Build has taken place at the Sir Sam Steele site on the popular Nairn Avenue location. The initial three-year plan concluded last year with 32 Habitat homes using up all the available land, except of course where the abandoned Sir Sam Steele School resides.

Last fall, Habitat purchased Sir Sam Steele school and its property and will replace it with a planned 18 new homes over the next two years.

"We are ecstatic at staging our Blitz Build here once again. Building multiple homes on one site is much easier on our infrastructure. It's also a popular site for our homeowners, while being a high profile area for our sponsors that continually attracts build volunteers embodying the essence of community spirit," says Sandy Hopkins, Habitat Winnipeg's CEO.

This year's Blitz Build is scheduled for July 9-21st with plans to build two side by side units and four single family homes, enabling eight new families to experience home ownership for the first time.



*Our success depends on your support! To make a donation please visit [www.habitat.mb.ca](http://www.habitat.mb.ca) or mail cheques to Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg, 60 Archibald St., Winnipeg, MB R2J 0V8*

# Retirement Notice: Brian Born, CMA

Brian joined Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg (HFHW) as Controller in March 2006, following more than 20 years working in the grain industry in various accounting positions. At the direction of the Board, Brian set about the arduous task of reorganizing HFHW's financial reporting systems to improve transparency and timeliness. This was quickly followed by the development of a stronger budgeting and forecasting system.

With financial systems in place and new commitments secured from sponsors, HFHW was poised to begin a growth phase. Brian was initially the only staff member in the accounting/administration area, but as the organization grew, his responsibilities increased which necessitated adding staff to create the Finance and Administration Department. Appropriately, his status changed to Director, Finance and Administration and subsequently he was named Vice President of the department. Nick Williams was a key addition who has successfully progressed into third and fourth year courses of the CGA program since joining Habitat, with Brian serving as Nick's mentor.

The department has grown to six full-time staff. Working with Brian and Nick are Shelley Robinson, Accounting & IT Support Specialist; Heather Scott, Database & Administration Supervisor; Luc St. Godard, HR Specialist, and Carmen Fredborg, Data Entry/Administration. The added staff has enabled Brian to spend more time on analysis and policy issues, taking the lead role in developing our Debt and Land Acquisition Policy - the first of its kind within Habitat in Canada. This breakthrough thinking has contributed mightily to HFHW, assisting us to triple the number of homes we build annually in only five years. This policy has been adopted by a number of Habitat Affiliates across Canada, proving the adage that imitation is the greatest form of flattery.

Another of Brian's very significant accomplishments is Chairing our Risk Committee, a hybrid Board/Staff committee established two years ago to assess and mitigate risk throughout the organization. The exemplary work of the group under Brian's leadership has improved our understanding and management of risk by orders of magnitude. Again, this approach is being emulated by many Habitat Affiliates across Canada.

On the personal side, colleagues describe Brian as "rock solid", "unflappable", "always ready to lend a hand", "a quiet leader" and "a great guy with a wonderful sense of humour". He is also an accomplished athlete, shooting scores on the golf course and rolling strikes on bowling lanes to the envy of us all. Brian also often rides his bike from his St. Vital home to the office on warmer days.

It is said that the true test of one's value to an organization is the answer to a question: Is it better when you leave than when you arrived? In Brian's case, that is an unqualified yes. There is no doubt that a great deal of the respect we receive from our professional partners (Steinbach Credit Union, Aikins and Magnus & Buffie), and confidence from our sponsors is because of the systems, processes and procedures Brian developed and implemented in the finance and administration area. Similarly, he is owed a debt of gratitude by Habitat Affiliates across Canada for helping them to strengthen their operations.

Brian, thank you. It has been such a pleasure to work with you and even better to get to know you. Enjoy your retirement, firm in the knowledge that you will be greatly missed by all of us and will always be welcome.

Sandy Hopkins  
Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg CEO



*Our success depends on your support! To make a donation please visit [www.habitat.mb.ca](http://www.habitat.mb.ca) or mail cheques to Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg, 60 Archibald St., Winnipeg, MB R2J 0V8*

# Thanks to our 2011 Major Sponsors

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS



## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PARTNER



\*

## HOME DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

## HOME SPONSORS



STRONGER COMMUNITIES TOGETHER™

### CONSTRUCTION LEADERS



### \$75,000 HOME SPONSOR



Jeld-Wen Windows and Doors\*



All Weather Windows \*\*  
Princess Auto Ltd. \*

### \$25,000 HOME SPONSORS



DeFehr Furniture (2009) Ltd.\*  
Goodfellow Inc.\*  
Kitchen Craft Cabinetry\*  
Thoughtful Touch\*

*Our success depends on your support! To make a donation please visit [www.habitat.mb.ca](http://www.habitat.mb.ca) or mail cheques to Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg, 60 Archibald St., Winnipeg, MB R2J 0V8*

\* 2010 ReStore Donor

# Thanks to our 2011 Major Supporters

All Charities Campaign	Johnston Group	Tim Hortons
All Star Concrete	Franke Kindred	Urbanmine Inc.
Arne's Welding Ltd.	Kitchen Craft Cabinetry	Viriden Lions Club
Arnold Bros. Transport	Lavergne Draward & Associates	Westcan Electrical Mechanical Services
Armtec	Les Usines Giant Factories Inc.	Westgate Enterprises
Assiniboine Credit Union	Lions Club of Viriden	Whirlpool Canada Inc.
Ballycastle Distributors	Loewen Drywall Ltd.	Robert Williams
Brock White Construction Materials	Loewen Mechanical Ltd.	Winnipeg Evangelical Free Church
Cambrian Credit Union	Manitoba Government Employees Union	Winnipeg Building & Decorating
Cascade Boxboard Group	Manitoba Home Builders Association	Winnipeg Foundation
CGC Inc.	Manitoba Public Insurance	<b>Major ReStore Donors (2010)</b>
CG Power Systems Canada Inc.	Manitoba Real Estate Association Shelter Foundation	Allmar International
DJN Services	Metal Depot	Andrew Ogaranko
Daelight	Murray Chevrolet Hummer	Ben-Mor
DOW	Priority Restoration	Brock White Construction
East Side Ventilation	Portage Credit Union	Buhler Furniture
Enbridge	Rueben Potash	Dakota Door and Window
G. R. Carscadden Funeral Chapel Ltd.	Qualico	Kraus Flooring
Genworth Financial Canada	RBC Foundation	The Heimbeckers
Grain Insurance & Guarantee Company	RenewABILITY Energy Inc.	Home Hardware (Kenora)
Gypsum Drywall Interiors	Roger Branum Construction	Image Flooring Inc.
Holz Constructors	Laurence & Elizabeth Rosenberg	Kennedy Flooring Inc.
Hugh Munro Construction	St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church	McDiarmid Lumber
Hunter Douglas Canada Inc.	Salisbury House	Old Navy
IBM Canada Inc.	Scotiabank	Princess Auto
ICI Canada Inc.	Star Building Materials	Rona (Kenaston & Sargent )
Insurance Institute of Manitoba	Steinbach Credit Union	The Bay (Downtown)
Jeld-Wen Windows and Doors	The Estate of Tibor Toth	The North West Company
		The Tile Boutique - Greg & Lucy Chartier

*Our success depends on your support! To make a donation please visit [www.habitat.mb.ca](http://www.habitat.mb.ca) or mail cheques to Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg, 60 Archibald St., Winnipeg, MB R2J 0V8*



THE Future  
BUILDERS

60 Archibald St. Winnipeg, MB R2J 0V8  
Phone: (204) 233-5160 • Fax: (204) 233-5271  
Toll-free: 1-855-396-4224  
info@habitat.mb.ca • www.habitat.mb.ca

Families thrive. Communities prosper. Everyone wins.



**'Feel Good'  
Purchase!**

**Your purchase is a donation to Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg.  
Plus, most products are recycled through the ReStore making  
your purchase environmentally friendly.**

Habitat Winnipeg ReStore: 60 Archibald Street • Phone: 204-233-5160 • www.habitat.mb.ca