



Samantha Moravetz
Future Homeowner

Annual Report



**Habitat
for Humanity®**
The Heart of Wyoming Inc.



Our Community

A word from Habitat for Humanity,
The Heart of Wyoming's Executive Director

It is easy to see housing as simply a place where someone lives. A place where dinner is cooked, laundry is folded, and homework is done at the table. But it is Habitat for Humanity, The Heart of Wyoming's mission that reminds us that building homes is about community.

It is a community of dedicated volunteers who build regardless of the weather. It is a community of supporters who understand the value of investing in future homeowners. It is a community of homeowners who have committed to bettering their lives and the lives of their families. It is a community of board members and staff who believe that everyone deserves a safe, affordable place to live.

In the past year, I have grown even more grateful for the community Habitat for Humanity, The Heart of Wyoming is a part of and has a role in building. Most importantly, I am grateful you have chosen to be a part of this community.

Best,

Tess Mittelstadt
Executive Director

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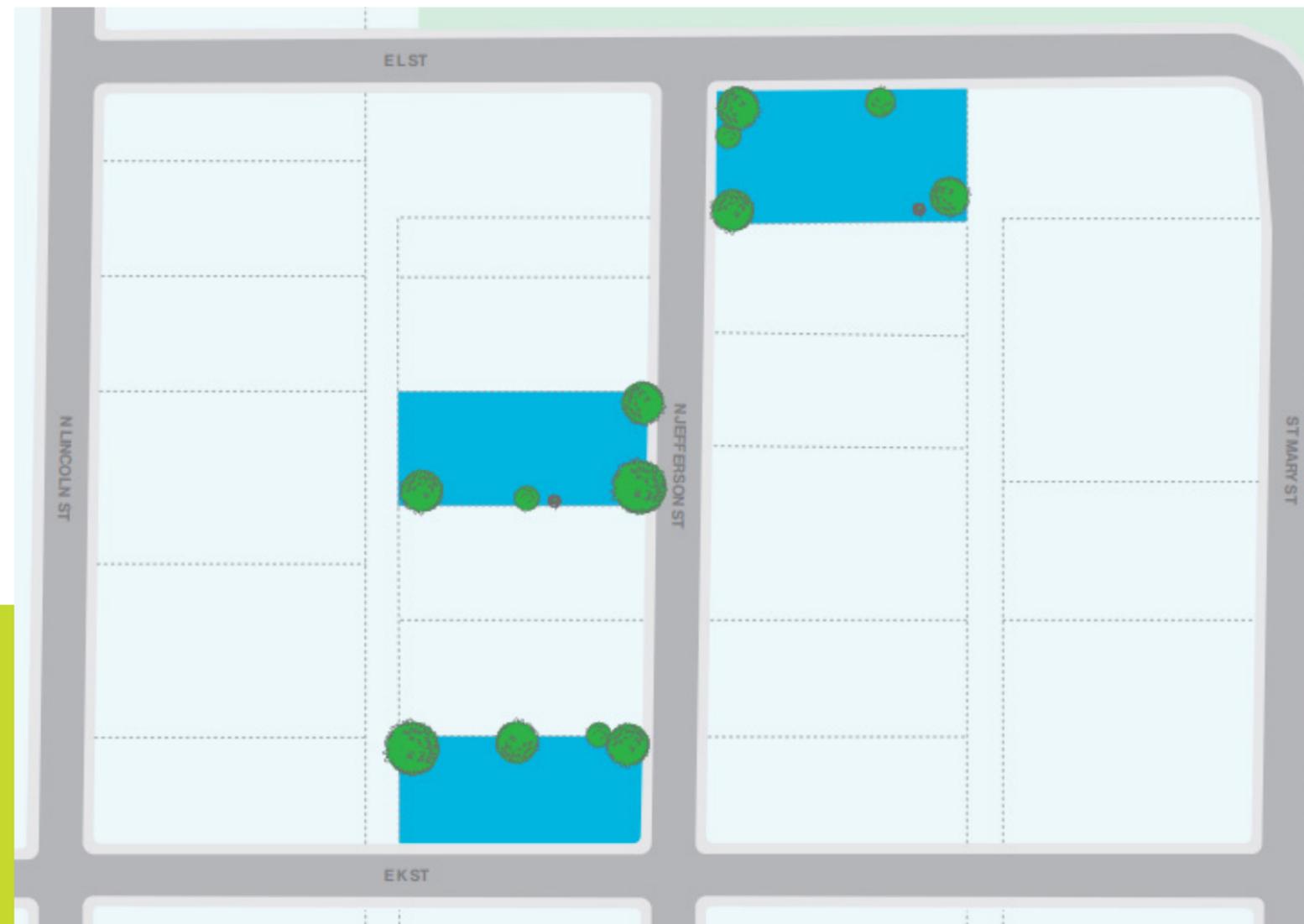
Dave Davis, *Construction Site Supervisor*

Future Build Locations

Looking forward, the organization purchases three build sites in North Casper

As the organization prepares to complete the Harris Crossing Subdivision in 2022, Habitat for Humanity, The Heart of Wyoming is excited to have purchased three future build sites on North Jefferson Street in Casper.

Partners selected from the July 2022 Application Cycle will be assigned one of the recently purchased lots on North Jefferson Street.



A Lasting Impact

After purchasing her home in 2016, Donielle Beard reflects on her experience with Habitat for Humanity

Beyond the building of affordable housing, the purpose of Habitat for Humanity, The Heart of Wyoming's Homeownership Program is to invest in homeowners like Donielle Beard.

Before pursuing a partnership with Habitat for Humanity, Donielle's housing situation was challenging. The Beard family had been living in affordable housing elsewhere in Casper, but an increase in her income made it impossible for Donielle to continue to afford rent. As a result, Donielle and her three children were forced to move in with family.

In Fall 2015, Donielle was selected to participate in the Homeownership Program and soon began building her home.

"It was a scary process for me at first because I did not know anything about building a house," shared Beard. It was the support of those in the community that gave her the confidence she needed. "All of the people got me through this process. It has hard work, but it was fun."

After purchasing her home in June 2016, Donielle had an immediate sense of pride in her accomplishment. "It is a feeling that you cannot imagine. When you become a homeowner, it is the greatest thing in the world for you," explained Beard. "It is something that you own. Not rent, but own."

Now having been a homeowner for more than five years, Donielle can reflect on her partnership with Habitat for Humanity, The Heart of Wyoming, and what her home means for her family in the future.

"This is a house that I can pass down to my kids. My kids will be able to tell their kids that their grandmother, a whole bunch of her friends, and volunteers built this house from the ground up. This is a house I am going to keep forever."

Laughing as she told stories from the building process, Donielle remained humbled by those in the community that were a part of her experience.

"I am proud of myself for becoming a homeowner. It is a huge accomplishment for me," said Beard. "It is amazing how this type of project can bring people together."

Donielle Beard
The Heart of Wyoming's
31st Homeowner



Homeownership promotes wealth building by acting as a savings mechanism and through home value appreciation. Wealth building hinges on the owners' ability to build home equity.

1. May 2021: Chelsea Thomas became Habitat for Humanity's 42nd homeowner locally.

2. October 2021: Constance Lozano became Habitat for Humanity's 43rd homeowner locally.

3. June 2021: Construction began on future homeowner Elicia Nekut's property.

4. March 2021: Future homeowner Sara Fritsinger was selected for the Homeownership Program.

5. October 2021: Construction began on future homeowner Samantha Moravetz's property.



In the Subdivision

In 2021, two homes were completed in the Harris Crossing Subdivision and two additional properties are under construction.

The work accomplished by the organization is most visible on the construction site. Since January 2021, Habitat for Humanity, The Heart of Wyoming has completed two properties in the Harris Crossing Subdivision, started construction on two additional properties, and purchased three lots in North Casper as future build sites for the Homeownership Program.

"I cannot wait to keep working on my house and join the rest of the families on the street."

Her time building with Construction Manager Shawn Martz and volunteers has given Samantha a newfound appreciation for her goal of homeownership.

After applying several times, future homeowner Samantha Moravetz was selected for the Homeownership Program in Fall 2020. Since then, Moravetz has completed all 150 hours of sweat equity required of program participants.

"I want to thank everyone that has helped to make this dream come true for my son and I. Getting to have a home of our own that I know my child will always be able to come back to, even as an adult, is incredible. This dream would not have been possible without being selected for this program."

"Knowing that I helped build our homes has been an amazing experience of getting to learn new things," explained Moravetz. In Fall 2021, Habitat for Humanity, The Heart of Wyoming began construction on her property in the Harris Crossing Subdivision. Samantha and her son Eddie will be the 11th family to reside in the subdivision upon its completion.

"I am ecstatic about finally getting to start on my home and being able to reach my 150 required hours. Watching how fast the houses can get put up is so amazing," shared Moravetz.



The partner selected from the January 2022 Application Cycle will be assigned to the final available lot in the Harris Crossing Subdivision.





In 2021, the hourly value of volunteer services was \$28.54. In FY2021, Habitat for Humanity, The Heart of Wyoming recorded **2222** volunteer hours.

Dean Brennan
Regular Construction Site Volunteer

Commitment on the Site

Despite many challenges, local volunteers continue to build

Building side-by-side is how Habitat for Humanity, The Heart of Wyoming's mission is fulfilled. Through this past year, opportunities to be on the construction site were limited. With the commitment of a small group of volunteers, however, building continued in the Harris Crossing Subdivision.

Reflecting on the building that has occurred by the organization in recent years, Habitat for Humanity, The Heart of Wyoming's Construction Manager Shawn Martz chooses to focus on the positive.

"2020 was one of our busier years. Looking back from 2020 to 2021, we really did not slow down," explained Martz.

Prioritizing the health of all involved, new volunteers and group builds returned to the construction site in Summer 2021. Once again, regular volunteers, new volunteers, future homeowners, and supporters from throughout the community are building together.

Remembering times on the construction site with very few volunteers, the organization never underestimates the impact community members can have in providing affordable housing for eligible families in Natrona County.

"We have had a lot more people wanting to show up. People are wanting to get out and do things," shared Martz. "People are looking for an opportunity to serve."



Become a Volunteer

Whether you are interested in volunteering as an individual or as part of a group, the gift of your time can significantly impact our partner families and their pursuit of safe, affordable housing.

Learn more about volunteer opportunities, request a volunteer waiver, or schedule a group build at heartofwyoming.org/volunteer.



Photo by Checked In Media

Building with Us

Generous supporters ensure building is possible in Natrona County

Access to safe, affordable housing is not an issue that affects some within our community -- it is an issue that affects us all. With rising construction costs and limited access to materials, the financial support Habitat for Humanity, The Heart of Wyoming receives from its community partners has been more important than ever.

This year, Signature Event Sponsors and donors at all levels ensured building continued in Natrona County.



A gift of any amount makes a difference for future homeowners in Natrona County. **Donate today at heartofwyoming.org.**

Give Monthly

Build with Habitat for Humanity, The Heart of Wyoming each month by scheduling a reoccurring donation at heartofwyoming.org.

Become a Signature Event Sponsor

Consider supporting our mission by becoming a Signature Event Sponsor. Contact Executive Director Tess Mittelstadt for more information at tess@heartofwyoming.org.

Plan a Legacy Gift

Planned gifts allow partners like you to make meaningful gifts you may have never thought possible. Learn more at heartofwyoming.org/plannedgiving.

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