

Building What's Next

Habitat for Humanity®
of the Eastern Bighorns

Annual Appeal
2026-2027

SheridanHabitat.org • 307-672-3848 • P.O. Box 6196 • 44 Fort Road • Sheridan, WY 82801

What Are We Waiting For?

A Year-End Message from Habitat for Humanity of the Eastern Bighorns



As we close another year, we have so much to celebrate and even more to look forward to. This year marks Habitat for Humanity International's 50th anniversary, celebrating five decades of bringing people together to build homes, communities, and hope.

That founding vision remains as powerful as ever. And here at Habitat for Humanity of the Eastern Bighorns, we are proud to be part of that story.

Over the past year, we have continued growing our efforts to create more attainable housing opportunities throughout Sheridan and Johnson Counties. We have welcomed families into new homes, strengthened our partnerships, and laid the groundwork for future development. Each accomplishment reflects something bigger than construction. It reflects a community willing to invest in its neighbors and believe in what's possible.

Habitat is built on partnership. Volunteers give their time and talents. Homeowners invest in their futures. Businesses, churches, nonprofits, and supporters contribute resources and expertise. Together, we turn individual efforts into something much greater: homes that provide stability, neighborhoods that foster connection, and communities where more people have the opportunity to thrive.

As we look toward the year ahead, I am reminded of the words of Habitat founder Millard Fuller in his book, *The Theology of the Hammer*:

> **"Think big dreams. Accept the challenge of eliminating poverty housing and homelessness in your town or city.... Determine to do what is necessary to change things.... What are you waiting for?"**

The need for attainable housing cannot be met by good intentions alone. It requires action, courage, and people willing to work together to make a difference. We have seen what our community can accomplish, and we know there is still so much more work to do.

That is why I invite you to join us in this year's year-end appeal. Your generosity helps HFHEB continue building and repairing homes, strengthening our communities, and creating more opportunities for families across Sheridan and Johnson Counties.

Thank you for believing in this mission, investing in our neighbors, and helping us build what's next.

With gratitude and hope,

Christine Dieterich

Executive Director
Habitat for Humanity of the Eastern Bighorns

Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.

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Habitat for Humanity® of the Eastern Bighorns

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Meredith Sopko, *Development Director*
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A Foundation for the Future

For Roy and Jackie Counts, homeownership opens the door to new possibilities.

When Roy and Jackie Counts first applied for Habitat homeownership, they included a letter describing their American Dream: owning a home of their own, even later in life, as they looked toward retirement. They weren't sure it would happen. Six months after moving into their Ranchester home, they're settling in and looking ahead.

For the Counts, receiving the keys was the moment it all became real. Since then, they've been painting, decorating, and making the house their own. Roy has taken particular pride in the front yard, tending to the grass and creating a space they love. They appreciate the quiet, small-town feel of Ranchester and especially enjoy being part of a community they can support and contribute to.

With Roy retired and Jackie counting down the days, the two are beginning to imagine what comes next. Travel is high on the list, along with visiting family, welcoming friends into their home, and taking on a few more projects, including building a larger deck. They're excited to enjoy the freedom retirement brings while continuing to make their home and community their own.

The Counts are grateful for the opportunity Habitat helped make possible. They know homeownership takes commitment and responsibility, and they're thankful for the support that helped them reach this milestone.

Their story is a reminder of why this work matters. A home gives families the stability to make plans, pursue new dreams, and invest in the communities around them. With the support of our donors, Habitat helps make those next chapters possible, for the Counts and for the families still waiting for their own opportunity. •



"Habitat makes this community special."



What's Next? Six New Families!

HFHEB is beginning its next homeownership cycle with six new families taking their first steps toward owning a home. As they begin the process, we're looking forward to the homes and futures still ahead.

Every new cohort represents another opportunity to help families build stability, invest in their communities, and pursue their dreams of homeownership.

The next chapter is already underway.

More Than a Place to Live

Weston Village is becoming a community, one home at a time.

In just one year, Weston Village has grown from a construction site into a neighborhood filled with new beginnings. Of the 30 homes built, 29 have already been purchased, with just one remaining available.

But the most meaningful progress isn't measured in homes sold. It's found in the neighbors who have become friends, children playing together outside, and homeowners helping one another build fences and settle into their new homes. Weston Village is becoming more than a place to live. It's becoming a community.



Through Habitat for Humanity of the Eastern Bighorns' Housing Land Trust, families who might otherwise be unable to purchase a home have the opportunity to become homeowners, build equity, and invest in their futures. Through a ground lease model, these homes will remain as attainable housing units for generations to come, opening the door for another income-qualified family when a homeowner eventually moves on.

Weston Village has given HFHEB's Housing Land Trust a strong foundation for this work. The experience, lessons, and relationships built here will help shape future Housing Land Trust communities, including what's next in Buffalo.

2026 in Weston Village meant...

30 New homes built
29 Homes purchased
31 Average homeowner age
1 in 4 homeowners being veterans

Building What's Next *in Johnson County*



Weston Village has helped shape what's next for Habitat for Humanity of the Eastern Bighorns. In 2025, HFHEB expanded its service area to Johnson County, and in 2026, Eagle Summit in Buffalo marks the start of our first Habitat development there.

Eagle Summit will also introduce a new approach to development, bringing together HFHEB's Traditional Homeownership program and Housing Land Trust in one mixed-income community.

By offering multiple paths to homeownership, we can meet households where they are, whether they need a 0%-interest mortgage through our traditional home-ownership program or are ready to purchase a Housing Land Trust home through traditional financing.

The development will feature a mix of single-family homes, twin homes, and patio homes, creating housing opportunities for a wider range of households. Plans also include five acres of community green space, with its future use shaped by community input. From playgrounds to picnic areas, the possibilities are still taking shape.

Eagle Summit represents an exciting next chapter for HFHEB: building on what we've learned, expanding opportunities for homeownership, and creating a community designed to grow alongside Buffalo.



Making a House Their Own

For Sydney and Tyler, homeownership means more than a new address.



"There is really no way to express how the support that [donors] give truly affects people. Their support is more than numbers. They help people start planning futures."

When Sydney and Tyler moved into their Weston Village home in June this year, the excitement was about more than having a new place to live. It was about finally having a place that was truly theirs.

After years of renting, the opportunity to own a new home at an attainable price felt almost surreal. Sydney described the difference as a newfound certainty. Instead of thinking about life one lease at a time, they could begin planning for the long term.

"Having a home, knowing you'll be there for a long, long time, changes that perspective," Sydney shared. "You're better able to plan."

One of the first joys of homeownership has been making the house their own. Hanging pictures, decorating, and putting their personalities into each room have all been meaningful milestones. For Sydney, even something as simple as being able to put holes in the walls feels special.

And there is so much more ahead. Sydney is excited to start family traditions, decorate for the seasons, bring home a fresh-cut Christmas tree, and make memories in a neighborhood where children play together and neighbors look out for one another.

For Sydney and Tyler, Weston Village is where they're beginning to build the life they've imagined. •

Keeping Home Within Reach

The right repairs help homes remain a place of comfort and security.

For many older adults and people with disabilities, staying in the home they love can become harder as repair costs rise and living on a fixed income leaves little room for unexpected expenses. Habitat for Humanity of the Eastern Bighorns' Home Repair program helps homeowners address essential mobility, safety, and warmth needs so they can continue living independently.

"Many of our program applicants have been holding off on what they need for a very long time," said Cole, HFHEB's construction laborer and Home Repair Program lead. Cole works directly with homeowners, helping coordinate projects between them, Habitat, and outside contractors.

Sometimes, the need is as simple as installing a grab bar or as significant as replacing a window that has become too expensive for the homeowner to fix on their own.

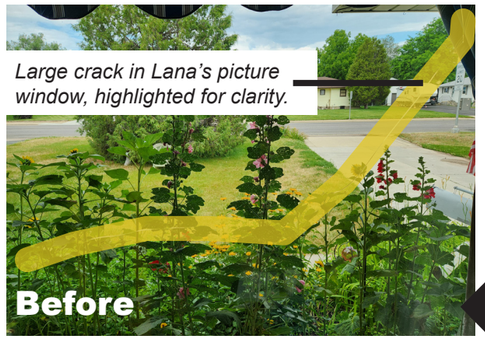
A Window of Relief

When Lana's large picture window cracked, replacing it was more than she could afford. Through Habitat's Home Repair program, she received help finding the right contractor and seeing the project through to completion before winter temperatures made the damage an even greater concern.

In a letter to HFHEB, Lana thanked Christa (Homeowner Services Specialist) and Cole for being "reliable, kind and patient":

> ***"Without you I could never afford [to] replace this huge glass. Special thanks to Christa and Cole for staying by my side during [the] whole process."***

For Lana and the other homeowners we serve, that support makes it possible to stay warm, stay safe, and stay home. •



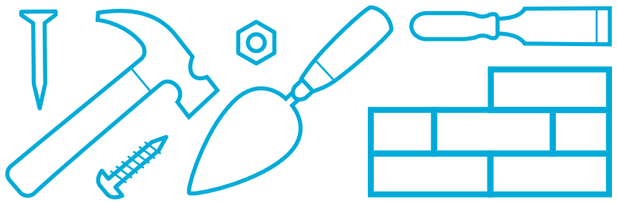


By the numbers...

18 repairs completed since program launch

13 repairs completed this year alone

4 repairs currently in progress



A Helping Hand When It Matters Most

When unexpected hardship threatens housing stability, timely support can help families find their footing and move forward.

Life can change in an instant. An illness, unexpected expense, or personal crisis can leave even hardworking families struggling to keep up with rent and essential bills. Through Habitat for Humanity of the Eastern Bighorns' Temporary Crisis Fund, community members facing difficult circumstances can receive one-time, emergency financial assistance to help them get through a challenging moment.

For Chelsea, an unexpected medical crisis turned her steady life upside down. After a six-day hospitalization and an extended recovery at home, she was unable to work and quickly fell behind on rent and other bills. Once she returned to work, she picked up extra shifts, sometimes working six or seven days a week, but still struggled to catch up.

Chelsea's property manager, Gemma, recognized how hard she was working and reached out to advocate for her. With that connection, HFHEB helped Chelsea navigate the application process and she received the needed rental assistance. The support covered past-due rent and an additional month, giving Chelsea room to address other overdue expenses and regain her financial footing.

Chelsea's experience is a reminder that financial hardship can affect anyone, even someone who works hard and takes pride in supporting themselves and their families. Sometimes, timely assistance can keep a temporary setback from becoming a lasting crisis.

Donor support allows HFHEB to respond to these moments and continue developing new ways to meet the needs of families across Sheridan and Johnson Counties. As our work grows, so does our ability to connect our community members experiencing crisis with the support they need to move forward.

Together, we're building what's next: a stronger network of support, more opportunities for stability, and a community where neighbors have someone to turn to when life takes an unexpected turn. •

Temporary Crisis Fund | Feb. - Sep. 2026

$46,332
Emergency assistance approved

42
Requests approved

95.4%
Of approved dollars addressed housing-related needs

38
Requests specifically focused on preventing homelessness

Building Together

Every home begins with people willing to give their time.

Habitat for Humanity depends on volunteers who bring their skills, energy, and generosity to our work. Whether they're swinging a hammer, sorting donations, or rallying their community around a cause, volunteers help make more possible for families across Sheridan and Johnson Counties.

This year's Women Build brought that spirit to life in a record-breaking way. With 95 participants across 19 teams, the event saw its largest turnout since launching in 2018. **Together, participants raised over $14,000, surpassing the fundraising goal for the first time in our affiliate's Women Build history.** With support from sponsors including Range and First Federal Bank & Trust, the event demonstrated what can happen when a community comes together with a shared purpose.

For first-time participant Jessica Semler, the experience was just as meaningful as the results.

> ***"This event was so empowering and fun. I learned how to do new things in a helpful and supportive environment. I will definitely do this event again and again!"***

That commitment continues well beyond Women Build. **Over the past year, 148 construction volunteers contributed 686 hours toward Habitat's building efforts, while 48 ReStore volunteers gave an incredible 2,729 hours supporting the store and its mission.**

When people come together, their individual efforts become something bigger. Volunteers help create the homes, connections, and opportunities that families carry into their next chapters. That's how we build what's next, together. •







There's a place for YOU at Habitat.

Whether you're interested in construction, helping at the ReStore, or joining a future Women Build, you can be part of creating more opportunities for local families. Bring your time, your curiosity, or a willingness to learn. We'll help you find a way to make a difference.

Visit **sheridanhabitat.org/volunteer** to find your place in what's next.



Good Finds. Greater Impact.

The larger mission of the ReStore.

The ReStore connects everyday generosity in Sheridan County with Habitat's mission around the world. Donations, purchases, and volunteer hours keep usable items in circulation and help generate the support that makes housing opportunities possible far beyond our own community.

Through Habitat's global tithe, HFHEB's ReStore has contributed approximately $88,000 over the years to international housing and disaster recovery efforts. That support has helped make a housing impact across Ukraine, the Philippines, Mexico, and Louisiana following Hurricane Katrina.

Every donation, purchase, and volunteer shift helps sustain this work, linking our local ReStore to a worldwide effort to ensure more people have a safe place to call home. •

Behind every purchase are...

2,729 volunteer hours
9,000 unique customers
14,757 transactions
~100,000 items kept in circulation

Habitat Beyond Our Community

A Wyoming Voice at the National Table

For the first time in Habitat's 50-year history, Wyoming is represented on Habitat for Humanity International's U.S. Council. Christine Dieterich brings the perspective of a small, rural affiliate to national conversations about housing, policy, and the future of Habitat's work.

The Carter Work Project

In Atlanta, Habitat's 40th Carter Work Project brought volunteers, affiliate leaders, and sponsors together to build 24 homes in five days. Christine's participation connected our local work with Habitat's broader network and showed what's possible when communities build together.

50 Years of Habitat

HFHEB staff joined Habitat's national affiliate conference in Atlanta, celebrating 50 years of Habitat while learning, sharing ideas, and strengthening connections with affiliates working toward the same vision.

Global Tithes

Through Habitat's global tithe, affiliate contributions supported work across Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe and the Middle East, Africa, and Asia and the Pacific. For Fiscal Year 2025, ***$14.74 MILLION*** was contributed from all U.S. Habitat affiliates to support global housing efforts.

Your Gift Builds What's Next

The homes, opportunities, and community connections you've read about are made possible by people who believe in what's possible when we build together.





As we close out another year of building homes, communities and hope, we invite you to reflect on the impact owning a safe, stable, and affordable home can make on the lives of individuals and families in our community. At Habitat for Humanity of the Eastern Bighorns, we believe everyone deserves a decent place to live, and your generosity has helped make that vision a reality in Sheridan and Johnson Counties.

Every gift, regardless of the amount, helps us create attainable homeownership opportunities, provide critical home repairs for older adults, and assist individuals and families facing unexpected financial hardships that may threaten their housing stability.

As you consider your year-end charitable giving, we would be so grateful if you would take a moment and consider a gift to Habitat for Humanity of the Eastern Bighorns through one of the following options:





There Are Many Ways to Make a Difference

While traditional monetary donations are always appreciated, there are several ways to make a meaningful contribution to Habitat for Humanity of the Eastern Bighorns:

- ***Unrestricted Operating Fund Gifts:*** These gifts provide the flexibility to direct resources where they are needed most. Unrestricted contributions help cover essential operating expenses, support program delivery which includes construction costs and home price subsidies ensuring affordability and ensure we have the resources to respond to the ever-evolving housing needs in our community.
- ***Gifts of Stock and Appreciated Securities:*** Donating appreciated stocks or securities can be an effective way to support HFHEB while potentially providing tax advantages. Rather than selling appreciated assets, donors may be able to transfer them directly to our organization. We encourage you to consult your financial or tax advisor to determine whether this option is right for you.
- ***Donor-Advised Fund (DAF) Gifts:*** If you have established a donor-advised fund, you can recommend a grant to HFHEB. A distribution from your fund is a simple and meaningful way to put your charitable dollars to work in our community.
- ***Planned Giving and Legacy Gifts:*** Including Habitat for Humanity of the Eastern Bighorns in your estate plans through a bequest, beneficiary designation, or other planned giving arrangement allows you to extend your commitment to affordable housing well into the future. Your legacy gift will continue helping generations of families achieve greater housing stability.
- ***Endowment Gifts:*** Contributions to our endowment fund, which is held with the Sheridan Community Foundation, help build a lasting financial foundation for our organization. Endowment giving supports long-term sustainability and helps ensure that HFHEB can continue serving our community and addressing housing needs for years to come.

Your Generosity Opens Doors

The need for attainable housing continues to grow in Sheridan and Johnson Counties. Your generous support helps us turn that need into opportunity — creating homes, strengthening neighborhoods, and providing individuals and families with the stability and security they deserve.

Whether you choose to make an annual contribution, donate appreciated stock, recommend a grant through your donor-advised fund, or establish a planned or endowment gift, your generosity is an investment in the future of our communities, your generosity helps us to Build What's Next.

We humbly ask that as you finalize your year-end charitable giving, please consider making Habitat for Humanity of the Eastern Bighorns part of your giving plans. Together, we can continue opening doors to homeownership, preserving existing homes, and building a stronger community. •

Ready to Make a Monetary Gift?

Your generosity helps HFHEB continue the very important work of providing attainable housing solutions in Sheridan and Johnson Counties.

GIVE ONLINE: Scan the QR code to make a secure donation through our 2026 Annual Appeal page.

GIVE BY MAIL: Send your check to:
Habitat for Humanity of the Eastern Bighorns
P.O. Box 6196
Sheridan, WY 82801

Become a Habitat Homie through a Monthly Donation!



Make a lasting impact with a recurring monthly gift. Set up a monthly donation of $50 or more and receive a **Habitat hard hat** after your first monthly donation is processed.







Thank You for Building With Us

To our homeowners, volunteers, donors, and community partners,

THANK YOU

for sharing your time, talents, and generosity with Habitat for Humanity of the Eastern Bighorns.

We're grateful for all we've built together. Thank you for helping *build what's next.*

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