



2023

Habitat for Humanity of Illinois Conference

PROGRAM

AND AGENDA



## Welcome Illinois Habitat Family



**Rich Dickson**  
**President of the Board**  
**Habitat for Humanity of Illinois**

Greetings to you all once again! It is hard to believe it has already been a year since we last got together and yet here we are for the 2023 Habitat Illinois Conference, [Building a Place Called Hope](#). As in past years, this event is a great opportunity to meet up with old friends and make new ones while you learn about all things Habitat.

Monday's General Session will kick off our two days together by acknowledging our sponsors and reviewing the State of the State. During that session I will bring you up to date on the Future Focus program initiated at last year's conference. Tuesday morning's Opening Session will provide information on programs helping all Illinois affiliates such as HIBI, tax credits and advocacy.

As always, there is a great selection of Workshop Sessions covering topics from Advocacy to Volunteer Career Pathing as well as many others. Do not forget to visit our exhibitors in the lobby to see how they can help you serve more families. Not only do they provide useful products and services, but they also help sponsor the conference and they deserve our thanks.

This year, based upon input from last year's conference, we are trying something a bit different with the Habitat Heroes. In the past, the Habitat Heroes awards were presented during a luncheon and we heard that some recipients are not able to attend due to the timing. This year we have moved the Habitat Heroes presentations to the all-new, dinner Monday night. Hopefully that allows us to present the awards to more individuals in person.

Finally, as I said last year, there are many experts attending this Conference so take this opportunity to meet them. Even if you are coming with questions to be answered, you likely have a good answer to someone else's question. Take this opportunity to ask for advice from people who have already had to solve that nagging problem that wakes you up in the middle of the night. There is no need to reinvent the wheel as we are all working toward the same goal of [Building a Place Called Hope](#).

Thank you for attending. I hope you have a great experience!

# Thank You to Our Sponsors

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# AGENDA

## Monday — November 6, 2023

9:00 am – 10:00 am	Registration Open
10:00 am – 11:00 am	Opening Session
11:00 am – 11:15 am	Break and Exhibitors
11:15 am – 12:30 pm	Workshop Session #1
12:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Lunch
2:00 pm – 2:15 pm	Break and Exhibitors
2:15 pm – 3:30 pm	Workshop Session #2
3:30 pm – 3:45 pm	Break and Exhibitors
3:45 pm – 4:45 pm	Roundtable Discussion
4:45 pm – 5:30 pm	Break
5:30 pm – 7:00 pm	Habitat Hero Awards Dinner

## Tuesday — November 7, 2023

7:30 am – 8:30 am	Breakfast, Registration and Exhibitors
8:30 am – 9:30 am	Opening Session
9:30 am – 9:45 am	Break and Exhibitors
9:45 am – 11:00 am	Workshop Session #3
11:00 am – 11:15 am	Break and Exhibitors
11:15 am – 12:30 pm	Workshop Session #4

BUILDING  
A PLACE CALLED  
HOPE

A decorative graphic on the right side of the page features a cluster of colorful stars in shades of blue, green, orange, and yellow. Below the stars is a large, stylized hand reaching upwards, rendered in a light grey color. The background of the entire page is a solid light green.

# Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup> Breakouts

9:00 am to 10:00 am

## **Registration and Exhibitors**

Visit the registration table to pick up your nametag and event program, and then visit our amazing sponsors and vendors before the opening session.

**Location:** Registration Kiosk

10:00 am to 11:00 am

## **Opening Session**

Join us as we open the 2023 Habitat Illinois Conference, Building a Place Called Hope! Hear from our ASO President, Rich Dickson on the state of the organization, followed by Ed Lee from Habitat for Humanity International on Collaborative Fundraising updates.

**Location:** Redbird C&D

**Opening Presenters:** Rich Dickson, HFH of Illinois, and Sarah Brachle Wagner, Chicagoland HFH

**Main Presenter:** Ed Lee, HFH

11:00 am to 11:15 am

## **Break and Exhibitors**

Grab a coffee, network with some of our amazing partners, check your email and get ready to take lots of notes at the first breakout session!

**Location:** Registration Area

## **Workshop Session #1**

11:15 am to 12:30 pm

## **ReStore – Location Matters**

Whether you're looking to relocate your ReStore, remodel your existing store, or move departments around, location matters!

**Location:** Beaufort

**Presenters:** Jonathan Gibson, HFH of Danville



## Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup> Breakouts

11:15 am to 12:30 pm

### **Advocacy 101: What exactly is advocacy and how do I participate?**

Does the word Advocacy scare you? It shouldn't – so come learn from some Habitat experts on what it really means and how easy it really can be!

**Location:** Redbird A

**Presenters:** Amanda Zahorak, DuPage HFH

11:15 am to 12:30 pm

### **Affiliate Mortgage Services**

Join Dan Lynch from Affiliate Mortgage Services to learn about how AMS is helping Habitat affiliates around the country service their mortgages.

**Location:** Redbird B

**Presenters:** Dan Lynch, Affiliate Mortgage Services

11:15 am to 12:30 pm

### **Demonstrating Affordable Sustainability in Habitat for Humanity's New Smart Neighborhoods**

Nicor Gas is building the nation's first affordable net zero housing communities in Aurora and Carpentersville in partnership with Habitat for Humanity. The collaboration leverages a cutting-edge, energy-efficient building envelope and state-of-the-art technologies. Meet the panel of experts responsible for this exciting project and learn how to apply elements to your affiliate's builds.

**Location:** Redbird E

**Moderator:** Leah Peterson, Leah C. Peterson LLC

**Presenters:** Sarah Brachle Wagner, Chicagoland HFH, Jeffrey Barrett, Fox Valley HFH, Tom Clausen, HFH Northern Fox Valley, and Mike King, Nicor

# Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup> Breakouts

11:15 am to 12:30 pm

## **Outcome Measurement – equipping Habitat to tell your impact story**

Provide affiliate leaders at all levels with a basic understanding and knowledge of outcome measurement.

**Location:** Redbird F

**Presenters:** Melissa Rivera, HFHI

11:15 am to 12:30 pm

## **Energy Efficiency and Affordable Housing**

Hear from ComEd on their energy efficiency programs that could benefit your Habitat families, and our affiliates as well.

**Location:** Redbird G

**Presenters:** Mary Kuhn, ComEd

12:30 am to 2:00 pm

## **Lunch**

Grab a seat with some new friends and learn what they're doing at their affiliate that could benefit your own. After lunch, we'll learn about HFHI's Habitat Mortgage Solutions program and how your affiliate can access their programs!s.

**Location:** Redbird C&D

**Presenters:** Daniel Gura, HFHI

2:00 pm to 2:15 pm

## **Break and Exhibitors**

Meet a few more exhibitors, return a phone call or two and then find your way to your second breakout session!

**Location:** Registration Area



## Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup> Breakouts

### Workshop Session #2

2:15 pm to 3:30 pm

#### **ReStore Best Practices**

Hear from ReStore teams from across the state about what they're doing to engage volunteers, enhance donor relations, provide good customer service, and increase awareness about their ReStore.

**Location:** Beaufort

**Presenters:** Jonathan Gibson, HFH of Danville, Deanna Davies, HFH of Northern Fox Valley, Brandon Fischer, HFH of Champaign County, and Heidi Serena, Will County HFH

2:15 pm to 3:30 pm

#### **Advocacy 201: Ways to engage your local, state, and federal officials to further affordable housings**

Now that we know what Advocacy is, what do I do next? Learn how to talk to your elected officials, what funding opportunities are available and how to build coalitions for affordable housing.

**Location:** Redbird A

**Presenters:** Amanda Zahorak, DuPage HFH, Dru Bergman, Chicagoland HFH, and Robert Fair, HFH of Sangamon County

2:15 pm to 3:30 pm

#### **What to expect when using HMS mortgage origination platform**

This session introduces the loan origination system (LOS) technology offered via Habitat Mortgage Solutions that supports the affiliate throughout the loan origination process which includes processing, underwriting, and closing of mortgage loans.

**Location:** Redbird B

**Presenters:** Daniel Gura, HFHI



# Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup> Breakouts

2:15 pm to 3:30 pm

## **Ameren Illinois: Habitat for Humanity Energy Efficiency Pilot Program**

The Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency team will discuss the current pilot program partnered with the Peoria Affiliate as well as their plans to expand across the Ameren Illinois service territory in 2024.

**Location:** Redbird E

**Presenters:** Carlotta Ruiz Smith, Jim Poynton, and Tim Dickson, Ameren

2:15 pm to 3:30 pm

## **Housing and Health Equity**

Where one lives, and their housing is a social determinant of health. Explore with us this concept and the historical inequities in health care seen in BIPOC communities. We will discuss and hear how Habitat for Humanity can make a difference and is impacting Health Equity.

**Location:** Redbird F

**Presenters:** Kayla Hardin Lawson, HFHI

2:15 pm to 3:30 pm

## **Critical Home Repair Best Practices**

Whether you're initiating or enhancing your Critical Home Repair Program, come gain invaluable insight with three seasoned affiliate representatives. They will share insights on needs, benefits, and challenges tied to implementing and expanding your Repair Program.

**Location:** Redbird G

**Presenters:** Jim Zei, HFH of Northern Fox Valley, Jill Sobie, DuPage HFH, Collen Stone, HFH of Sangamon County, and Leslie Rodriguez, Chicagoland HFH



## Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup> Breakouts

3:30 pm to 3:45 pm

### **Break and Exhibitors**

Grab another coffee or your caffeine of choice and get ready for roundtable discussion!

**Location:** Registration Area

3:45 pm to 4:45 pm

### **Roundtable Discussions**

Back by popular demand! Now is your time to network with affiliates from around the state – share best practices and look for solutions to some of the problems you're facing at your affiliate!

<b>Homeowner Services</b>	Beaufort
<b>Volunteer Engagement</b>	Redbird A
<b>Resource Development</b>	Redbird B
<b>ReStore</b>	Redbird E
<b>Construction</b>	Redbird F
<b>Executive Directors</b>	Redbird G

4:45 pm to 5:30

### **Break and Exhibitors**

Take a quick break before the Habitat Hero Awards Dinner. No need to get fancy, there is no dress code required for our awards dinner!

**Location:** Registration Area

5:30 pm to 7:00 pm

### **Habitat Hero Awards Dinner**

We are only as good as our best volunteers! Come see who gets a coveted Habitat Hero Award in 2023.

**Location:** Redbird C&D

# Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> Breakouts

7:30 am to 8:30 am

## **Breakfast, Registration and Exhibitors**

Grab some breakfast, chat with our exhibitors and if this is your first day, stop by registration to grab your nametag and program!

**Location:** Registration Kiosk, Redbird C&D

8:30 am to 9:30 am

## **Opening Session**

Hear from Habitat staff from around Illinois on upcoming conferences, HIBI updates, and you'll even walk away with a gift for your affiliate!

**Location:** Redbird C&D

9:30 am to 9:45 am

## **Break and Exhibitors**

Need another coffee? Now's your time for a refuel! Don't forget to chat with our exhibitors and head to your next workshop!

**Location:** Registration Area

## **Workshop Session #3**

9:45 am to 11:00 am

### **Building Your Major Gifts Program**

Many nonprofits are overwhelmed by the idea of soliciting major gifts because of the considerable time and effort involved. We are here to help make major gifts an integral part of your fundraising strategy simply and effectively. You will leave this session with the knowledge and tools to start a major gifts program as well as evaluate its success. This session is a great fit for current fundraising team members, executive directors, and development committee leaders looking to start or revamp a major gift program at their affiliate.

**Location:** Beaufort

**Presenters:** Sandy Smith, HFHI



## Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> Breakouts

9:45 am to 11:00 am

### **Volunteer Career Pathing: Turning your one-time volunteers into future leaders**

It's time to take our volunteers to the next level! Career-pathing volunteers is a strategic way to ensure our key volunteers are continuously engaging with our organization. In this session, participants will learn about how to identify volunteer skills, interests and goals, plan a potential trajectory, and support our volunteers as they grow into leaders at our affiliates. This session is great for managers who are interested in cultivating their key volunteers into committee leaders, board members, fundraisers, public liaisons, and more.

**Location:** Redbird A

**Presenters:** Alicia Campbell, HFHI

9:45 am to 11:00 am

### **Underwriting your homebuyers and making AMI work for you**

Have you struggled with underwriting your homebuyers or how to make HFHI's AMI requirement work for you? Join Sonia Lee from Habitat International to learn more about how to make the process work for you!

**Location:** Redbird B

**Presenters:** Sonia Lee, HFHI

9:45 am to 11:00 am

### **Believable Homeowner Partnership Program**

Hear how Midland States Bank is working with local affiliates to provide loan products to Habitat applicants who don't meet all of the Habitat qualifications.

**Location:** Redbird E

**Presenters:** Martesha Brown, Midland States Bank, Michelle Ryan, Rockford Area HFH

# Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> Breakouts

9:45 am to 11:00 am

## **Living up to our Commitment: Introduction to US Affiliate Safeguarding**

Get access to the most current information related to the new Safeguarding Policy #34. Learn the steps needed to ensure full compliance with the policy as well as available resources. All Habitat entities should be working towards safeguarding compliance. This workshop will get you started on understanding safeguarding and the importance of compliance for the full Habitat network.

**Location:** Redbird F

**Presenters:** Dawn Daniels McNeer, HFHI

11:00 am to 11:15 am

## **Break and Exhibitors**

Make sure to leave your business card with our exhibitors before they're gone!

**Location:** Registration area

## **Workshop Session #4**

11:15 am to 12:30 pm

## **From Keeping Up to Pulling Ahead: The Future of Fundraising**

Learn more about Habitat's future state vision for fundraising and the roadmap for this work.

**Location:** Beaufort

**Presenters:** Ed Lee and Sandy Smith, HFHI

11:15 am to 12:30 pm

## **It's All About Relationships: Working to Build Diverse boards, staff, and volunteers**

Building a Habitat affiliate that better represents our communities, and where all feel welcome to take part in our mission, takes more than following a checklist. Join us as we talk about creating a culture of inclusion and building relationships outside our regular networks.

**Location:** Redbird A

**Presenters:** Alicia Campbell, HFHI



## Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> Breakouts

11:15 am to 12:30 pm

### **How to Handle Mortgage Delinquencies**

Are more and more homeowners struggling to make their mortgage payments and you're not sure what to do? Come learn about best practices in handling delinquencies.

**Location:** Redbird B

**Presenters:** Sonia Lee, HFHI

11:15 am to 12:30 pm

### **Nicor Gas' Affordable Sustainability and Innovative Future**

The Nicor Gas Energy Efficiency Program has a variety of free offerings that can help Habitat for Humanity homebuyers and homeowners live more comfortably and sustainably. Learn more about those offerings, as well as how to better partner with utilities and other community entities to deliver money and energy savings to our participants. From sharing some of Nicor Gas' successful collaborations with our Habitat affiliates to delving into future technology that will contribute to more affordable, reliable, and resilient homes, our presenters can help our affiliates better support homeowners.

**Location:** Redbird E

**Presenters:** Mike King, Nicor, Keri Asevedo, Rockford Area HFH, John Dakarian, Nicor, and Todd Abercrombie, Page Remodeling and Construction

11:15 am to 12:30 pm

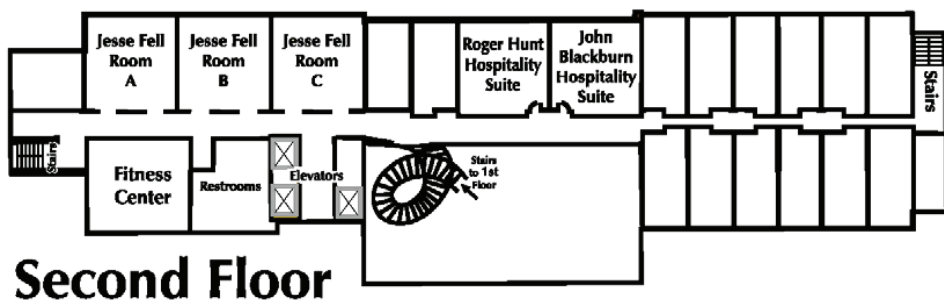
### **Engaging Veterans through the Veterans Build Initiative**

Uncover the strengths of our veteran community and the significance of the Veterans Build initiative. Learn effective strategies to locate and engage veterans in your area.

**Location:** Redbird G

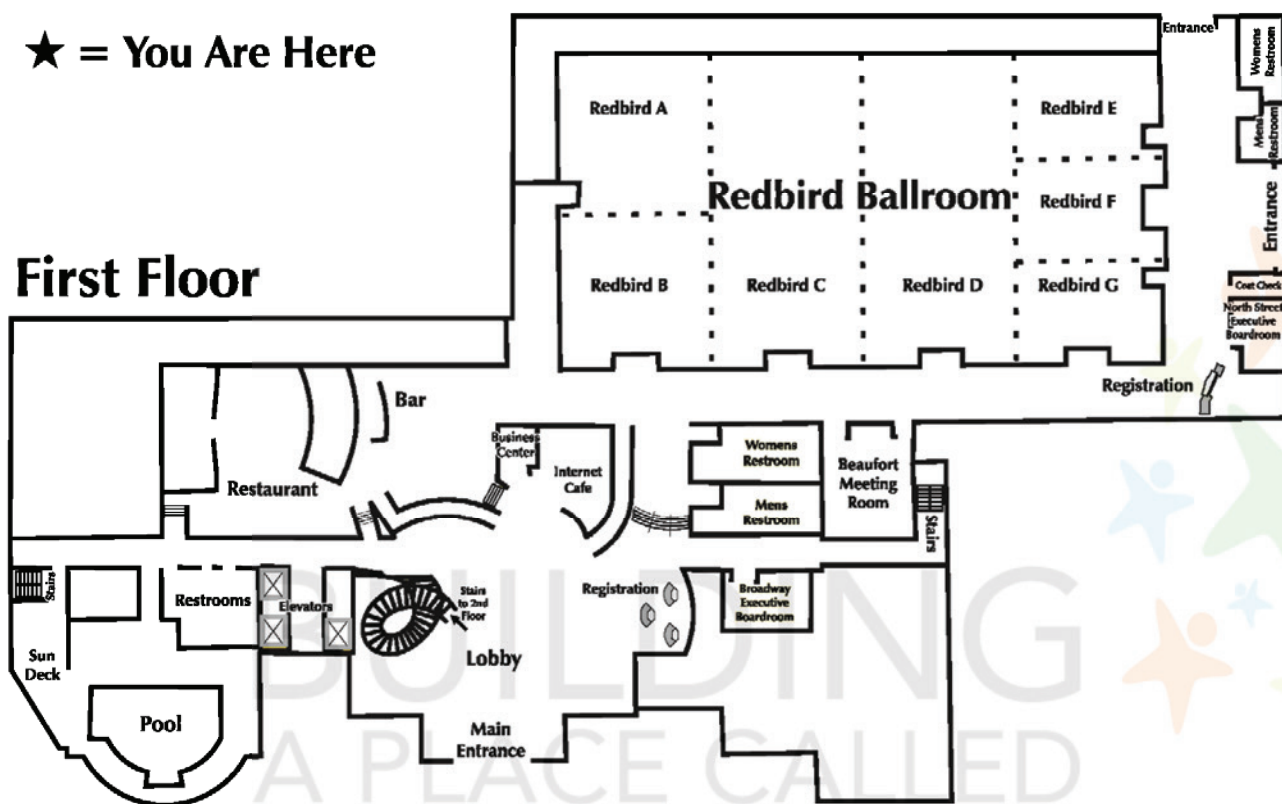
**Presenters:** Leslie Rodriguez, Chicagoland HFH

# HOTEL MAP



**Second Floor**

★ = You Are Here



**First Floor**

# HOPE

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