

### Presenter Bios

**Lori Anderson**, Douglas County Habitat for Humanity. As the first employee, Lori Anderson has served as the Executive Director of Douglas County Habitat since 2004. The organization has grown from serving one family to over 30 families annually through homeownership and the Aging in Place program. Lori has served as a Global Village leader to Vietnam, served on the US Council of Habitat for Humanity International and on the Habitat Minnesota board.

**Jeremy Beier**, Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota. As the Sustainable Building Director at Habitat Minnesota, he brings over 20 years of construction management experience and two years with Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota. He focuses on innovative strategies to create sustainable, affordable homeownership opportunities for low-income families, fostering partnerships and driving solutions that prioritize accessibility and community impact.

**Molly Berg**, Habitat for Humanity International. Molly Berg is Manager of Resilience in the Built Environment with Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI). In this role, she supports the U.S. Habitat network and HFHI internal teams in climate resilient construction, programming, strategy, activities, and communication. Since joining HFHI in 2018, Molly's primary work is helping develop, deploy, and manage funding opportunities for climate-resilient construction and related activities. Molly has held positions in the Habitat for Humanity network since 2007, including Site Supervisor, Project Manager, Program Manager, and Senior Specialist of Building Science. She holds a B.S. in Urban Studies Environment & Infrastructure from the University of Minnesota and is a certified Home Energy Rating System Rater, Enterprise Green Communities Technical Assistance Provider, and a FORTIFIED Home Evaluator.

**Clara Bergan** has spent more than a decade in fundraising, including eight years with Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity with special focus on individual giving. Clara loves connecting people to the causes they care about most. When not advocating for affordable homeownership, you'll find Clara knitting or racing bikes.

**Dru Bergman**, Chicagoland Habitat for Humanity. As the Director of Financing and Government Grants, Dru assists affiliates in securing funding and supports the Habitat mission through a variety of special projects. Her prior experience includes serving as the executive director of a HUD-certified housing counseling agency and in senior leadership with organizations assisting persons experiencing homelessness and domestic violence. She began her career in market research and communications with Freddie Mac and holds a Master of Public Affairs degree from the University of Texas at Austin.

**Chad Bouley**, Central Minnesota Habitat for Humanity. As the Executive Director of Central Minnesota Habitat for Humanity, Chad has over 20 years of Habitat experience in both urban and rural settings. His work includes single family, multi-family, and rehab work in both the Twin Cities and Central MN areas. His philosophy is to make each project work by a creative mix of funding sources and partnerships.

**Ken Braley**, US Rural at Habitat for Humanity International

**Patricia Bunyasi**, Health and Housing Manager, Habitat for Humanity International

**Erin Clark**, Rice County Habitat for Humanity. Erin joined Rice County Habitat for Humanity as a Family Services Coordinator in 2024. Prior to this, Erin spent 9 years in the new home sales industry, where they did everything from selling homes to leading sales teams to Organizational Development. Much of her previous role was focused on leadership development, transitions, and onboarding. Additionally, Erin spent 11 years providing direct support to people with disabilities. They have a master's degree with an emphasis in Islamic Studies from the University of Chicago Divinity School and a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Concordia College.

**Beth Dahlman**, Senior Vice President, M+R Consulting

**John Dakarian**, Nicor. John manages Nicor Gas' income-eligible energy efficiency programs, ensuring \$50M+ in key initiatives to support communities across Illinois. He partners with utilities, Habitat affiliates, and other organizations to expand access to critical energy, health, and safety services. He is passionate about sustainability, equity, and impactful collaborations that improve lives.

**Hope Eady**, Learning & Development Director, Housing Opportunities & Mission Engagement (HOME), Habitat for Humanity International. Hope Y. Eady serves as a leader for HOME by monitoring external social trends, exploring innovative strategies, conducting benchmark studies, and driving actions that support Habitat for Humanity International's strategy and goals. She collaborates with regional and functional leaders and managers and other key stakeholders to advance our DEI learning & development strategy and initiatives within HFHI and our global affiliated network. She builds and executes learning and development programs, processes, and initiatives, integrating DEI as an important element of our culture, mission, and operations. Hope has earned two doctorate degrees; one in Organizational Change and Leadership from the University of Southern California (USC) and one in Theology. She also has two master's degrees -- one in Industrial-Organizational Psychology from the University of Georgia and one in Biblical Studies from Truth Bible College. Her undergraduate degree is a Bachelor of Arts in English from Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University.

**Regina Eckes**, Senior Marketing Manager, Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity. Regina has worked in marketing for 20 years and has been a marketing manager with Twin Cities Habitat since 2021. She oversees the department's content calendar, social media, digital advertising, email marketing, and ReStore marketing. Regina is driven by Habitat's mission to advance racial equity in housing.

**Shane Ellanson**, Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity. Shane is a Senior Engagement Associate with Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity and has worked for the organization for over three years. His main responsibilities include building and maintaining relationships with community, faith, and corporate partners to encourage financial giving and volunteerism as well as managing over 500 active regular volunteers.

**Kahya Fox**, La Crosse Area Habitat for Humanity. Kahya Fox has been the Executive Director at Habitat for Humanity of the Greater La Crosse Region since 2016. With over 20 years of affordable housing experience, she has worked with a variety of housing and community development programs, including neighborhood revitalization, rehabilitation, weatherization, housing counseling, flood assistance, and land trust housing.

**Sam Friesen**, Fresh Energy. Sam is Managing Director of Buildings at Fresh Energy. Prior to his policy work, Sam ran a design-build sustainable building firm based in north-central Minnesota. He has experience on all aspects of building sustainability with a particular focus on how to cost-effectively decarbonize buildings through innovative design, materials, and building energy systems.

**Jan Hagerman**, Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity. Jan Hagerman is the store manager for Twin Cities Habitat's New Brighton ReStore. She is staple in the community with her weekly Facebook live series and monthly guest appearance on WCCO's DIY Friday segment. Jan is a teacher, crafter, and champion of ReStore and Habitat's mission.

**Susan Hammel**, Minnesota Council on Foundations. As a philosophy major who went to Wall Street, Susan Hammel translates between passionate social changemakers and expert investors. In her role as Founder of Cogent Consulting PBC, Susan is serving her tenth year as Executive in Residence with the Minnesota Council on Foundations. Susan obtained her Masters in Public Policy from Harvard, is a Chartered Financial Analyst, and graduated cum laude from Carleton College, in Northfield, Minnesota.

**Phil Hatlie**, Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota. Phil joined Habitat Minnesota in January 2023. He is responsible for leading finance operations, overseeing financial statements, financial analysis, and systems management. Before joining Habitat Minnesota, Phil was a trainer and lender at Propel Nonprofits, the Director of Finance at Higher Education Consortium for Urban Affairs (HECUA), the Director of Finance and Administration at Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity, and he served on the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches.

**Scott Hawes**, Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity. Scott Hawes is the Executive Director of Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity. He started with the affiliate in 2016 as an AmeriCorps Service member, was hired as full-time staff following his year of service and was eventually named Executive Director. He is a former teacher and could run very fast when he was younger.

**Natalie Heneghan**, La Crosse Area Habitat for Humanity. Natalie Heneghan is the Community Outreach Director at Habitat for Humanity of the Greater La Crosse Region. Natalie oversees the organization's communications, marketing, and advocacy efforts. She uses storytelling and relationship-building skills to inspire people to take better care of our built environment and create equitable, sustainable communities. Natalie has over 10 years of experience in the nonprofit sector, focused on building rehab, material reuse, community education, and local housing issues. Natalie holds a BA in History from Macalester College and a Master's in Heritage Studies and Public History from the University of Minnesota.

**Brittany Hennessy**, Executive Director, Winona County Habitat for Humanity

**Robin Henrichsen**, Director of ReStores at Twin Cities Habitat, leads the donor development, sales, growth planning, and retail management operations for Twin Cities Habitat's ReStores. She has been with Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity since 2016. Before joining Habitat, she spent 28 years in leadership and management roles in retail merchandising with Target.

**Robert Hickey**, Habitat for Humanity International. Robert provides strategic direction, research, and analytical support to Habitat's federal, state and local policy advocacy. Previous roles included

advising local governments and nonprofits on local and federal policy strategies as a consultant and as a senior research associate with the National Housing Conference.

**Brianna Jonas**, Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota. Brianna joined Habitat Minnesota in January 2020. She is responsible for the development and implementation of public relations strategies and digital communications, and she supports Habitat Minnesota's advocacy communication planning and special events. Before joining Habitat Minnesota, Brianna was a freelance photographer, a graphic designer at Winona State University, a communication intern at Dress for Success Twin Cities, and an intern at Habitat for Humanity serving Winona County. Brianna holds a B.A. in Public Relations from Winona State University.

**Alexander Jones**, monday.com. Alex has helped thousands of nonprofits scale their impact during 3 years as an Experienced Nonprofit Success Manager at [monday.com](https://monday.com). [monday.com](https://monday.com) is a software company that gives anyone the power to build and improve how their organization runs. By combining no-code building blocks, anyone can easily create or customize software that suits their needs. Previously to this, he worked with nonprofits in several countries and knows the challenges nonprofits face as well as the incredible impact they can drive. He is passionate about helping nonprofits use technology to work more efficiently and effectively!

**Jeremy Keen**, Habitat for Humanity International. Jeremy Keen is the Director of ReStore Support at Habitat for Humanity International and celebrates 12 years with HFHI this year. Having first joined the team as a ReStore consultant, he and the team helped to lay the groundwork for the support work that continues today. Prior to coming to Habitat International, Jeremy spent 5 years with the Northern Fox Valley Habitat for Humanity affiliate in Elgin, IL opening and running their first store. Jeremy's role on the ReStore Support team has shifted over the years, from doing consulting work to managing a regional ReStore Collaborative program with 30 affiliates in Florida. He also worked as the Director of the Suburban Atlanta ReStore network opening and running 5 ReStore locations in the Atlanta area.

**Sean Koebele**, Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity. Sean Koebele is the Senior Manager of Institutional Partnerships at Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity. He has been managing volunteers and working with corporate partners at the affiliate for over 10 years. He loves engaging people in Habitat's mission and paddling the Boundary Waters.

**Kathy Lange**, Morrison County Habitat for Humanity. Kathy Lange joined the Morrison County Habitat for Humanity in April 2021 as our new Executive Director. Kathy is well known in her community through her leadership of the CHI St. Gabriel's Health Foundation from 2011-2019. She has served as the Chairwoman of Faith Not Fear community action group focused on homelessness in Morrison County since 2018. She is also a Board Member of Oasis Central Minnesota focusing on homelessness. She is passionate about the mission of Habitat and is eager to continue helping her affiliate provide affordable, safe housing in Morrison County.

**Sonia Lee**, Habitat for Humanity International. Sonia Lee joined Habitat International in August 2012. Her team's focus is on supporting affiliates in homeowner selection, support, and mortgage lending. Their support and resources enable affiliates to operate effectively and comply with regulatory requirements in applicant recruitment, mortgage origination through servicing, and post-purchase support.

**Marnie Maki**, North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity. Marnie Maki joined North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity as its first family services manager in 2016. She has experience teaching in public, private, and for-profit settings, mortgage underwriting, and customer service. She promotes Habitat to potential applicants, processes applications, supports families as they build, originates mortgage documents, and offers post-closing support to new homeowners.

**Betsy Mills**, Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity. Betsy Mills is the Vice President of Finance and Lending with Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity and has been with the affiliate 11 years. Prior to her transition to Habitat, she worked in the banking industry.

**Jamie Mjolsness**, Itasca County Habitat for Humanity. As the Itasca County Habitat for Humanity Executive Director, Jamie is a positive force driven to transform lives through housing. With 20+ years of non-profit experience and deep local ties, she champions affordable homes, bringing hope and opportunity to families.

**Andrew Moran**, Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity. Andrew Moran is the Digital Media Manager for Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity. He manages the local ReStores' email marketing, social media, and e-commerce shopping. He has helped GDM Habitat ReStore achieve its highest net revenue year, grow online sales to \$160,000, and promoted many successful sales and events.

**Jim Nelson**, Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity. Jim Nelson has been the Executive Director of Lake Agassiz Habitat (LAH) since 2017. He serves on the Habitat Minnesota board of directors and the Public Issues Committee of the Building Industry Association of the Red River Valley. In 2025, LAH will have built 83 homes since their inception in 1991.

**Tucker Nelson**, North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity. Tucker Nelson is North St. Louis County Habitat's community engagement coordinator. He coordinates volunteers, supports fundraising, and educates the public about Habitat's mission. Tucker is the former editor of Hometown Focus, a community newspaper serving Minnesota's Iron Range. He has written for 15 years about community events and local history.

**Nicole Olson**, Douglas County Habitat for Humanity. Nicole is passionate about using her financial acumen to support the mission of HFH of Douglas County, Minnesota. She believes in the power of transparency and accountability in financial management and is committed to fostering a culture of fiscal responsibility within the organization.

**Krista Padgett** is a professional executive & leadership coach and speaker specializing in helping leaders avoid burnout. She works with clients across various industries and served 25 years in diverse roles and levels within Habitat for Humanity. She brings her background in psychology, learning, and leadership to help others thrive at work and beyond.

**Ed Paine**, Busey Bank. Ed Paine is Senior Vice President | Specialty Finance and Community Investments Director for Busey Bank, a \$12 billion premier full-service commercial bank, headquartered in Champaign, IL. Mr. Paine has served in various Finance roles over his 33 years with Busey and currently is a Habitat for Humanity of Illinois board member.

**Ali Parrish**, Iowa Heartland Habitat for Humanity. Ali Parrish has served as the executive director of Iowa Heartland Habitat for Humanity in Waterloo, Iowa, since December 2013, leading efforts in homeownership, neighborhood revitalization, and creating stability for families. With a deep love for her community, Ali champions partnerships, innovative fundraising, and building thriving neighborhoods for all.

**Devon Pohlman**, Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota. Devon joined Habitat Minnesota in January 2024. She is responsible for leading Habitat Minnesota's strategic lending programs and project managing key lending priorities. Before joining Habitat Minnesota, Devon supported technical assistance work at Minnesota Housing Partnership and worked on the City of Minneapolis's budget team. Early in her career, she worked at the CDFI Fund and managed affordable homeownership and rental programs at Minnesota Housing. Devon holds an MA in City & Regional Planning from the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill and a BA in Urban Studies from Macalester College.

**Jacey Raimondo**, Senior Director of Compliance Solutions, Habitat for Humanity International

**Doug Reaves**, DuPage and Chicago South Suburbs Habitat for Humanity. As the Director of Retail for DuPage and Chicago South Suburbs Habitat for Humanity, Doug joined Habitat in April of 2023. He has 14 years of experience in leadership roles for big box retail and prior to joining Habitat, he was the Director of Operations in the construction industry in Chicago.

**Natosha Reid Rice**, Habitat for Humanity International. Natosha Reid Rice is the Vice President of Global Housing Opportunities & Mission Engagement at Habitat International, a highly recognized transformational leader, global equity and inclusion strategist, attorney and impactful preacher.

She is currently Habitat for Humanity International's first Global Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer and is leading the development and execution of Habitat's global diversity, equity and inclusion strategy. Previously, as Associate General Counsel at Habitat, Natosha initiated and managed financing programs and strategies to generate sources of capital to enable Habitat affiliates to build affordable housing with families throughout the U.S.

Natosha has received numerous awards and recognitions, including being named one of Atlanta's 100 Most Influential Women and a Top Diversity and Inclusion Officer by the Atlanta Business Chronicle. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., an Associate Mother in the Lake Spivey Chapter of Jack and Jill, Inc., and a Leadership Atlanta Class of 2014 alumna. Natosha holds a J.D. from Harvard Law School and a B.A. in Government with honors from Harvard/Radcliffe College, where she received the Captain Jonathan Fay Prize and the E.P. Saltonstall Prize.

**Christine Reilly**, Douglas County Habitat for Humanity. Christine Reilly is the Director of Development at Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County. She started with Habitat in January of this year. Christine has seven years of experience with two other nonprofits and has organized and run many fundraising events.

**Kal Rihawi**, Home Repair Coordinator, Lake-McHenry Habitat for Humanity

**Leslie Rodriguez**, Chicagoland Habitat for Humanity. Leslie Rodriguez is a Navy veteran and former Seabee (Construction Battalion), bringing both construction and nonprofit experience to her role as Veteran & Repair Programs Manager at Chicagoland Habitat for Humanity. Since 2022, she has led

efforts to expand home repair programs and veteran outreach across the region. With over 10 years in nonprofit program management, Leslie focuses on increasing accessibility, ensuring funding compliance, and strengthening community resilience. Passionate about housing equity, she is dedicated to empowering families through stable, secure home environments.

**Jenny Sanford**, Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity. Jenny Sanford joined Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity in 2023 as the Homeowner Engagement Manager. In this role, she leads a dedicated team that collaborates with homeowners post-closing to effectively navigate the complexities and rewards of homeownership. Jenny is a trained educator and an Accredited Financial Counselor®.

**Kelly Scocchera**, Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity. Kelly Scocchera is a Project Manager at Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity. She started working in volunteer construction through AmeriCorps experience and has continued to develop her skills in project management and sustainable building. Kelly has worked with Habitat for Humanity for the last 9+ years including 5+ years with Habitat Chicago.

**Kristin Skaar Newbauer**, Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota. Kristin joined Habitat Minnesota in March 2014. She is responsible for leading the Advancement Department and partnering with foundations, individuals, and businesses to meet fundraising goals. Before joining Habitat Minnesota, Kristin was the Special Event Coordinator at The ALS Association (Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota Chapter) and a Marketing and Events Assistant at Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity. She was an active member of the Habitat for Humanity campus chapter at Luther College. Kristin holds a B.A. in Business Management and Spanish from Luther College.

**Heather Smith-Ahrens**, Director of Operations, Douglas County Habitat for Humanity

**Mecole Snyder**, Federal Relations Manager, Habitat for Humanity International. Mecole serves as the Federal Relations Manager at Habitat for Humanity International. Mecole supports the Government Relations and Advocacy team in collaborating with Congress, the Administration, and HFHI affiliates to advocate for key policy priorities that align with Habitat for Humanity's mission. She brings a wealth of experience to her role, having previously served on the Government Relations and Advocacy team at the National PTA. Her career in public policy began on Capitol Hill, where she worked in the Office of Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney, as a Senior Policy Advisor. She holds a M.Ed. in education policy from American University and a Bachelor of Arts from Texas Southern University.

**Assan Sosseh**, Habitat for Humanity International

**Jennifer Taff**, Executive Director, DuPage & Chicago South Suburbs Habitat for Humanity. Jennifer Taff has been with Habitat for 13 years and has an extensive background in nonprofit and advocacy for affordable housing. With a background in advocating for traditionally disenfranchised groups such as individuals with disabilities, veterans, and disinvested communities, Taff's passion for her work and for the affiliate is undeniable. She is the recipient of the 2018 Village of Hanover Park Humanitarian Award and sits as a Board member of the Housing Action Illinois as the board Secretary. Taff holds an MA in Psychology and is a certified Quality Mental Health Professional, her draw towards helping people grow and thrive is unmatched.

**Nathan Thompson**, North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity. Nathan Thompson joined North St. Louis County Habitat in 2003, previously an all-volunteer affiliate that had built 11 homes. The affiliate reached and has maintained its five home per year capacity since 2006. Nathan serves on Habitat Minnesota's board and chairs Habitat International's Rural Advisory Committee. This year, North Saint Louis County Habitat will have served 127 households with homeownership!

**Staci Thompson**, Executive Director, Martin & Faribault Counties Habitat for Humanity

**John Timm**, ReStore Manager, Two Rivers Habitat for Humanity

**Eric Veltstra**, Two Rivers Habitat for Humanity. Eric was born in the Netherlands where he attended the University of Twente, earning a master's degree in public administration. Prior to moving to the US, he was employed as a management consultant with a focus on financing R&D projects through EU funding. He has been working in non-profit management for the past 20 years, including a position as the executive director of an Iowa Habitat affiliate. He recently joined Two Rivers Habitat as its development director and enjoys working on funding the mission with his team.

**Amy Weiss**, Marketing Coordinator at Twin Cities Habitat since 2022, supports various departments, manages social media, writes blogs, and more. She earned a bachelor's degree in professional writing, minoring in nonprofit leadership and marketing. Amy lives in Minneapolis and enjoys trying new restaurants with friends, exploring outdoors, and reading.

**Rocky Welker**, Executive Director, Greater Sioux Falls Habitat for Humanity

**Sara Wessling**, Propel Nonprofits. Sara Wessling (she/her) is the Training Director at Propel Nonprofits. For more than two decades, Sara has worked with nonprofit organizations across the state of Minnesota delivering training, technical assistance and consulting support in areas ranging from volunteer engagement to financial leadership. Sara's previous work included managing HFHMN's statewide Americorps VISTA program for twelve years. Sara has a master's degree in Nonprofit Management from Hamline University.

**Claire Williams**, Executive Coach. Claire Williams is an Executive Coach, Writer, and Speaker who has developed thousands of leaders, from managers to the C-Suite, in dozens of organizations including Target, McDonalds, and Marriott. Claire publishes a Substack newsletter called The Diving Board and is currently working towards publication of her first book.

**Brian Worrall**, Chicagoland Habitat for Humanity. Brian has more than 30 years of nonprofit experience in resource development, marketing, and technology. Since 2014, he has supported Chicagoland Habitat for Humanity, previously holding roles at McGaw YMCA, The Alford Group, The Field Museum, and more. An expert in fundraising systems, he specializes in integrating technology with donor management and fundraising strategies.

**Jaclyn Wulfekuhle** has been the Donor Relations Manager for Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity for two years, with over 10 years of fundraising experience in the community. She's passionate about creating lasting change with donors. Outside of work, Jaclyn enjoys outdoor activities with her husband and two sons.

**Amanda Zahorek**, DuPage and Chicago South Suburbs Habitat for Humanity



**Jim Zei**, Habitat for Humanity of Northern Fox Valley. Jim joined Habitat for Humanity in 2019, just before the onset of COVID-19, and currently serves as the Critical Home Repair Programs Coordinator. With a background as a painting contractor and a family deeply rooted in the trades, Jim has firsthand experience across multiple construction disciplines. While working with Habitat for Humanity of Northern Fox Valley in Elgin, IL, Jim pursued and completed a certificate in Aging in Place Modifications from the USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology. He is passionate about advocating for seniors and is dedicated to improving home accessibility, particularly through the installation of accessibility ramps and tub-to-walk-in shower conversions. Jim believes that two of life's most fundamental necessities are access to the world and cleanliness, and he strives to ensure that aging adults can remain safely and comfortably in their homes.