



Rockford Area
Habitat
for Humanity®

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



dedicated to Luke Carmichael

A father, a husband, a farmer, and a friend.

Luke Carmichael was a true friend to our organization and gave generously of his time and energy to help our cause. He was a family man and a third-generation farmer, working tirelessly at Maplehurst Farms in Rochelle. We could always rely on Luke to help us out with trucking massive piles of lumber to our construction sites, never asking for compensation or acknowledgement for his service.

In 2019, Luke was taken from his family, his friends, and our community far too soon during a work accident. Late last year, we proudly announced the Luke Carmichael Dedicated Service Award, which was awarded posthumously to Luke. We dedicate this report to the memory of Luke and to the entire Carmichael family. We cannot thank them enough for their strength and generosity.



Luke Carmichael

5/9/1983 - 5/28/2019



**The Carmichael family and friends
at Habitat's 2019
Volunteer Appreciation Lunch**



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

As I look back on the year, I am humbled by the dedication, generosity, and passion that are in abundance within our organization. Whether it's the dedicated volunteers, who gave of their time and energy without expectation of reward; our partner families, who worked so hard to achieve their dream of homeownership; or our employees, who went above and beyond each day to fulfill our mission, I am constantly reminded that our work is incredibly meaningful and brings out the best in all of those who are involved.

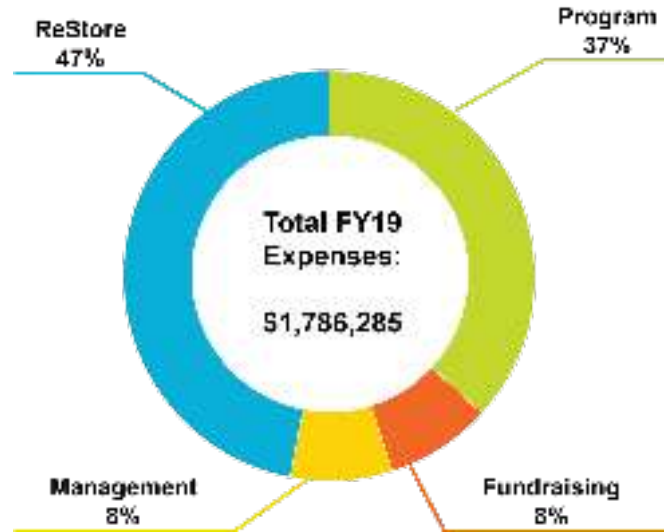
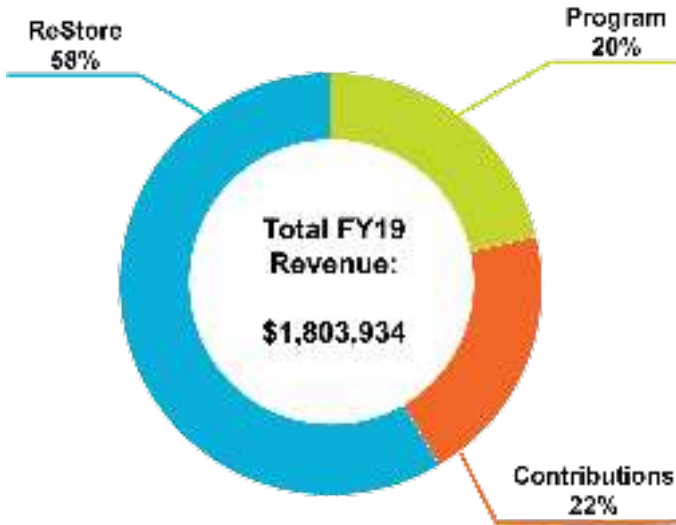
The struggle to find affordable housing transcends the lines of ethnicity, religion, gender, and beyond. From the east side of Rockford to the west, to rural areas of the county and throughout the many small towns and villages, families are struggling. Each year we have the opportunity to provide hope to families who are fighting to get ahead. With these families, we build strength, stability, and financial independence through the construction of safe and affordable homes.

To all of our donors, volunteers, partners, and friends, I want to say thank you for everything you do for Rockford Area Habitat for Humanity and our community as a whole. We look forward to another decade of making positive change for families in the Rockford region.

DAVE KNIGHT

Chairman of the Board

financial information



Based on unaudited financial statements from 1/1/2019 - 12/31/19. Audited financials will be available late 2020.

impact highlights



**6 Homes Built
by Volunteers**



**4 Scholarships
Awarded to
Children of
Homeowners**



**2 Mortgages
Paid Off by
Homeowners**



**\$168,000 in
Property Taxes
Paid by
Homeowners**

the power of community



65+
Organizations
Recruited



400+
Volunteers
Engaged



50,000 +
Nails Pounded



\$400,000+
in Volunteer
Labor Donated





family update: the Gulleys

A Rockford success story built on a strong foundation

Constance and her six sons, Jerard, James, Jamal, Xavier, Joseph, and Shawn moved into their very own Habitat-built home in 2008 after living in a public housing unit for some time. Knowing that having a place to finally call their home was the goal, Constance took the initiative to see what her family's options were. She eventually discovered Habitat's homeownership program, applied, and was accepted.

After a year of hard work and preparation, the Gulleys moved into their very own home. The home served as a foundation for her family's development through the years. This foundation offered the family a chance to regularly share a meal at the dinner table; it provided a safe, affordable place where her boys could grow into independent, driven and successful adults; and it ensured stability for the family on so many levels.

Since Constance purchased the family's home, the family has achieved remarkable milestones. All of her boys have gone on to have success in education and careers, including doctorate and master's degrees! Constance herself went back to school and is now a successful healthcare professional at a local hospital. "It's something you achieve through hard work", states Constance about owning her home. "My boys saw that... they learned how to be independent and hardworking." We wish all of the Gulleys many more years of happiness and success!

2019 highlights



4th Annual Framing Hope

The kick-off event to a season of service, Framing Hope engages volunteers to build the inside walls for homes that will be built in the weeks that follow. Hosted at the Rockford Home Depot, this event was a fun and energetic way to get ready for the construction season!

Community Build

New to 2019, the Community Build is an effort to increase volunteer engagement from local businesses and organizations. These groups complete the construction of nearly every aspect of the home while growing together as teams and colleagues.



Energy Savings

Habitat is going green! Thanks to a grant from ComEd, we are reducing the carbon footprint of each new home by improving energy efficiency standards without increasing the cost of construction yet providing savings to homeowners!



a special thanks to our supporters

We couldn't do it without you.

Thank you to all of the supporters who increased access to safe, stable, and affordable housing in the Rockford region. Donors are listed alphabetically by last name or organization/business name.

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and a very special thank you to:

**The Shaheen Family and
the Thomas A. and JoAnn C. Shaheen
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We have made our best attempt to provide accurate donor information in this report. If you notice any error, including omissions, spelling mistakes, etc., please email us at homes@rockfordhabitat.org with the correction.

Thank you for your understanding and your continued support.

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