



# Habitat

Building homes, communities and hope.

Spring 2025




## The Missing Middle

By **Jacob Kuntz**  
Executive Director

At Helena Area Habitat for Humanity, we believe a home is the foundation for stability, opportunity, and a thriving community. Our vision goes beyond building houses. Through innovative projects like Rose Hills, the largest Habitat-led development in history, we are redefining what a Montana neighborhood can be. We are committed to keeping homeownership within reach for working Montanans by building differently.

Affordability isn't just about the cost of materials. It starts with how a neighborhood is designed. By rethinking development, we can create homes that serve a wider range of incomes and households. Smaller lots near key services and green spaces

**Rose Hills will Include a Variety of Home Styles**

<b>Cottage Homes</b> 	<b>Single Family Homes</b> 
	<b>Townhomes</b> 
<b>4-Plex</b> 	

allow us to build more starter homes, maximizing land use while maintaining affordability. This approach addresses what's known as the "missing middle" in housing.

Currently, much of Montana's housing development is polarized, either large apartment complexes or single-family

homes. Rose Hills takes a different path, prioritizing cottage homes, townhomes, and other medium-density options to fill this crucial gap. By offering a variety of housing types—starter homes, townhomes, medium and large family homes, and apartment homes—we ensure that individuals and families at

all stages of life have a place to call home.

For us, housing isn't just about walls and roofs. It's about creating opportunities, strengthening families, and fostering vibrant communities that endure for generations.



## Need Home Repairs? We're Here to Help!

**Grants  
and 1% Loans  
Available!**

### Helping Hands Program

For older adults and people with disabilities of all ages. Repair projects are completed in one day, such as:

- Grab Bar, Handrail & Door Knob Installation
- Furnace Filter Replacement, Window Sealing
- Install Accessibility Ramps, and More!

### Critical Home Repair Program

For repairs up to \$50,000 for health, safety, and structural issues to keep homeowners safely in their primary residence

- Electrical & Plumbing work
- Roof Repair
- Exterior & Interior Repairs

For more info, call (406) 449-4463 or visit [HelenaHabitat.org](http://HelenaHabitat.org).

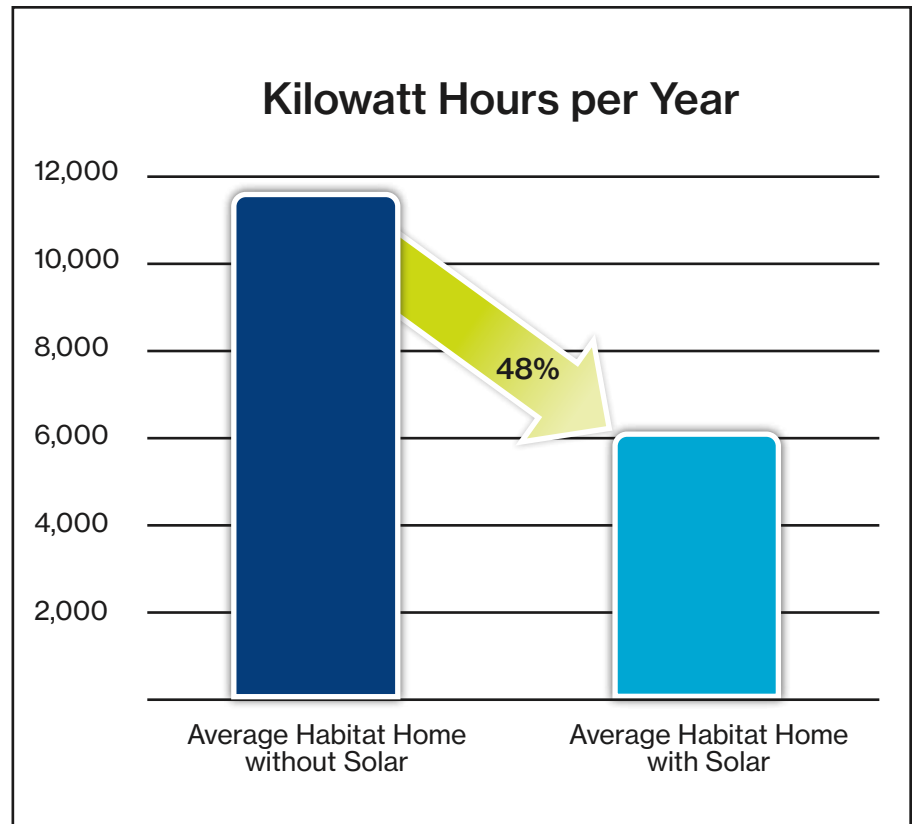
Let us help make your home safer and more comfortable!

# Building Affordable Homes with Solar Power at Highland Meadows

Two years ago, we acquired 12 lots on Glenfinnan Court in Highland Meadows with the goal of partnering with 12 families to build affordable homes. Thanks to a generous donation from Valley Bank, and a matching grant from The Federal Home Loan Bank Des Moines, we were able to add 4.5kW solar systems to all 12 homes, ensuring that they are not only affordable to own but also to run. We're committed to including solar power in all future Habitat builds, making sustainable, energy-efficient homes a reality for more families.

Join us in creating a brighter, more sustainable future for everyone by volunteering or donating to support our work!

Thank you to:



*Join the Movement*

## Volunteer with Helena Habitat!

Help build homes, strengthen community, and change lives. Whether you're swinging a hammer or lending a hand, every bit counts. As the weather warms up, it's the perfect time to get involved and make a difference!



### Volunteer Opportunities

- **New Friday Build Days!**  
More volunteers needed to expand our impact— *no experience required!*
- **Summer Build Days – Reserve Your Spot!**  
Gather your team and make a lasting difference this summer.
- **International Waffle Day Build–March 22!**  
Enjoy waffles while building homes for families in need.
- **Become a ReStore Truck Co-Pilot!**  
Ride along, help out, and support Helena Habitat's mission. *Flexible shifts, no experience needed!*

**Get Involved Today – *Make an Impact!***

To learn more and to sign up to volunteer, contact:  
**Volunteer Coordinator Jeremy Ingram:**  
[Jeremyi@HelenaHabitat.org](mailto:Jeremyi@HelenaHabitat.org) or (406) 204-5669



# USDA Rural Development Supports Helena Habitat for Humanity



At Helena Habitat for Humanity, our partnership with USDA Rural Development is essential in providing housing solutions for our community. USDA programs like the Section 502 Direct Loan Program help Habitat homebuyers secure affordable, fixed-rate mortgages with no down payment, making homeownership attainable for more families.

USDA's Section 504 Home Repair Program plays a crucial role in helping homeowners maintain safe, stable housing. It offers low-interest loans for necessary repairs, including roof replacements, plumbing, electrical work, and energy-efficient upgrades. The program also provides funds for accessibility modifications, such as ramps and grab bars, enabling seniors and individuals with disabilities to stay in their homes for as long as possible. For seniors aged 62

or older, \$10,000 grants are available to assist with health and safety repairs, further ensuring that folks can remain independent and comfortable in their homes.

Since 2018, Habitat has built 54 homes for 110 people, including 52 children, valued at over \$21 million, generating an estimated \$100 million in local economic impact. 48 homes are permanently affordable through land trusts, preserving affordability for future generations.

These homes also protect over \$8 million in equity and generate over \$158,000 in annual property taxes.

Consistent stable USDA RD funding is vital for sustaining these programs and expanding our ability to serve more families in our community. We look forward to continuing this important work alongside our partners at USDA Rural Development.

## The ReStore is Expanding!

It's hard to believe it's been two years since we opened our doors at 1320 Market Ave! Through a grant from The Otto Bremer Trust, the ReStore has added an additional 7000 square feet of retail space. Come celebrate with us as we officially unveil our exciting new expansion just in time to fill it up with your spring cleaning donations!

**Saturday, March 29th | 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.**  
**The ReStore, 1320 Market Ave.**

### What to Expect:

- Tour the ReStore expansion.
- Learn how every purchase and donation supports the work of Habitat for Humanity in Helena.
- Food and Fun!

*We can't wait to see you there!*

### ReStore Hours

**Tuesday - Saturday**  
**10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.**

### Donation Items Accepted:

- Appliances
- Cabinets & Countertops
- Carpets & Flooring
- Windows & Doors
- Lighting, Electrical Fixtures, & Ceiling Fans
- Plumbing Fixtures, Tubs, & Sinks
- Hardware & Tools
- Roofing
- Construction Materials (*lumber, plywood, siding, trim, drywall, tile*)
- Household Furniture, *clean and in good condition*
- Lawn equipment



*The new ReStore Barn is open! With more space than ever, bring in your spring cleaning donations and help us fill it up!*



*The barn is stocked and ready with reclaimed lumber and building materials*





## You're Invited to Learn About the New East Helena Neighborhood – Rose Hills!

We're excited to invite you to an informative event about the upcoming Rose Hills neighborhood in East Helena.

### DATE

**Friday, April 25, 2025**

### LOCATION

**East Helena City Hall**  
306 East Main Street  
Helena, MT 59635

### EVENT DETAILS

#### **Display Hours: 3:00–6:00 P.M.**

View the designs of the new East Helena neighborhood in the hallway at East Helena City Hall. Staff will be available to answer your questions during this time.

#### **Presentation and Q&A: 6:00–7:30 P.M.**

Join us for an in-depth presentation, followed by a Q&A session, where we'll share key details about the Rose Hills neighborhood and answer any questions you have.

*We look forward to seeing you, and to sharing the exciting developments for the future of East Helena!*

## Helena Area Habitat for Humanity

**Building homes, communities and hope.**

432 N Last Chance Gulch, Suite R  
Helena, MT 59601  
(406) 449-4663  
HelenaHabitat.org

### STAFF

Joel Farrell, *Construction Superintendent*  
Madeline Forbis, *Director of Communications*  
Ben Hein, *Controller*  
Russ Hill, *Director of Operations*  
Linda Hingham, *ReStore Associate*  
Jeremy Ingram, *Volunteer Coordinator*  
Jacob Kuntz, *Executive Director*  
Mark Leland, *Construction Director*  
Daniel Madewell, *ReStore Associate*  
Craig McElvain, *Construction Manager*  
Mindie Moncur, *Executive Coordinator*  
Jen Romanchuk, *ReStore Manager*  
Trent Smith, *ReStore Associate*  
Pat Steinwand, *Program Director*  
Jake Thompson, *Carpenter*  
Dennis Underwood, *ReStore Assistant Manager*

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### **Executive Committee**

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Susan Good-Geise, *Board Co-Chair, Former Lewis and Clark County Commissioner*  
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HelenaHabitat.org



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# Habichat

The Newsletter of Helena Area Habitat for Humanity



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**SPRING 2025**