# building opportunity

Annual Report July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022





# a note from leadership

Over the last year, we at Habitat for Humanity Chicago have reflected on the various ways all of us our donors, volunteers, staff and board, community partners, and participants — play a key role in building opportunity for and with one another. And together, we are building healthier, more thriving neighborhoods in Chicago.

At Habitat Chicago, we have a shared vision of a world where everyone has a decent place to live, a world where everyone has the opportunity to thrive in a healthy neighborhood and stable home.

However, many communities in Chicago have faced decades of

systemic racism and disinvestment, and they have been denied housing opportunities that should be afforded to everyone.

Our job is to help change that. We focus our work in West Pullman, Greater Grand Crossing, and soon Austin. We seek to not only help households access the long-term benefits of affordable homeownership, but also to strengthen the image, market, and physical and social conditions of our focus neighborhoods at large.

We are proud to share our annual report from fiscal year 2022, which highlights the ways in which all of us have built opportunity together to support a more equitable, healthy city.

From all of us at Habitat Chicago, thank you. We are grateful for your unwavering and continued support.



Jennifer L. Parks Executive Director



Mark

Dan Marszalek Chairman, Board of Directors

# what is a healthy neighborhood?

As illustrated in our Quality of Life Framework (see next page), healthy neighborhoods embody seven essential sectors:

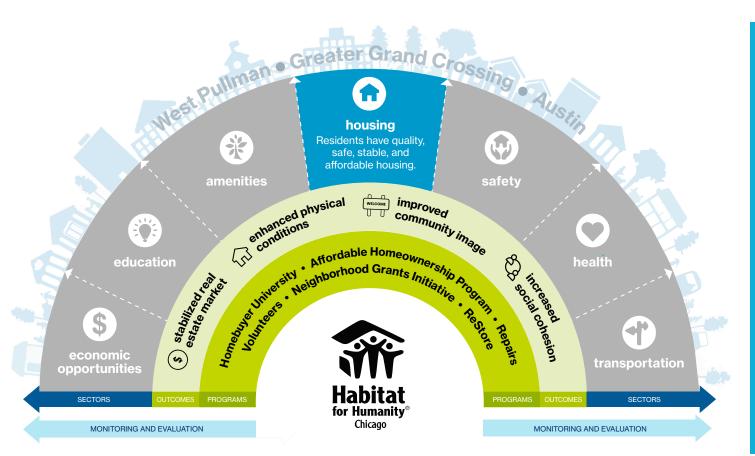
- Economic opportunity
- Education
- Community amenities
- Housing
- Safety
- Health
- Transportation

We at Habitat Chicago contribute to overall neighborhood health through the housing sector. Since inception, we have created **over 127 long-term housing solutions** for Chicago residents.

These focused investments in housing can have positive ripple effects into other neighborhood sectors, such as household economic stability and safety.

### a healthy housing sector will:

- Stabilize the real estate market. When homebuyers are attracted to an area, investment in the neighborhood increases and property values rise.
- Improve community image. Thriving, safe spaces positively affect resident confidence in their neighborhood's future.
- Enhance physical conditions. Neighborhoods that look and feel safe and accessible encourage quality community amenities.
- Increase social cohesion.
  Neighbors who feel connected
  have increased capacity and
  desire to invest in their community.



# affordable homeownership program

The Affordable Homeownership **Program** takes qualified homebuyers on a year-long journey to homeownership. We work with applicants whose income is between 40-80% of the area median income. They attend homeownership preparation classes and receive quidance from loan application through closing as they purchase a new, energy-efficient home with a no-interest mortgage.

#### **Owning a home helps** families build wealth.

For our homebuyers, the experience is life changing. As they prepare for homeownership, they help build their home alongside volunteers and construction professionals, learning many useful home maintenance skills.

homebuyers in our program over the entire fiscal year







Home means freedom. Freedom to have a garden, to just decorate the way I want to. It's a legacy. When in the event that I leave this earth, this is something I can leave my children or grandchildren.

– Janice, Affordable Homeownership Program buyer



6

labita





graduates entered the Affordable Homeownership Program



# homebuyer university

Homebuyer University is a fivesession course that introduces aspiring homeowners to all aspects of purchasing a home, including financial planning and credit, assessing homes and neighborhoods, and the responsibilities of homeownership. Students create action plans with

truly grateful for.

– Tiffany, Homebuyer University graduate

#### Having an action plan builds momentum.

financial and real estate experts and share their homeownership journeys with their peers.

### Homebuyer University has allowed for me to prepare myself for the purchase of my first home, which I am





### neighbors engaged in grant projects

[The Neighborhood Grants Initiative] has brought us closer together. We engage, all of us. We all know each other, and people feel more invested in their community.

- Annette, Neighborhood Grants Initiative grantee



neighborhood grants awarded





# neighborhood grants initiative

The Neighborhood Grants Initiative provides small grants to our focus neighborhoods to support residentled community improvement projects. Residents develop project ideas and recruit their neighbors to help plan and execute with funding from Habitat Chicago. Each project is a strategic investment that builds and enhances community assets.

These grants encourage residents to take on leadership roles within their communities and develop collaborative projects.

#### **Connecting neighbors** builds community.

In fiscal year 2022, grant recipients organized everything from physical projects like murals and street beautification to social projects like community gatherings and block parties. These projects brought residents together, building social capital and neighborhood resiliency.

## volunteers

By working alongside diverse groups of people, visiting new communities, and taking on new challenges, our volunteers are advocates for our mission and the neighborhoods where they share their time and talents. During fiscal year 2022, **5,730 volunteers and 43,168 volunteer hours** helped us keep our homes affordable and our ReStore running smoothly.

Volunteer days are active, handson, and rewarding. As individuals or teams, volunteers spend build days on our construction sites in West Pullman and Greater Grand Crossing. Our construction team

### The generosity of others builds opportunity.

is trained to work with volunteers of any skill level. We provide all the tools and materials to get them framing, siding, roofing, insulating, flooring, tiling, and painting.

At ReStore, volunteers help with donation intake and restoration, stock shelves, help customers, and more. Others help at our office or serve on volunteer committees. **People volunteer for all kinds of reasons; what they all find, however, is satisfaction in being a part of our mission.** 



### "

I still remember the day when I installed the wood floor. I saw a line of text written on the wood frame, 'I hope you enjoy the house as much as I did building it.' That sentence struck me. Maybe the owner will never see it, but every time I am tired on the construction site, this sentence always encourages me to move forward and do my best to build cozy houses for the future owners.

- Sirui, ReStore and construction crew volunteer



### "

I think ReStore is a great way for people to make a difference, even if they don't have an interest in construction. Donations, volunteering, and shopping for great deals all help to build a stronger city.

- Brian, ReStore volunteer since 2018







4,524 product donations to ReStore

\$240,693 in ReStore sales reinvested in our programs

# **ReStore Chicago**

### Located in the Sauganash neighborhood, **ReStore Chicago**

is a nonprofit social enterprise, donation center, and great place to shop. Anyone can donate new and gently used home furnishings, appliances, building materials, cabinets, and more.

ReStore collected 4,524 donations in fiscal year 2022, keeping over 1,000 tons of usable items out of landfills. These donations, combined with 12,592 hours of help from volunteers, keep price tags low on much-needed, quality home goods for the community.

#### **Conscious consumers** build sustainable practices.

Proceeds from ReStore are invested back into our focus neighborhoods through our programs. In fact, ReStore is a key component in keeping Habitat Chicago's work sustainable.

Every donation, volunteer hour, and purchase furthers our mission to support healthy neighborhoods.

# international commitment

Habitat Chicago annually dedicates a portion of our revenue to **Habitat Malawi**, which creates housing for vulnerable populations, prepares for and responds to natural disasters, engages in advocacy efforts to increase access to decent housing, and improves access to inclusive and sustainable water sanitation and hygiene.

In fiscal year 2022, Habitat Chicago also donated disaster relief funds through Habitat for Humanity International to **countries responding to the Ukraine refugee crisis.** The funds **Commitment to others builds global connectivity.** 



assisted with the significant need for emergency/long-term shelter and travel supplies for refugees fleeing the country. We are so thankful to Habitat for Humanity for giving us a home. We could have been one of the affected families [from Cyclone Ana]; the old house we used to live in had big cracks, its roof was very poor, and it could not have survived the disasters which we experienced.

 Emma, Habitat Malawi homeowner

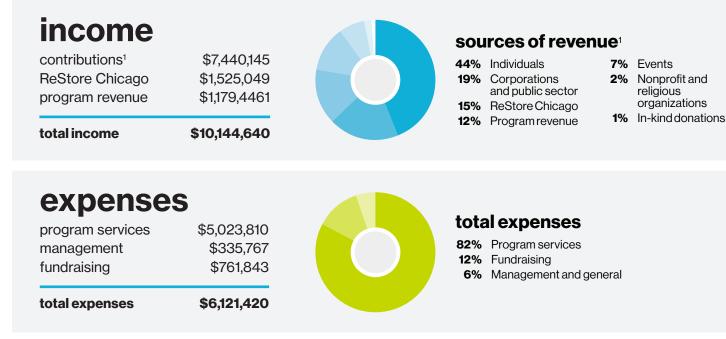


crisis

14

#### \$15,000 contributed to Ukraine refugee \$50,000 contributed to Habitat Malawi

# financials



<sup>1</sup> The breakdown of total contributions of \$7,440,145 for the year was as follows: \$4,434,110 from individuals; \$1,891,714 from corporations and public sector; \$241.886 from nonprofit and religious organizations: \$112.295 of in-kind donations: and \$760.140 of net income from events.



In March 2022, Habitat Chicago received an extremely generous \$2.5 million unrestricted donation from author and philanthropist. MacKenzie Scott.

This gift from Ms. Scott will allow us to grow our existing programs, expand into new programming, and extend our reach to create more equitable, healthy, and vibrant neighborhoods in Chicago.



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executive Jennifer L. Parks

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# mission partners

Thank you to all who partner with us to help realize our vision of a world where everyone has a decent place to live. We couldn't do our work without you and your decision to invest in your neighbors. All individual and family donors who have a lifetime giving total of over \$50,000 are members of The Solutionists' Circle. These donors are denoted in bold.

### corporate and public sector

#### \$100.000+

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#### \$50.000-99.999

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18

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Nat P. Ozmon Family

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#### \$500,000+

MacKenzie Scott

#### \$100.000-499.999

Georgann Cucich Estate Dale Larson Household Margaret Nelson Estate

#### \$20.000 - 99.999

#### **Cameron Avery and** Lvnn Donaldson

Foundation

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312-563-0296 habitatchicago.org The Habitat for Humanity ReStore

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# get involved

#### volunteer

for one shift at our ReStore

#### donate

through recurring gifts of any amount per month

#### shop

at the ReStore to directly fund Habitat Chicago's programs

#### share

one post a month from our social media channels

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