



Habitat
for Humanity®
Okanagan



ANNUAL
REPORT
2025

CHAIR REPORT ●

As Chair of the Board for Habitat for Humanity Okanagan, I continue to be inspired by the dedication, generosity, and heart of the people who make this organization possible.

Our volunteers, donors, community partners, staff, directors, and committee members consistently show up with a shared commitment to supporting families in our community. Behind every meeting, event, fundraising initiative, and strategic discussion is a group of people generously giving their time, energy, and expertise to move our mission forward.

This year, I want to specifically recognize the engagement of our Board of Directors and committee members. Their dedication goes far beyond governance responsibilities. They actively contribute ideas, ask thoughtful questions, support fundraising efforts, attend community events, and remain deeply connected to the mission of Habitat for Humanity Okanagan. The strength of this organization is built on people who care deeply and lead with purpose.

Our 50/50 raffle continues to be a tremendous success and remains an exciting way for the community to engage with Habitat while supporting affordable homeownership in the Okanagan. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who participates, volunteers, and helps spread awareness.

Although 2025 looked different from a traditional build year, it was still a year of meaningful progress, reflection, and continued organizational strength. It is important to recognize that building affordable housing takes long-term vision, patience, collaboration, and responsible stewardship. I am proud of the thoughtful leadership demonstrated throughout the year as we continue positioning Habitat for future growth and impact.



On a personal note, one of the most rewarding moments this year was seeing a Habitat family move forward after many years in the program. It served as a powerful reminder that the work we do today creates lasting change for years to come. Moments like these reinforce why so many people continue to dedicate themselves to this organization.

To everyone who supports Habitat for Humanity Okanagan in any capacity, thank you. Your time, trust, and commitment continue to strengthen our organization and the communities we serve. I am incredibly grateful to serve alongside such passionate and caring individuals.

Lee-Ann McEllister, Chair

Andrea Manifold

CEO MESSAGE

The economic climate in 2025 was turbulent, and changes in the political landscape affected everyone. Despite these challenges, we experienced another successful year at Habitat for Humanity Okanagan. We got off to a strong start that continued throughout the year, resulting in ReStore sales increasing by 10%, fundraising by 21%, and gaming revenue by 20% compared to the previous year. Combined with careful expense management, our excess operational revenue reached \$985,624 all of which will help fuel future Habitat projects and support our mission. We also significantly increased cash, investments and mortgage receivables while decreasing liabilities considerably.

I was especially pleased to see a turnaround and improved results from the Vernon ReStore. Several significant new product donations provided a strong boost to sales. Alongside other Habitat affiliates across British Columbia, we also piloted a B.C. procurement program to source more local donations and replace shipments previously received from Ontario, which had become cost prohibitive due to freight charges. This initiative will continue into 2026, and we are optimistic about its future success.

Community engagement in 2025 was tremendous. Our attendance at community events expanded significantly,

including home shows, car shows, festivals, golf tournaments, and the Armstrong Fair. We also extended our outreach into Kamloops, where we received incredible support from the local community.

One of the biggest achievements of 2025 was the outstanding success of our 50/50 gaming initiatives. Every quarterly ReStore raffle sold out early, grossing \$60,000, while the Rafflebox 50/50 closed the year with total sales of \$433,750. Combined, our gaming revenue for 2025 reached \$493,750. Over the last three years, the Rafflebox 50/50 program has grown by an incredible 231.5%. I am extremely proud of the entire team for making this alternative revenue stream such a remarkable success.

In July, we received a significant legacy donation that greatly boosted our fundraising efforts. We are immensely grateful to the donor for recognizing and supporting our mission. These funds have been invested and will help support a future build project.

Although we did not build new homes in 2025, there was considerable activity within our homeownership program. A Peachland family moved out after nine years in the Habitat program, leaving with a healthy down payment toward their new home. It was especially rewarding for me to witness this milestone, as their





Last year, I shared that our annual Jingle Bell Build was gaining momentum, and this year we surpassed the amount raised in 2024. Thank you to the Trainee Foundation for becoming our title sponsor, and to everyone who participated. This event continues to grow stronger every year.

Government relations remained a major focus for Habitat B.C. leadership and Habitat Canada throughout 2025. Various meetings were held to advocate for increased federal and provincial support. I am pleased to report that these efforts resulted in a new Memorandum of Understanding with BC Housing. At the federal level, discussions continue with Habitat Canada leadership regarding access to Build Canada Homes funding.

home was one I helped complete in 2016 as part of a team build with a previous employer. That home was quickly occupied by another family now working toward qualification for their Habitat mortgage.

In addition, four more Lake Country families transitioned onto mortgages, and one long-term family fully paid off their mortgage. These successes clearly demonstrate how our model provides meaningful and lasting pathways to affordable homeownership.

Throughout the year, I also continued working on several land opportunities that have been in development for some time. By the time this report is shared at the AGM, we may already have exciting news to announce regarding our future plans.

In May, the Board and management team collaborated to create the 2025–2028 Strategic Plan, titled Building Better Communities. The plan focuses on three key priorities:

- Mobilizing community support
- Expanding pathways to maximize impact
- Increasing the ReStore's impact on our mission

In July, we hosted Pedro Barrata, President and CEO of Habitat for Humanity Canada, along with Karen Coviello, Chief Strategy Officer. Both were highly impressed by our continued success and our preparation for future build projects.

Finally, it is with mixed emotions that I write this AGM report. By the time it is published, I will have left Habitat Okanagan and begun a new chapter in retirement. Working at Habitat has been the most rewarding role of my career, and I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to lead such a complex and inspiring organization.

During my early years with Habitat, we faced several serious challenges that threatened the sustainability of the organization — the pandemic being one of the most significant. Through determination, focus, strong leadership, and the dedication of a passionate and capable team, we not only overcame those obstacles but continued to grow and achieve goals that seemed impossible in 2019.



At times, the work was difficult, but every effort was worthwhile. Together, we have positively impacted many lives and helped families achieve the dream of homeownership.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to the many supporters of our work. To the volunteers who contributed thousands of hours in our ReStores, on build sites, and at community events — thank you. To the many donors who supported us, whether by helping fund the construction of 12 homes or by providing much-needed IT equipment for staff — your generosity has made a lasting difference. Finally, thank you to the Board of Directors for your trust, encouragement, and unwavering support over the past almost seven years.

Although I am stepping away from my role, I have been “Habitized” for far too long to walk away completely. While I may no longer be involved in the day-to-day operations, don’t be surprised if you still see me volunteering or attending Habitat events in the future.

I leave Habitat Okanagan as a multi award-winning and financially strong organization, and I wish the entire Habitat team continued success in the years ahead.



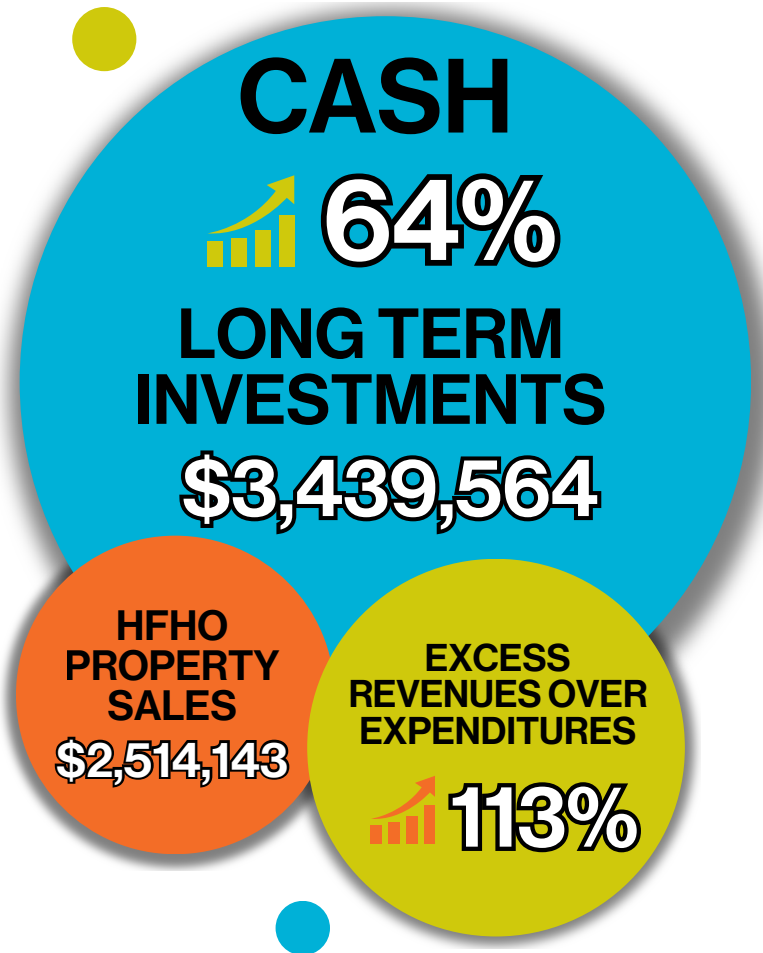
TREASURER REPORT

The following financial report presents Habitat for Humanity Okanagan's results for the fiscal year ending 2025. It reflects our ongoing commitment to transparency, accountability, and responsible stewardship. We have worked diligently to ensure funds are used effectively to advance our mission. Despite economic and organizational challenges, our financial position remains stable and healthy, excess of revenue over expenditures increased by 3.6% over 2024. Many expense categories were lower than in 2024, but overall, costs increased 3.6%.

We maximized every opportunity to boost 50/50 sales, especially from our online raffle. Our efforts to advertise and promote at community events resulted in our best sales yet. In the ReStores their raffle also had success with many sold out draws, for their quarterly jackpot. We ended up over budget by 91% and exceed 2024 by 20% , turning these raffles into a major revenue source.

For many years, HFHO has built enduring trust through strong financial stewardship. This commitment allows us to have meaningful partnerships to advance our mission. For this, we are grateful for everyone's dedication and generosity. To help direct fundraising and donation dollars toward a future build project, we strengthened other sources of support. Generous corporate donations and inventory clear-outs from manufacturers provided valuable products that boosted sales.

Third party fund raisers supporting HFHO have contributed greatly, and the Jingle Bell Build has become more successful with a new title sponsor that helped to set a new record for this event. We were also grateful to receive two bequeathed policies totaling over \$200,000. In partnership with key supporters, our Christmas fundraiser resulted in \$31,000 of donations. We were also awarded a \$20,000 grant funding the replacement of aging IT equipment.



Other financial highlights are:

- Cash increased by 64%.
- Investments increased by 15%.
- Liabilities down by 49%.
- Total revenues steady with a decrease of only 2.7% compared to 2024.
- Net assets increased by 5%.
- Term deposit investments grew to \$3,439,564 an increase of \$1,441,454 or 72%.
- Overall excess revenues increased 113.6%.

Throughout the year, HFHO focused on strengthening ReStore performance to meet targets and remain above budget. Changes at the Vernon store contributed to improved results, seeing an increase foot traffic. Although three ReStores operated without managers, supervisors and the regional manager stepped in to provide essential support.

- A truck usage fee was introduced for donation pickups to help offset costs and encourage higher-quality donations.
- Revenue growth efforts included improving store layout, processing donations more quickly, hiring new staff, and coaching existing team members.
- The organization maintained a strong cash position, despite paying off the ReStore cube van lease of \$60,000.

The Kelowna store celebrated its 10th anniversary, marking an important milestone.

Other significant financial activity included:

- A mortgage being paid out, house buy-backs were completed, and the unused line of credit was cancelled, helping strengthen the organization’s financial position
- Property sales of \$2,514,143 as four families went onto mortgage with cost of sales of \$1,919,740, a gain of \$985,624
- Increase of mortgages due beyond 1 year of 23%
- HFHO entered into negotiations to support future housing projects
- Planning is now underway to complete land deals and begin fundraising efforts

HFHO worked on operational improvements and advocacy, as follows:

HFHO implemented customized software specifically designed for the Habitat model and used by the homeowner services team to automate manual processes. The platform supports current families, will assist with future applicant recruitment, and includes a secure portal where families can upload and track their information.

On the advocacy front, HFHO met with the BC Housing Minister to support policy changes related to funding for home ownership.

HFHO is engaged with the BC Caucus to re-activate a \$750,000 per annum B.C. Housing grant MOU. These funds are distributed by the caucus to affiliates that have a build permit in place.

With a future build on the horizon, we need to raise significant funds. To support this effort, HFHO has established a capital campaign and dedicated committee to coordinate events and serve as ambassadors at networking opportunities. We are also leveraging our relationships to secure matching funds, which remain a key strategy for raising money efficiently.

Our strong financial stewardship is the result of dedicated and responsible management and staff. Despite staffing shortage, the HFHO team did a great job managing our financial resources while ensuring decisions aligned with our mission and long-term goals. We are deeply grateful to everyone that helped us finish 2025 in a very strong position. We have only the highest hopes for 2026.



Julie Pellizzari, Treasurer

RESTORE OPERATIONS

ReStore Operations in 2025 was a rollercoaster of up and down but we managed to successfully increase sales over 2024 by 10 %. Transaction counts were up 11 % over 2024 across a four locations. Kelowna was in the top 5 in sales out of the 23 ReStores in BC. We maintained our focus on keeping expenses lower than budget.

The unprecedented trade war with the US starting in January and looming unknown tariffs left business and consumers focussing on local and Canadian owned. As ReStore started right here in Canada we focussed on providing our customers with a positive Canadian experience.

Staff turnover rate in 2025 was lower than in previous years. We strive to be above minimum wage which leads to some payroll pressures as minimum wage increased in June. The Vernon location thrived this year after closing the home side in 2024, decreasing its footprint by 9800 square feet. Sales by square feet grew 13 % from \$55.76 to \$63.13. A large thrift store moved into the complex at the end of 2024 bringing increased traffic to the complex in 2025.

Penticton and Kelowna had increased traffic counts and sales while our West Kelowna store had a decrease in traffic and sales over 2024. Attempting to increase traffic and sales at the end of the year we focussed on our seasonal merchandise, closing our upstairs portion of the West Kelowna location for 2 days to create a winter wonderland. We hosted the grand opening day Nov 1 with Santa photos, cookies and hot chocolate. Opening week was a success with \$10,500 of seasonal décor sold.

ReStore Donations

Residential donation levels remained strong with 25,292 donations, up 29 % over 2024. The weather at the end of the year was considerably warmer contributing to the increase in donations for months where we normally see a decrease.



REVENUES
\$3,291,163

TOTAL TRANSACTIONS
160,819

METAL RECYCLING
\$10,043

KITCHEN SALVAGE
\$133,010

With increased gas prices we introduced a pick up fee to help off set trucking costs. A \$75.00 charge was implemented in June contributing \$9,000 of revenue

Corporation donations increased by 2% over 2024. The cost to transport good quality new donations from our Brampton distribution center is still unachievable but working together with other affiliates in B.C we where able to secure a large donation (\$55,665) of brand-new furniture, other highlights this year included 46 bathtubs, 10 pallets of tile and 6432 bags of insulation.

Safety

Our safety program continues to grow and develop expected standards. Site Docs continues to be our main reporting tool and has proven effective in accurate recordings.

In 2025 we had 49 incidents, 3 of them resulting with time loss. Material handling accounted for 90 % of the incidents which led us to increase toolbox talks to a daily standard and speaking to the incidents specifically after they happened and addressing the issues immediately to mitigate more risk.

Kitchen Salvage Program

The kitchen salvage program is in its 5th year of operation, the popular program had 98 inquires for salvage requests, 66 of which we acquired, which produced \$83,740 of our total cabinet revenue and an additional \$6000 in other product sales into our stores. Driving total kitchen cabinet sales to \$133,10.

Fundraising

The in-store 50/50 sold out each quarter grossing \$60,000 and till round up (\$ 8545.00) these are the current in store fundraising tools and lead to a combine total of \$60,8545 for 2025.

Planning Ahead

In 2026 our focus will be on increasing traffic counts. We will be increasing our 50/50 fundraising efforts to \$72,000, this year raising the jackpot potential to \$9,000 per quarter up from \$7,500 in 2025.

We'll also be researching a potential pilot project to collaborate with a deconstruction company and take reclaimed wood for resale.

DONATIONS
25,292

DIVERSION
2,492,877
LBS

FUNDRAISING
\$68,545



Trina Carroll
Manager, Regional Retail Operations



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & FUNDRAISING

[You Win, We Build 50/50](#)

[Bigger Jackpots. Bigger Winners. Bigger Impact](#)

After a record-setting 2024 that saw Tracy from Lake Country win \$81,050 and Len from Kelowna take home \$91,525, 2025 has already raised the bar again.

Most recently, Sharon B of Kelowna struck it big taking home nearly \$132,000 in December 2025, making it the largest prize in our You Win, We Build lottery's history!

[Local Engagement Drives Lottery Growth](#)

Our online lottery's continued success is fuelled by the strong community presence Habitat Okanagan has at beloved local events, including:

- Peach City Beach Cruise
- Vernon Sunshine Festival
- Armstrong IPE
- The Kelowna Night Market

Thanks to a dedicated group of community volunteers we are able to attend many local events throughout the Okanagan.

[Sold Out 50/50 - \\$30,000 back to ReStore Shoppers](#)

Habitat for Humanity Okanagan runs two distinct 50/50 lotteries. What has been especially remarkable about 2025 is not just the size of all of the jackpots, it's the consistency of community participation. The ReStore sold out every single draw in 2025, allowing us

to share \$30,000 directly back to local shoppers while reinvesting the other half into supporting Habitat volunteers and our operations.

The impact of the ReStore 50/50 goes far beyond the excitement of the draw. These funds play an important role in sustaining one of Habitat's greatest strengths, our volunteer program. Every year, hundreds of dedicated volunteers contribute thousands of hours helping in our ReStore, on build sites, and through community initiatives. Their time, skills, and energy are what allow Habitat to operate efficiently and keep costs low while building affordable homes for families in our community. Revenue generated through the ReStore 50/50 helps us ensure we can properly support and equip these volunteers. From providing volunteer training and safety resources to coordinating volunteer teams and recognizing the incredible contributions they make, this revenue helps create the structure that allows volunteers to thrive and continue making a meaningful impact. Simply put, when someone buys a ReStore 50/50 ticket, they are doing more than taking a chance to win, they are helping power the volunteer network that makes Habitat's work possible.



Jingle Bell Build

Now in its fourth year, Habitat for Humanity Okanagan's Jingle Bell Build once again brought together holiday spirit and community impact. Held at the historic Laurel Packinghouse, the festive evening welcomed corporate teams for a night of gingerbread creativity, friendly competition, and team building.

With the generous support of our title sponsor Traine Construction & Development, along with outstanding community sponsors and partners like BUTTCON, Norson Construction, and our Destination Habitat Sponsor the Kelowna International Airport (YLW) and long-time supporter BEEM Credit Union, the 2025 Jingle Bell Build became our most successful event yet.

Beyond building gingerbread houses, each participating Jingle Bell Build team rallied their networks to raise additional funds in support of affordable housing. The response was incredible, and thanks to their gingerbread building and fundraising efforts, the 2025 Jingle Bell Build raised more than \$44,000 to help support affordable homeownership for families in our community.

A special shout-out goes to H&H Custom Homes, who were new to the competition and took home the coveted Gingy Cup, an impressive debut victory.

To every sponsor, participant, and supporter we say thank you for making this event a joyful celebration of generosity, creativity, and teamwork. We're already looking forward to next year.



There's Snow Place Like Home – Christmas Appeal

Habitat for Humanity Okanagan's "There's Snow Place Like Home" Christmas Appeal was our most successful year-end campaign to date, raising more than \$31,000 in support of affordable homeownership for families in our community.

The campaign captured the spirit of the season in a unique and memorable way. Thanks to the generosity of Manteo Resort and the Laurel Packinghouse, the creative gingerbread masterpieces from our Jingle Bell Build were proudly displayed throughout the holidays, allowing the community to enjoy the festive creations while learning more about Habitat's mission.

Their support helped turn the campaign into a truly memorable holiday experience, one that inspired generosity, celebrated community creativity, and helped more families move closer to a safe and affordable place to call home.

Building Community Together

When Traine Construction & Development celebrated the ribbon cutting of their newest completed project, LaVida in Kelowna, the occasion also became an opportunity to give back to the community.

Through the leadership of the Traine Charitable Foundation, along with the support of their industry partners, the celebration helped raise an incredible \$30,000 in support of Habitat for Humanity Okanagan's affordable homeownership program. This generous contribution reflects the Traine team's deep commitment to building stronger communities and helping more families in the Okanagan access safe and affordable places to call home.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Traine's leaders, Lori and Matt Butler, whose vision and dedication continue to inspire and strengthen our community.



Thanks For
Your Support

[Kelowna Beer Week: Brewing Support for Habitat](#)

Habitat for Humanity Okanagan was thrilled to be the official charity for Kelowna Craft Beer Week 2025, and we're especially grateful to the local craft breweries that made it possible. Each participating brewery generously donated to Habitat Okanagan in recognition of the week and Habitat.

Their commitment demonstrates the power of local businesses coming together for a shared purpose helping families in the Okanagan access safe, stable, and affordable homes. Thanks to these breweries, Kelowna Craft Beer Week wasn't just a celebration of craft beer, it was a celebration of community impact.

[Christmas Market Chaos: Tent vs. Wind, Avalon Saves the Day](#)

It was a crisp late November morning at the Farmstrong Cidery outdoor Christmas market, and our Habitat 50/50 crew was about ready for the wonderful outdoor Christmas market to open... or so we thought. Before a single visitor arrived, our white rental tent apparently decided it was auditioning for the North Pole air show.

One gust, a wobble... and WHOOSH! Up it went, soaring down the hillside like it had wings. Through the field and the Habitat team were no match for its airborne antics. While there was no dramatic chase there were a few laughs once the tent landed, which was slightly worse for wear but thankfully was usable, and most importantly no one was hurt.

The real heroes? The Avalon Event Rental team. They not only repaired our rebellious rental tent but did so without charging a cent for its unscheduled flight or any damage. Now that's true Christmas spirit!

At Habitat, we know that whether it's runaway tents or unexpected challenges in building homes, teamwork, a sense of humor, and generous partners like Avalon always save the day.



GIFTS IN KIND
\$586,840



LOTTERY
\$493,750

TRAINE FOUNDATION
\$30,000

DR. COBBIN
\$10,000



TRAINE FOUNDATION



Danielle Smith
Director Resource Development



Homeowner Services




The past year was a period of continued momentum, growth, and meaningful progress as we advanced our commitment to sustainable, affordable homeownership.

We began the year by celebrating a major milestone on March 19, when two families were welcomed to their new homes in Lake County. This key ceremony marked the full occupancy of our 12-home affordable housing development, a fantastic achievement made possible through the collective efforts of staff, volunteers, donors, and community partners. The event brought together families, supporters, and staff in a heartfelt celebration, recognizing not just the completion of homes, but the beginning of new chapters filled with stability and opportunity.

In Peachland, we saw both transition and renewal within the program. A partner family, after 10 years in the program, moved on to purchase their dream home on the open market, an inspiring example of long-term success. This transition triggered a home buyback, and their departure created an opportunity for another young family to begin their journey, and we were proud to welcome this new family with a key ceremony in July.





In October, families in our Lake Country fourplex successfully transitioned onto mortgage model representing a significant step forward in the evolution of our program and its long-term sustainability.

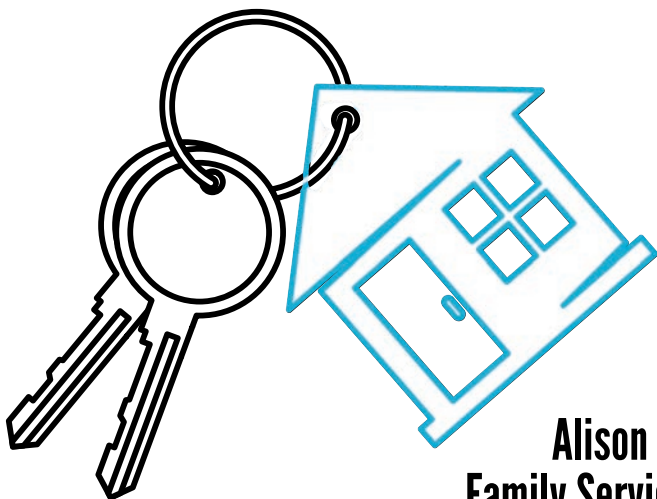
We also celebrated a major achievement in Rutland, where one partner family, Tamara, paid off her mortgage in full and became a homeowner outright after just seven years in the program. This milestone stood as a powerful testament to the effectiveness of our model in supporting families toward financial independence.

Throughout the year, we remained committed to walking alongside our partner families at every stage of their homeownership journey. We provided ongoing support with financial questions, strata living, and day-to-day challenges, ensuring families felt confident, informed, and supported in their homes. By fostering strong relationships and open communication, we continued to create a sense of stability and community that extends well beyond the front door.

Collaboration remained central to our progress. Through ongoing engagement with homeowner services teams across BC affiliates, policies were reviewed and strengthened in preparation for future recruitment campaigns and upcoming builds.

As we look ahead, we carry forward the lessons and successes of 2025, remaining focused on supporting our families, strengthening our systems, and ensuring the long-term sustainability of our program. Each milestone, challenge, and success continued to move us closer to our mission of bringing people together to build homes, communities and hope here in the Okanagan.

Thank you to our staff, volunteers, donors, and partners whose dedication made this work possible. Together, we continued to build not just homes, but brighter futures.



**Alison Miller,
Family Services Manager**



Peachland

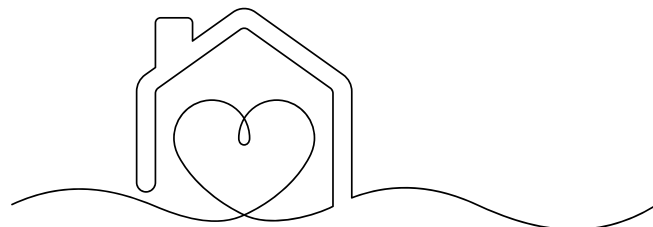
“My family joined the program after hearing about it from our relatives. They raised their two sons in a Habitat home and were eventually able to buy a home on their own. My husband and I desperately wanted to get out of the cycle of living month to month renting. We wanted to give our daughter the stability of owning but didn’t see it in our future. The Habitat program seemed like the perfect opportunity for us that we would not get anywhere else.

Josephine, Nicholas & Lilah

Our living situation prior to moving was in a neighbourhood that was very unsafe. There were frequent police and ambulance visits for our various neighbours due the presence of toxic drug poisonings, violence and abuse. Our basement suite where we raised our newborn for her first year had mold discovered and not properly treated. We only had one bedroom, as that was the price of the rental we could afford. The suite was not legal so there were safety issues like no fire escape from our room and many other issues that worried me.

Since moving to our Habitat home, I’ve noticed there is a lightness in our family that wasn’t there before. There’s no looming burden of trying to save for a down payment and then being set back by emergencies. There’s our physical health, like our asthma, which has improved from clean air. Our daughter has her own room now and her own yard to play in. We feel safe in our neighborhood, and I don’t worry about how our neighbourhood could impact our children negatively growing up. I’m so grateful for the Habitat program for changing so many outcomes for my family and my children that will go on for generations.”

-Josephine



Lake Country

“My life before this home was one of adventure. I worked in the film industry in Vancouver for many years, where I fell in love, and together we travelled across North America in a 1969 Volkswagen camper van. We were married in 2016 and shortly after began building a life together in the Okanagan.

In 2020, everything changed. I became a widow while pregnant with my second child, with a one-year-old already in my arms. The combination of losing my husband and navigating life through COVID left me feeling unanchored and uncertain about the future. Stability felt out of reach, and for a time, I was simply trying to find my footing again.

Over the past several years, I have worked hard to rebuild my life and create a sense of security for my children. It has been a gradual and intentional process, one rooted in resilience, growth, and determination to provide a stable and loving home.

Being accepted into the Habitat for Humanity program has been truly life-changing for us. It is not an opportunity I ever imagined would be possible in the foreseeable future. For the first time in years, we are no longer moving from rental to rental. Instead, we are building something lasting. My children can choose the colours of their bedrooms, and I can hang pictures knowing they will stay on the walls. These may seem like small things, but they represent a level of stability and belonging that means everything to our family.

We see this home not just as a place to live, but as the foundation for our future. I am fully committed to this program and to building a secure future for my children.

I am incredibly grateful that Habitat for Humanity took a chance on me. Your trust and support have given us more than housing - you have given us stability, hope, and the ability to truly move forward. Thank you for believing in our family.”

- Alicia, Payton & Winter





Betty, Didier Daniela, Jova & Miguel

“I was born in D.R Congo with one sibling and both parents. From the beginning of the first war in 1996 in the Democratic Republic of Congo, my family’s life changed completely. At first, the fighting mainly targeted government institutions, but in 1998 the conflict turned into a tribal war that targeted specific communities, including mine.

Before the war, my family lived a peaceful life through farming and raising cattle, goats, and sheep. During the conflict, everything was taken by other communities supported by government forces. Many people were killed, including my own brother. Young girls and women were taken captive — more than 260 women and girls from our community. Many were forced into marriage or kept as sexual slaves, according to those who were later rescued.

Our home was destroyed, our cattle were stolen, and my family became internally displaced. Since 1998, we have lived without a permanent home or stable income. Many of my family members became refugees in neighbouring countries.

Since receiving a Habitat home, our lives have completely changed. First, we now have mental and emotional stability. Second, we are able to save money and afford our monthly payments.

Having a home makes us feel safe. Our children know they can always come home and find us there. We no longer have to worry about moving from place to place. We finally have peace of mind, and now we truly feel that Canada is our home — a place where future generations of our family can live and grow.

“Thank you so much Habitat. God bless you.”
- Didier

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

500 + hours

Martina Harper
Klaus Grimm
Bill Lipsett
Tom Hanik
Jerry Heickle
Gavin Moss
Glenn Hutton
Grant MacWilliam



250-499 hours

Abel Martins
Carol Finlayson
David Johnson
Ken Finlayson
Doug Cade
Jane McKay
Robert VanDyke
Doreen Welsh
Gerry Betts
Gloria Betts
Gloria Johnston
Sandy Thompson
Colin Pritchard
John Degroot
Colleen Stefan
Armin Bergmann
Vickie Biddlecombe
Cayla McCarthy
Marcel Knittel
BJ Labossiere

Volunteer support continued to be the heart of Habitat for Humanity Okanagan throughout 2025. Across our four Okanagan ReStore locations, community events, and organizational initiatives, volunteers contributed their time, talents, and energy in ways that strengthened every part of our mission. From assisting customers and processing donations to supporting events and creating welcoming spaces, volunteers played an essential role in helping us bring people together to build homes, communities and hope.

This year also saw our youth volunteer program continue to grow and thrive, creating meaningful opportunities for young people to connect with their communities while developing valuable skills and experiences. Habitat Okanagan strengthened partnerships with local high schools across the region, welcoming students completing volunteer hours while giving them opportunities to build confidence, learn new skills, and see firsthand how community involvement creates meaningful change. We were also excited to welcome middle school leadership groups into our ReStores, introducing younger students to the value of service and creating opportunities for them to experience teamwork, leadership, and giving back in action. Watching youth engage with Habitat's mission and discover the impact they can have in their communities has been one of the most rewarding parts of the year.

Volunteer Appreciation Week provided an opportunity to pause and celebrate the incredible individuals who make so much of our work possible. Members of our Affiliate team visited all four ReStore locations to personally thank volunteers for the countless hours they dedicate throughout the year. Sharing meals, conversations, and moments of connection served as a reminder that volunteers contribute far more than hours alone. They create the welcoming, caring, and community focused culture that makes Habitat Okanagan special.

**TOTAL
VOLUNTEER
HOURS**

18,757

**RESTORE
VOLUNTEER
HOURS**

14,452



thank you



Courtney Clark
Community Engagement, Volunteer & Events Lead

2025 also brought special recognition for two exceptional volunteers. Klaus Grimm and Jett Dunford were each awarded the prestigious King Charles III Coronation Medal in recognition of their outstanding service and contributions to their communities. Their dedication and generosity reflect the spirit of volunteerism found throughout Habitat Okanagan and serve as a powerful reminder of the difference one person can make.

To every volunteer who gave their time to Habitat Okanagan in 2025, thank you. Whether volunteering weekly, participating in a raffle ticket event sales, completing school hours, or joining us for the first time, every contribution helped create meaningful impact across our communities.

As Habitat Okanagan continues to grow, volunteers remain a critical part of our mission. We are deeply grateful for every individual who has chosen to be part of the Habitat family and for the time, care, and heart they bring to our organization. Their impact reaches far beyond our ReStores and programs, helping strengthen communities across the Okanagan. For those looking to give back, connect with their community, or be part of something meaningful, there is always a place within Habitat Okanagan to make a difference.

2025

AT A GLANCE







THANK YOU!