



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Karin Todd,
Minnesota Housing Partnership
(651) 925-5549 or
Karin.todd@mhponline.org

Roxy Helmeid
Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota, Inc.
(612) 331-4439 Ext. 8 or
Roxy@hfhm.org

Habitat for Humanity's Sustainable Building Program Makes Homeownership More Affordable for Greater Minnesota Families

November 8, 2012 | Fillmore County, MN

Before partnering with Habitat for Humanity, the Corcoran family frequently moved from one substandard living situation to another. "We basically bounced around from homes that were unsafe, had no insulation, and made our utility bills really high," recall Danielle and Nick. The family had heating bills as high as \$500 in their apartment, and they still felt cold air drafts. After purchasing an energy-efficient Habitat for Humanity home, their electric bill has been cut in half and their heating bill is about a tenth of what they used to pay.



Recognizing high utility costs can make homeownership difficult for low-income families, in 2008 Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota created the Sustainable Building Program (SBP). SBP promotes energy-efficiency and healthy indoor air quality, which helps decrease utility costs and improve the quality of living for Habitat homeowners. As a result, families save an average of \$285 in annual heating costs.



The Corcoran Family

Since the inception of SBP, Greater Minnesota Habitat affiliates have built 87 homes that meet stringent Minnesota Green Communities Criteria. Ninety-four percent of Habitat homes in Greater Minnesota in this year's pipeline will also be built to these standards.

"Before we had no idea what was going to happen from one week to the next as far as our finances because the bills were outrageous. Now they basically come in the same dollar amounts every time. Having our mortgage be less than our rent, not to mention lower gas bills, has made a big difference."

Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota's Sustainable Building Program is featured this month in the Minnesota Housing Partnership's [Impact Spotlight](#). The *Impact Spotlight* celebrates the work of affordable housing partners in creating healthy, sustainable communities. Pace-setting projects are selected based on ingenuity in housing development and collaborative efforts linking housing for low-to-moderate income families to transportation, jobs, or services.

About HFH-MN: Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota, Inc., (www.hfhm.org) is a state-wide resource development and support organization that serves, advocates for, and advances the

Minnesota Housing Partnership (MHP - 2446 University Ave W. - Ste 140 | St. Paul, MN 55114) is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

work of Minnesota's Habitat for Humanity affiliates to build simple, decent, affordable housing in partnership with people in need.

About MHP: The Minnesota Housing Partnership (www.mhponline.org) supports affordable housing development for low- and moderate-income people to strengthen Minnesota communities and families. MHP provides information, consulting, training, resources and advocacy for communities to bolster options for safe and affordable housing.

###