Wolf River Habitat for Humanity (WRHFH) Highlights

* Started in 1976 in Americas, Georgia by Millard Fuller (not Jimmy Carter!)
* Now international, with thousands of affiliates including WRHFH.
* Based on Christian biblical principles of helping others, not charging interest, tithing 10% of donations to other country Habitat affiliates. Also the philosophy of not giving a handout to people less fortunate, rather give them an opportunity to improve their circumstances.
* WRHFH started 1998, originally based in Gresham, supported by Church of the Wilderness. Some of the original members still active including Dorothy Foster who is on the board.
* Idea is to choose a family who would not qualify for a commercial loan who lives in substandard housing (unsafe, unsanitary, dilapidated, etc.) Community of volunteers and family then work together to build a simple, decent, affordable home. The house is then sold to the family without profit and the family pays it back to Habitat with their monthly no interest mortgage which makes it very affordable.
* Families put in 250 hours of work for each adult or what we call “sweat equity”. So a couple needs to put in 500 hours of work (some of the hours can come from family and friends helping.)
* Families need to pay their monthly mortgage but also insurance and taxes each month which go into an escrow account with Habitat who then pays the bill at the end of the year. So we are the “bank”, if folks don’t pay, then we can’t build more homes as fast.
* WRHFH has built 16 homes, one has been paid off, one is in foreclosure proceedings and the 17th home is almost finished.
* The local affiliate has one paid employee, Mark Flunker who is our Construction Supervisor for the building part, also does a little executive director work. When we build homes, we do hire out electricians, plumbers, work with the high school building classes when we build in Shawano.
* All the other people involved in WRHFH are volunteers. We may be hiring a part time person to help with the store.
* We raise all the money for the building of a home. The mortgage payments that we receive each month from the 14 homes go back into building homes. Money is also raised through cash donations, fundraisers like our golf outing in August at Pine Hills and the store.
* Our store has been going since 2011, we sell donated furniture, building supplies, used windows, doors, plumbing supplies, appliances and odds and ends. People donate their unwanted items, we then fix them or sell them outright at discounted prices.
* Other affiliates have official ReStores which do essentially the same thing as our store but they are able to advertise, have companies donate new items. We are too small for this, so we are essentially a second hand store.
* 15 member board of directors. Roger is treasurer, Kevin is vice president, Ross secretary and Darci President. Elections in April for officers. Board members serve a 3 year term. Meetings once a month, also assigned to one of the 5 committees of your choosing-Building and Site Selection, Development and Church Relations, Volunteer, Store, Family Selection and Nurture Committees.
* We have a website: wrhabitat.org, also facebook. There is also a Habitat International website MyHabitat that has a ton of info about Habitat-create an account.