



Lawrence
Habitat
for Humanity®

2025 ANNUAL REVIEW

a note from our executive director

When I reflect on this past year, I keep returning to the quote by The Rev. David Johnson that is hanging in our conference room, “When the history of Habitat is written, the actual houses may be the least important part of the story...the walls broken down may be more impressive than the best walls put up.” While we are proud of every home built and repaired, what truly defines our work is the way this community shows up for one another – neighbors becoming partners, barriers giving way to opportunity, and hope taking root where it’s needed most. This year, because of you – our donors, volunteers, and community partners – we didn’t just build homes; we strengthened relationships, expanded access, and moved closer to a community where everyone has a safe, stable place to call home. I am deeply grateful for your generosity and commitment to this mission. Together, we are building far more than houses; we are building a future grounded in dignity, stability, and belonging.

staff and board connections

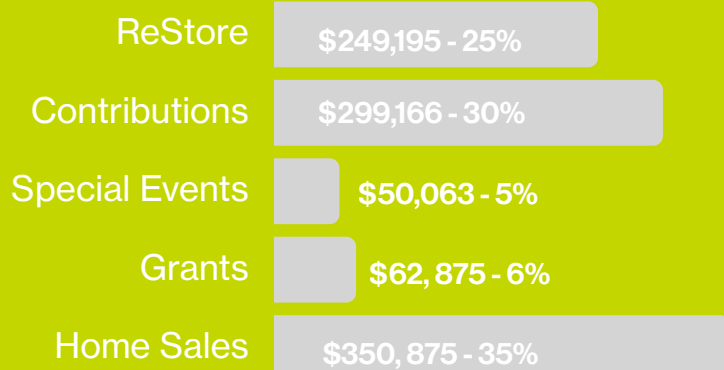
Erika Zimmerman, Executive Director, 10 years
Jeremiah Adams, ReStore Associate, < 1 year
Barb Armbrister, Office Manager, 12 years
Persephone Fae, ReStore Associate, < 1 year
Mel Kientz, ReStore Associate, < 1 year
Kelley Perme-Johnson, Program Manager, 2 years
Lisa Purdon, ReStore Manager, 1 year
Pat Quaranta, Construction Manager, 1 year
Stacie Salverson-Schroeder, Assistant Director, 8 years
Doug Tilghman, Office Assistant, 1 year

2025 Board of Directors:

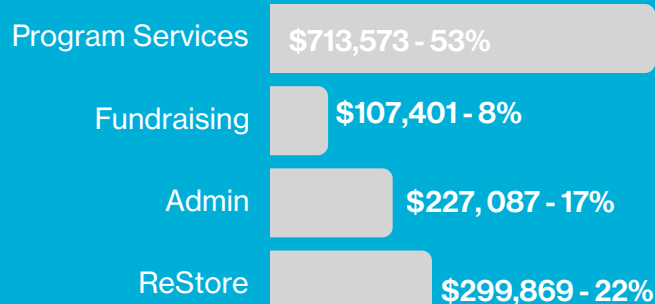
Landon Berquist, Jacob Brewer, George Diepenbrock, Heidi Garcia, Leah Henderson, Chad Hess, Chris Mann, Kristina Mease, Marsha Page-White, Maria Pope, Karena Schmitendorf, Doug Tilghman, Robyn Wagner, Demetria White

a year in review

Source of Funds - FY 2025



Use of Funds - FY 2025



event review



ReCreate & Celebrate Contest & Auction

An after-hours celebration featuring upcycled ReStore items, high-end raffles, local food stations, beverages and live entertainment held every spring. ReCreate Contest entries are items chosen from the ReStore and upcycled by local community members. Entries are judged on creativity, showmanship, quality of design and execution.



Women Build Gala

The Lawrence Habitat for Humanity Women Build program is a community-driven initiative that empowers women to play a leading role in addressing the need for safe, affordable housing in Lawrence. Women Build brings together volunteers, advocates, and sponsors from all backgrounds to raise funds, build homes, and support families working toward homeownership. Through volunteer build days, community partnerships, and generous sponsorship support, Women Build strengthens families, builds stability, and creates lasting change – one home at a time.



Holiday Homes Tour

The Annual Holiday Homes Tour featured six homes in Lawrence that festively decorated for the holiday season, put on display and toured by over 350 attendees.



volunteer efforts

Volunteers of all skill levels work together to complete Lawrence Habitat's mission of building and repairing affordable housing. From working on the build site to serving on our board of directors to helping on the ReStore sales floor, volunteers are crucial to our mission. They amplify our work, help build stronger communities, and bring about positive change.

of volunteers: 375

of volunteer hours: 11,594



volunteer connection



Mary Head, Lawrence Habitat Volunteer

After retiring, Mary Head was looking for ways to serve the community, and because she greatly admired Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter and their work with Habitat for Humanity, she decided to volunteer with Lawrence Habitat and the Lawrence Habitat ReStore.

When Mary first began volunteering in early 2020, her role at the ReStore was usually to shelf donations that had already been priced. Mary chuckles as she recalls, "Unfortunately, in a few cases, I had no idea what some of the objects were, so I would occasionally stop a trades person shopping in the store to help me identify and properly place the items. I loved those interactions. Over the years, I've come to recognize most everything that is donated."

Volunteering at the ReStore became more than stocking shelves and pricing items. Over time the volunteers and staff of Lawrence Habitat have become family to Mary. She shares, "when I was injured in an accident a few years ago, this family stepped up to help me with meals while I was out of circulation. Over the years, I have felt blessed to work with the volunteers and staff of Habitat who remind me of the goodness and caring in our world."

At Lawrence Habitat, Mary is considered one of the "regulars" working a volunteer shift weekly. Her passion, excitement, and friendly smile have greeted thousands of shoppers, donors, and families. Mary is truly an ambassador of our mission, sharing how each purchase supports building and repairing affordable housing, connecting customers to our cause and motivating others to get involved.

community engagement and advocacy efforts

Winter Weatherization Kits

With the generous support of the Douglas County Community Foundation and our generous donors, we distributed 150 winter weatherization kits to community members to help them to keep their houses or apartments a little warmer in the cold winter months.

Left: Will Diepenbrock & Kauvia Zimmerman handing out kits.



State and Local Government Outreach

Alongside other Kansas Habitat affiliates, Lawrence Habitat representatives met with state officials and representative to discuss policies and actions to increase affordable housing support statewide.

Left: Kelley Perme-Johnson, Erika Zimmerman, and Stacie Salverson-Schroeder, Lawrence Habitat staff at the Kansas Capitol.



Community Engagement

Community engagement activities foster a community-centered approach to our mission. They give us an opportunity to spread awareness of our mission, programs, and successes, while informing and involving the community at large. As a part of our strategic planning, Lawrence Habitat uses community engagement to create connections with the people we serve, other organizations, and business partners.

Top left: Tabling at the Lawrence Pride Celebration

Top right: Tabling at the Earth Day Celebration

Bottom left: Distributing Fire Safety Kits

Bottom right: Annual Fall Clean-Up Event for Aging in Place Families



ReStore Happenings

The ReStore isn't like any other store. We have a unique opportunity to serve the community while raising funds for our mission, and have a little fun while we're at it. In 2025, we hosted a ReStore birthday party complete with popcorn and cotton candy. We welcomed San-Dee Claus back to the store for after-hour holiday shopping and we hosted two DIY workshops.

We also had the wonderful opportunity to start a Furniture Voucher program with grant funding from the Lawrence Board of Realtors and the Douglas County Community Foundation. In 2025, we assisted 25+ families with their furniture, appliances, or other home accessory needs.

Top: DIY Workshop (Fan Blade Decor)

Bottom: San-dee Claus at the ReStore / After-hours Holiday Shopping Experience



building sustainable housing



Left: House #108 / Right: core volunteers at the build site

Moderate-income housing is crucial for fostering economic stability, supporting a stable workforce, and providing households the opportunity to build generational wealth. It helps eliminate rent burden for middle-income earners (e.g., teachers, healthcare staff), and boosts local economies by allowing residents to spend more on goods and services.

Habitat house #108 is the fourth and final moderate-income home built in Eudora by Lawrence Habitat. This home located on Spruce street features an open concept floor plan with three bedrooms and one and a half bathrooms.

preserving affordable housing

Affordable housing is a crisis in nearly every community. Housing preservation is just as urgent, as the current affordable housing stock deteriorates, especially for low-income homeowners lacking the resources to invest in replacing critical systems and equipment. Without completing necessary home repairs, a home can become a threat to the health, safety, security, and financial well-being of low-income residents. Lawrence Habitat's critical home repair program is vitally important, addressing housing inadequacy among homeowners with limited resources and/or physical limitations. We partnered with 15 families in 2025 to complete necessary home repairs like new roofs, ramps, plumbing, and heating and cooling systems, ensuring affordable housing remains affordable and homes are safe, healthy, and decent for years to come.

“I appreciate all of the work performed and the wonderful team from Lawrence Habitat.” - Ruth C., Repair Homeowner

Ruth represents just one of many families we partnered with in 2025 to complete necessary repairs.

- 3 new windows - Ruth can now open these three windows adding safety to her home and the ability to enjoy fresh air.
- Repaired range hood vent - Ruth can now cook safely in her home.
- New back porch and front porch railing/steps repair - Ruth can now enter and exit her home safely.
- New skirting - Ruth's home is now protected from the outside elements.

diverting reusable materials

Have you shopped at the Lawrence Habitat ReStore lately? It's a brand new shopping experience for the same wonderful cause! In 2025, we created a new donation process, new signage, and new discount codes to enhance the shopping experience while raising additional funds for our mission. The items featured at the ReStore range from unique antiques and collectibles to everyday building materials, plumbing supplies, lighting, and more.

More than 336 tons of reusable material, including furniture, lighting, doors, windows, and appliances were diverted from the landfill and sold at the Lawrence ReStore in 2025.

Q & A Feature with Lisa Purdon, ReStore Manager

What does a typical day look like at the Lawrence Habitat ReStore?

From start to finish, every day is different than the next. You never know what unique donations, donors, customers, situations will arise in any given day and make it mostly, very interesting! Our team delights in seeing what donations come in and especially hearing from customers how happy they were to find exactly what they were looking for.

How do you decide what gets displayed or highlighted in the ReStore?

With a background in fine arts and theatre set design, this is my jam and a great source of fun. Things seem to come together. A little bit magic, but again, everything begins with our donors. They bring us gems: utilitarian to rare antiques. Curated collections form themselves and my job is to pay attention and start saving for a great set-up or display. It's kind of our daily mission to make those observations and anticipate what is coming up and how we can creatively feature these items!

How do donations from the community shape what the store becomes?

My mantra: it's all about the donors! It's so interesting that what comes to us is really curated by our donors. So, a sofa is a sofa, right? Oh no! There are sofas and then... there are gorgeous sofas. There are tables, but then we see things like solid oak, made in North Carolina, in mint condition. Antique Windsor chairs, and hand-painted portraits from early 1900's, Danish Modern, Hollywood Regency, and the vast variety of tools, from contemporary, brand new or barely-used power tools to 19th-Century German chisel sets... Our community's generosity is truly awe-inspiring to our whole team. Every day we say, "It's ReStore, anything's possible!"



a look ahead... 2026 calendar of events

June, October & December (Dates TBD)
DIY Workshops (Lawrence Habitat ReStore)

Thursday, April 30, 2026 5:30 pm
ReCreate & Celebrate (Lawrence Habitat ReStore)

Saturday, September 19, 2026
ReStore Birthday Party (Lawrence Habitat ReStore)

Friday, October 2, 2026 7:00 pm
Women Build Gala (The Jayhawk Club)

Sunday, December 6, 2026 12:00 - 5:00 pm
Holiday Homes Tour

For more information on an upcoming event, please contact stacie@lawrencehabitat.org.



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