



A Fresh Start: Misty and Rhys' Journey to Homeownership



For Misty and Rhys, home has often been a fleeting thing. Misty grew up in the local area, moving between rentals before her parents finally purchased a home. Rhys's childhood was more transient, born in Oceanside, California, he moved frequently across the country, never staying long enough to plant roots.

They were living in a small, aging trailer with their daughters, where concerns about safety and air quality weighed heavily and cost of home repairs remained out of reach. When Misty learned they'd been accepted as a Habitat for Humanity partner family, the couple threw themselves into the process. They've spent hours volunteering on their own home, helping other partner families, and pitching in at the Habitat ReStore.

They say the support from their small circle of friends, their church, their daughters' school, and their employers has meant everything. The stability of homeownership means more than just a roof over their heads; it's a foundation for a healthier, happier future.

They dream of more than just four walls. Misty hopes to focus on her health, go to the gym more, and eventually find work that brings greater satisfaction and income. Rhys is eager to learn about investing and building long-term security. Together, they look forward to doing more as a family, including camping trips, weekend getaways, and simple joys like sleeping in an extra hour.

As the partner family for Itasca County Habitat for Humanity's 51st home, Misty and Rhys are ready for this next chapter. This house won't just be a place to live, it will be where their family's roots finally take hold. You can help! A donation of your time, talent, or treasure can help make the dream of home ownership come true for this family.

Building for Tomorrow: Save the Date Tuesday, Nov. 18!

Itasca County Habitat for Humanity invites you to join us at "Building for Tomorrow", an inspiring and fun-filled fundraising event on Tuesday, November 18, 2025, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the Cohasset Community Center, 305 NW 1st Ave. This special fundraiser will celebrate the heart of our mission while raising vital support for building safe, affordable homes in our community.

The evening will feature Mission Moments with our partner families, offering guests the opportunity to hear firsthand how homeownership has changed their lives. Attendees may also enjoy a guided tour of our innovative net-zero home in Cohasset, featuring advanced energy-efficient technologies like triple-pane windows, LED lighting, R45 insulated walls and R70 roof, and extra slab insulation. These features will dramatically reduce energy consumption and environmental impact. Appetizers will be served.

Mark your calendars and plan to join us! If you're unable to attend the event, please consider giving a donation during Give to the Max Day on Thursday, November 20 at www.givemn.org/organization/ItascaHabitat. Together, we can continue building homes, communities, and hope for families across Itasca County.

Building a Stable and Lasting Future through Homeownership

We are excited to welcome Deb and her grandson Abram as the future homeowners of our 52nd Habitat home. Deb grew up in Detroit Lakes, MN, and has lived in several parts of the country. She moved to the Calumet area seven years ago at age 63 to be closer to her daughter and grandchildren. A 1993 nursing program graduate, Deb is now retired but has held a variety of jobs, most recently working as a self-employed cleaner.

Deb is the proud grandmother of five. Her youngest grandson, Abram, is autistic and has been in her care since age 11. Deb lives near a Habitat home and stopped by to ask about it. Feeling a nudge from God, she applied and was accepted. Deb has rented her entire life and is looking forward to owning her first home.

Their new Habitat home will be life-changing, providing an environment that supports Abram's needs and allows him to be his exuberant self. Having a back yard where they can have a pool and trampoline will help him stay active and engaged. The home also has an extra bedroom, which Deb plans to use as a sensory room to give Abram a safe and calming space when he needs it.

We invite you to join us in supporting Deb and her family. Please consider donating to Itasca County Habitat for Humanity or volunteering your time to help build homes and hope in our community.



Itasca County Partnership Diverts Usable Items from Landfill

Itasca County, in partnership with Itasca County Habitat for Humanity, recently launched a program to help keep usable items out of the landfill, while also providing quality goods such as furniture, appliances, and building materials that can be sold at Itasca Habitat's ReStore.



The county recently placed an enclosed roll-off container at the Bray Lake Canister Site in the Balsam Township. The container site attendants were given a list of acceptable items, along with instructions on how to load them. In a short time, the container was about a quarter full of some very nice items. Itasca County is working with Balsam Township to share information about the program with their residents through flyers and social media. There is also a collection site at the transfer station on E. Bass Lake Road.

So far this year, the ReStore has diverted more than 864,000 pounds of usable goods from the landfill, and this new partnership will help us make an even bigger impact. Funds generated by the ReStore are reinvested into building safe, affordable homes in Itasca County.

Return Donation in Provided Envelope



Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____



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Donate on-line or find out more at www.itscahabitat.org or by calling 218.999.9001