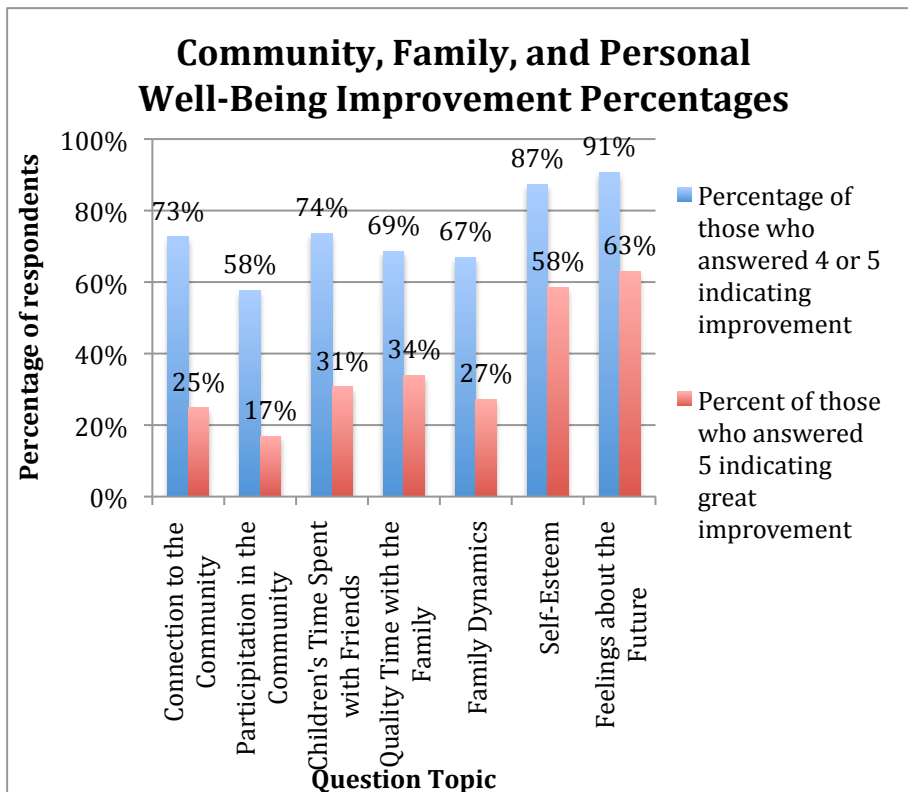


# Community, Family, and Personal Well-Being Of Habitat Partner Families



In 2011, Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota conducted a homeowner impact pilot study\* and found many Habitat homeowners saw great improvement in their lives in regards to Community, Family, and Personal Well-Being. Here's what homeowners had to say:

- “The security of having a permanent home has helped a lot. Moving from rentals and not being in one neighborhood or school made having long term friends hard for the girls. **Now we are a part of a neighborhood and it's much more stable for the girls and I. Since being here, we've started giving back by donating time to Special Olympics, volunteering at school, Key Club, and joining Upward Bound.** The girls are planning for college and really working at their grades.”
- “Never would we have been able to get a house without Habitat. [It] **gave my children a chance to be kids-play outside and have friends come over without being embarrassed or ashamed.**”
- “**We get along a lot better.** Before we got our home, we always fought just about little things. Now we hardly ever fight.”
- “**Habitat allowed me the chance to be better. A better person, able to manage money and time better, which in turn gave me more time to be a better parent. I have become a part of the community by being involved in the program and helping others.**”



- **73%** of homeowners said they **felt more connected to the community**
- **69%** said they **spent more quality time with their family**
- **67%** said their family **gets along better**
- **87%** homeowners said they **feel better about themselves, and 58%** said they **feel much better about themselves**
- **91%** homeowners said they **feel more positive about the future, and 63%** said they **felt much more positive**

\*The 2011 Homeowner Impact Pilot Study collected data from a non-random sample of 261 Habitat for Humanity homeowners from 7 affiliates in Greater Minnesota. This data cannot necessarily be generalized to the entire state of Minnesota.

For more information visit <http://www.hfhamn.org>

# Homeowner Impact Stories of Community, Family, and Personal Well-Being



## *Building Homes, Building Community*



Before Troy, a single father of two, moved into his Habitat home, he didn't know many people in the community. However, in 2006 he began the Habitat building process, and he started meeting more and more members of the community. As Troy said, "I met some people, and then I met more people, and now I know everybody!" Troy is now involved with multiple community organizations; he is the Executive Director of the Lake Vermillion Chamber of Commerce, is on the St. Louis County School Board, and is on the Tower Economic Development Authority to name a few. Troy attributes his involvement in all of these community organizations to the Habitat process. He said it's "because I knew people from building and then networked out from there; that's how I got involved in all this stuff."

Troy also runs a web business that has been positively affected by his move and involvement in the community. He says word of mouth is the best advertising for his business, and being well known in the community has definitely helped his advertising. Troy also commented that he was in the news and paper a lot while building his Habitat home, even though he was not too keen on public speaking at the time. He said now he deals with the press all the time in his various activities, and his experience with Habitat helped him find a comfortable spot in the public eye.

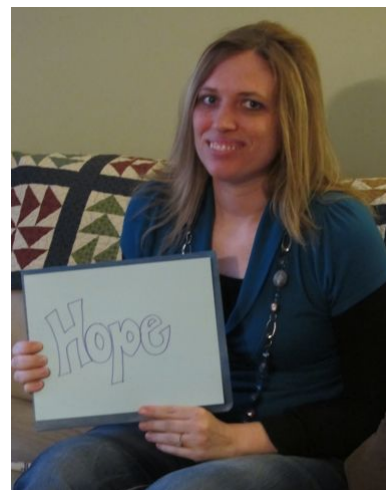
"Getting involved in the community was the biggest thing for me."  
-Habitat Homeowner

When asked for one word to describe his experience with Habitat he decided on, "Community...because that's really what happens. It's the people you meet; it's the people that come together and get to build; it's the families that move into the community. It's all of that."

## *A New Home Leads to New Hope*

About 5 years ago, Korrin's family was struck with tragedy when her husband and father of her two children passed away in their apartment. In addition to dealing with the grief of losing a close family member, his death left the family financially unstable with only one income earner. As Korrin recalled, "Before, Greg and I both worked, and then when he was gone, I couldn't afford the apartment anymore." Korrin then applied for a Habitat home where her mortgage payment would be less than her apartment rent.

During the building process of her Habitat home, she was met with a flood of support from the community, which allowed her to become close with some of the volunteers and neighbors. She recalled, "It was really neat to see all the support from different people that I didn't know throughout the community and even throughout the state... it was just a really good feeling." In addition to feeling support from her community, Korrin felt a new sense of hope with her Habitat home. She said, "I went into a very deep depression for a while, but then when this [Habitat home] came along, it helped pull me out because I had something else to look forward to... we're building a new future and we can move on."



She also says her family gets along better in their Habitat home. Her kids fight less than they did before, and she said, "I am able to spend more time with them and play with them instead of worrying about their next move." In many ways she says, "The home has provided a lot of healing for us."