

Educational Gain Of Habitat Partner Families

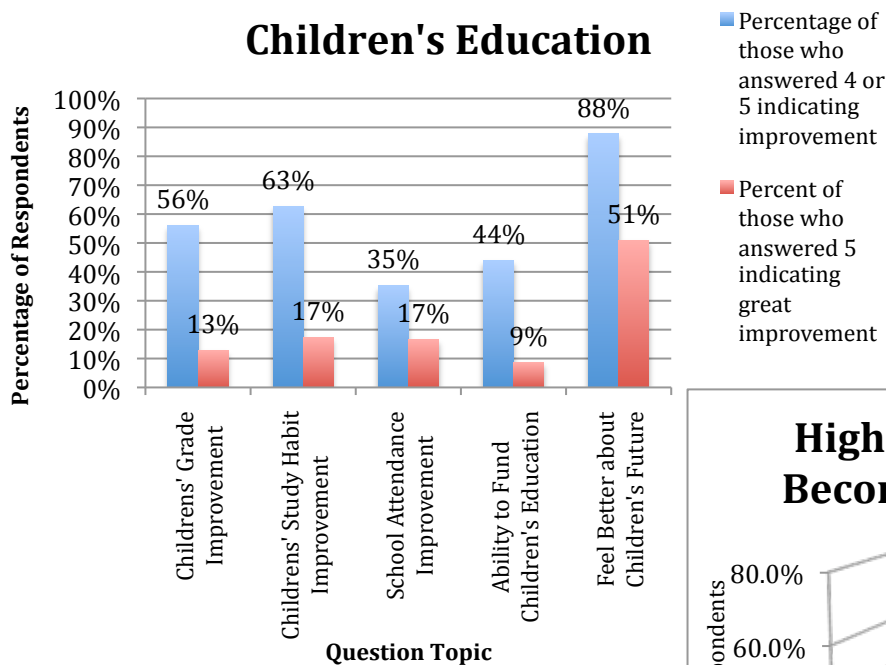


In 2011, Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota conducted a homeowner impact pilot study* and found many Habitat homeowners saw great improvement in their lives in regards to education.

Here's what homeowners had to say:

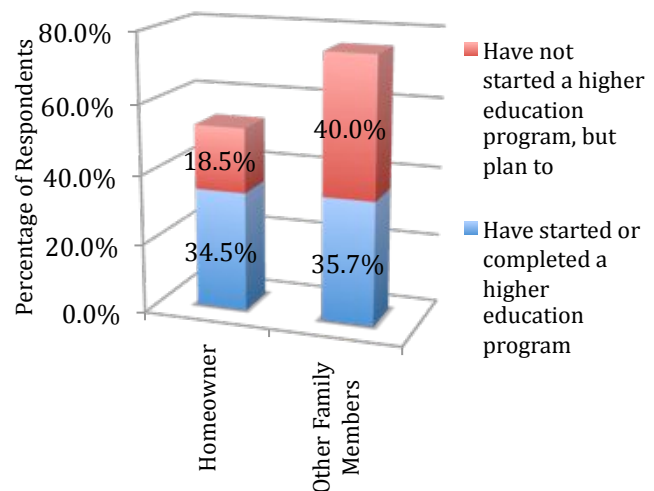
- "...If we wouldn't have gotten our home, I wouldn't have been able to go back to school and get a better job. I have been able to put money away for my kids education..."
- "The kids love the neighborhood and are able to ride their bikes. They are doing wonderfully in school. I have also gone back to school (while working) and earned an Associates degree."
- "Becoming a Habitat partner family has completely changed my life by giving me an important goal to work towards. It has given me an investment for the future of my children. Because I found I have so much more to live for, I have since quit smoking, began a healthier lifestyle, and am planning to earn a Bachelor's Degree."

Children's Education



- 88% of respondents said they feel better about their children's future and 51% felt much better
- 56% of respondents saw improvement in their children's grades and 63% in their study habits

Higher Education Since Becoming a Homeowner



- 53% of homeowners said they themselves have started, completed, or plan to start a higher education program
- 75% of homeowners said someone in their family has started, completed, or plans to start a higher education program

For more information visit www.hfhmn.org

*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.



Homeowner Impact Stories Of Educational Gain

From a Job to a Career: A Habitat Success Story of Further Education

One Minnesota Habitat homeowner has built a career on the education she received after building her Habitat home. Five years ago, her mobile home was in need of multiple repairs, and her utility bills were extremely high; it was not a conducive environment for focusing on education. After moving into her Habitat home, those issues were eliminated. When thinking about her three teenage boys, she said, "My kids felt a lot better. They brought friends over, they were proud of the house because they all helped do some of the work in it. They still do, they still like to show it off because... we helped do this."

The mother of three was able to focus on her own education and went back to school to become an RN. She attributes her ability to finish her higher education goals to having lower housing costs and "the security of knowing you have a safe place to live." Because she was able to go back to school, she has now been able to change from a job working in an office to a career in nursing. When asked about her new career, she said, "It's a lot better; it's a lot more responsibility...my passion is more in this area." She also added nonchalantly, "...and my income has basically doubled since then too." Because of her Habitat home, she was able to go back to school, follow her passions, and increase her income level. As she said, "I was able to move forward and now provide an even better life."



Educational Opportunities for a Family of Seven

Another Minnesota family found themselves living in the basement of a relative's house where mold and gas leaks were a huge issue. The space was incredibly small, and they were cooking on top of a washing machine. The mother of five children exclaimed, "There was nothing that was affordable...nobody at that time was taking 7 people in...Without the help of Habitat... I really don't know what we would've done!" The family became a Habitat family partner family almost 8 years ago, and have benefitted greatly from having a safe, decent, and affordable home, especially in regards to education.

After moving into their Habitat home, the mother said she was able to focus on her education and went back to school to get her GED. She now works for the school district in a job that she really enjoys. She said, "Without finishing school, I would never have been able to get [this job]." Additionally, the job allows her to have the same school holidays as her kids, which has meant a lot to her family.

The home has also helped greatly with the children's educational achievements. Although her children were younger when they moved into their Habitat home, she believes their grades improved after the move. She added, "There's no way it could've been done if we were still living there with three kids that are [school] age. There's no way with the studying that needs to be done and the work that needs to be done." Her children are doing well in school, and one is now a sophomore in college. She said ultimately, "I have a positive outlook for the kids, because what better opportunity do they have than to live in [this community]...and go to school."