

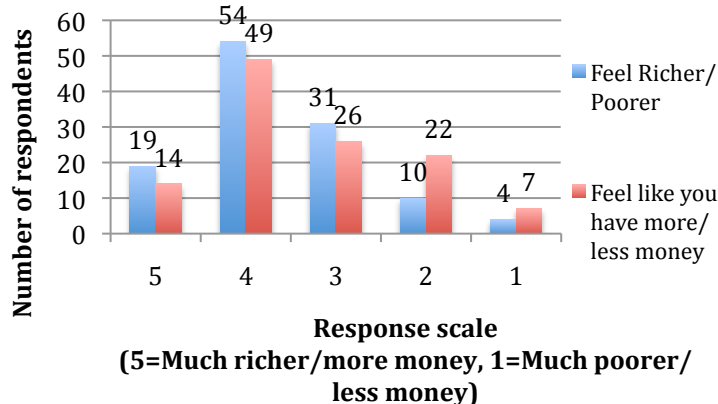
Financial Well-Being Of Habitat Partner Families



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 Financial Well-Being. Here's what homeowners had to say:

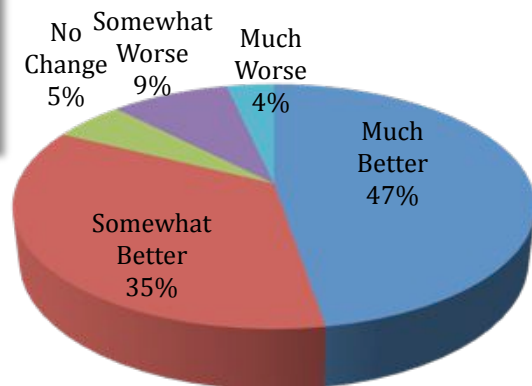
- "I am a business owner now. Having an affordable mortgage allowed me to achieve that goal. **Lower bills allowed me to be able to go back to school and raise kids without having to work 40+ hour/wk.** This helped me maintain a relationship with and be a good parent to my children and **achieve what I needed to do to better our lives without added stress and financial hardship.**"
- "My house payment is **very affordable** - on average, it's at least **\$200 less than average rent** payments..."
- "We feel so blessed. Now that we have partnered with Habitat, **we feel like we are going somewhere.** When we paid rent, we were never accomplishing anything, but Habitat made that possible for our family. We feel a lot more safe at home, and **we save a lot of money due to energy efficient appliances.** Habitat made all of our changes so easy for us and they were (are) always there to help."
- "I feel being a partner family jump started my life. In 2000 I changed from moving from job to job to a career... having this house was a blessing."

Feelings about Finances



- 62% of respondents say they **feel richer**
- 53% of respondents say they **feel like they have more money**

Quality of New Job



- 51% of respondents said someone in their household has **changed jobs**
- Of that 51%, **82% said their new job was better, and 47% said it was MUCH better!**

*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 www.hfhmn.org

Homeowner Impact Stories Of Financial Well-Being



Green Energy Savings

Danielle and Nick are proud to be new Habitat homeowners in 2011! The couple and their two children, Destiny and Dominick, ages 3 and 5, moved into their home in June, and they were looking forward to lower bills and having a home they could call their own. As Nick remarked about their previous living situation, "We basically bounced around from one apartment house to another; they all had no insulation. The bills were really high; we paid more for gas [heat] than we pay for [our] mortgage here in a month."

Nick noted one of the best parts about moving into their Habitat home was the financial stability and the consistency of their mortgage payments and utility bills. "Our electric bill is cut in half; our heat bill is about a tenth of what it was. I mean we're paying \$30-40 gas [heat] bills compared to \$300-400." He said they had even seen heat bills as high as \$500 or \$600 in their other apartment, and they still felt cold air drafts! They used government assistance to help pay for the steep energy bills, but in their Habitat home, they no longer have to use that support. Danielle said, "Considering what we've got here and what we rented, it's incredible."

While the parents love the lower bills, the kids love their own bedrooms. Dominick exclaimed, "I love my bedroom!" and Destiny said her favorite thing to do in the house was to "clean up her bedroom." Overall, the family is very happy to be in their home, and when asked for one word to describe their experience, they decided on "grateful."

Stability through Homeownership

Keeley has been in her Habitat home since 1994 and has been so thankful for the stability the home created in her life. Before Habitat, Keeley and her son had grown accustomed to moving frequently. As she recounted, "My son and I had moved about 15 times, and being that he was 14 when we were selected for the house, you know that's a lot of moving for a kid."

Keeley also bounced around from job to job in the years before becoming a Habitat homeowner. After moving into her Habitat home, she found a good, long-term job for a company that sells log home supplies where she still works as a literature coordinator. She commented, "I like where I work; I love it when it's busy. I love my bosses; I consider them friends of mine...I know where I am. It's stability, I'm all about stability." She also met her husband, Doug, at her current job. They married in 2001 on the deck of their Habitat house!



The happy couple held another exciting celebration this past year: a mortgage burning party! As Keeley noted, "My financial situation has been pretty much static over the last 12, 13, 14 years." That financial stability has allowed the couple to pay off their mortgage early, and in this economy, that is HUGE! To celebrate, the couple invited friends, family, and Habitat affiliate members to their home to watch them burn their mortgage in their backyard fire pit. Habitat made homeownership and financial stability a reality, and it gave her a "Home." Keeley now says, "I don't have to think about it anymore... I mean you want your own home. This is home. I'm never going to leave. I don't want to leave."