

## For Immediate Release

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### Leadership Transition at Habitat for Humanity Lakeside

*Executive Director, Sarah Beckman, To Step Down from Post This Fall*

**SHEBOYGAN, Wis. – October 1, 2021** – Following three-and-a-half years of service to Habitat for Humanity Lakeside as their Executive Director, Sarah Beckman, is set to step down from her post this fall.

“It has been an honor to serve this organization and this community over the past three years,” said Sarah Beckman, Executive Director at Habitat for Humanity Lakeside. “Due to illness in my family, I have

decided to move closer to family. This has been a difficult decision, but I know I am doing what is right for my family at this stage in my life.”



During Sarah’s tenure with Habitat the organization has experienced tremendous growth, and her leadership has helped the organization positively impact many families in Sheboygan County. Six families have purchased homes through Habitat’s Home Buyer Program, eight families have had home repairs completed through the county-wide Home Repair Program, and an additional 62 families

have had repairs completed during four Rock the Block events that have been held in four City of Sheboygan neighborhoods. In total, 76 families have had their housing situations improved during Sarah’s leadership tenure at Habitat.

Outside of families being served through Habitat’s housing programs, Sarah also worked to launch a 5-year strategic plan with the Board of Directors in the fall of 2019 and helped secure funding for capital improvements of Habitat’s facilities and ReStore located at 1911 N. 8<sup>th</sup> Street in Sheboygan, including LED lighting, a new handicap accessible entrance and added windows along 8<sup>th</sup> Street.

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“On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, I would like to thank Sarah for her service to our mission, staff, volunteers, donors and partner families,” said Ross Niemi, Board President of Habitat for Humanity Lakeside. “Sarah has positioned the organization for continued growth and success, and for that we are grateful.”

Currently the Habitat for Humanity Lakeside Board of Directors is in the final stages of forming a search committee to identify its next leader. The search committee will be led by Chad Fritz of Sargento Foods who is also the current Board of Directors Vice President. The Leadership Team at Habitat, consisting of Karina Berdyck, Director of Homeowner Services, Jon Hoffman, Construction Manager, Emily Fread, Development Director and Kendra Kelling, Volunteer & Community Engagement Manager, will continue operations of the affiliate in partnership with Sarah and the Board of Directors in the coming months. This includes the continuation of construction on the two new homes the organization is building on Erie Avenue in Sheboygan.

The public is encouraged to visit the Habitat for Humanity Lakeside website at [www.habitatlakeside.com](http://www.habitatlakeside.com) to view opportunities to donate or volunteer with the organization. This is also where updates on the leadership search, including the job, once it is posted, can be found.

Habitat for Humanity Lakeside is part of a global, nonprofit housing organization dedicated to eliminating substandard housing. In Sheboygan County, Habitat Lakeside operates four programs: ReStore, Home Buyer, Home Repair and Rock the Block. Since 1993, 134 families have benefitted from one of Habitat’s housing programs and thousands of others have shopped the ReStore. As both the general contractor and the lender for its housing programs Habitat prides itself on providing a hand-up, not a hand-out, to the low-to-moderate income families served by its mission. Habitat builds strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter.

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