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FEATURED

## Habitat for Humanity receives \$69,577 in donations after theft of tools

By Karen Pilarski - Freeman Staff  
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Melissa Songco, CEO of the Habitat for Humanity of Waukesha County, with tools donated to the nonprofit following the theft from a work site on Jan. 29, 2024.

Courtesy of Habitat for Humanity of Waukesha County

WAUKESHA – Following a theft of \$32,000 in tools, Habitat for Humanity of Waukesha County has received \$69,577 in donations. Habitat experienced an outpouring of support from the community, with generous donations of tools and funds to replace the stolen equipment.

On Jan. 30, Habitat staff and volunteers arrived at the Waukesha Domenica Park building site to discover that locks had been cut on the surrounding fence and two trailers, resulting in the theft of \$32,000 in power tools and equipment.

"(T)hese tools are essential for our work in providing affordable housing in Waukesha County, and their loss has greatly impacted our ability to continue our projects effectively," a Facebook post from the organization read.

After the theft, the nonprofit said construction was at a standstill, as two full trailers' worth of tools were missing. The theft was shared on Habitat for Humanity of Waukesha County's social media platforms, which quickly caught the attention of the media.

"The funds will be solely dedicated to purchasing replacement tools, enhancing security measures, and funding future tools and equipment as the organization progresses toward its long-term goal of constructing 20 units of affordable housing and completing 30 critical home repairs annually. The organization is collaborating closely with the Waukesha Police Department, and we commend the department for their incredible speed and diligence demonstrated throughout this ordeal," Habitat said in a press release.

Waukesha County community members and businesses stepped forward to lend their support, including: Milwaukee Tool, Eaton, Generac, Johnson Financial Group, Riverglen Christian Church, Bank FiveNine, Metropolitan Builders Association, First Federal Bank of Wisconsin, Tim O'Brien, MSI General, Porter Pipe & Supply, Peter Schwabe, Inc., Wallboard, Machine Automation Services, A-1 Creative Packaging, L.H. Krueger & Sons, Patriot Fence & Construction, Best Version Media, GRAEF, West Bend Mutual, La Grange United Methodist Church, Crossway Church, County Executive Paul Farrow, County Supervisor Larry Nelson, along with monetary and tool donations from more than 125 community members.

