

# Grand Rapids Wal-mart Makes Donation

*Donation funds raised by  
 harvesting timber from new  
 Wal-Mart supercenter site*

On October 18, officials from the city of Grand Rapids, Forests for Humanity, Habitat for Humanity, and Wal-Mart celebrated Wal-Mart's \$21,172 donation to four Habitat for Humanity affiliates to assist the organizations' home-building efforts across the state of Minnesota.

Wal-Mart's donation was funded by the sale of timber harvested from the new Grand Rapids Wal-Mart supercenter site, which is under construction.

Grand Rapids Mayor Jim Millis said, "I am extremely happy with Wal-Mart's donation and excited that the money will be used locally to help support Habitat in our community."

"Itasca County Habitat for Humanity is building three to four homes per year. The donation from Wal-Mart will help fund a portion of one of those homes this year," ex-

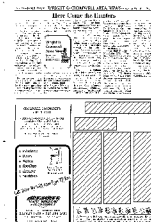
plained Shannon Benolken, executive director of Itasca County Habitat for Humanity. "We are excited to partner with Wal-Mart and the Forests for Humanity program, as sustainability and green living are in the forefront of our minds at Itasca County Habitat for Humanity." Benolken said that an example of Habitat's emphasis on sustainability is seen through its ReStore program, where usable building materials are diverted from landfills. The ReStore collects used and surplus building materials and sells them to the public, with the proceeds going toward building Habitat homes.

Wal-Mart coordinated the timber harvesting for this donation through its partnership with Forests for Humanity, a national program of the Society of American Foresters and Habitat for

Humanity that facilitates timber donations to help build Habitat homes. The Forests for Humanity program demonstrates, in a very real manner, the renewable life cycle of forests. Mature trees are harvested, and the timber is used to build homes.

To complete the cycle, Habitat homeowners can use some of the "sweat equity" they must expend to "earn" the keys to their new home (about 200 hours per adult) to plant trees or participate in other forest management activities in the vicinity of their community.

"We are thrilled to be able to use the timber harvested from our new supercenter site in a way that benefits the community," said Brandon Sharp, Grand Rapids Wal-Mart store manager. "Wal-Mart is proud to support our great community."



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