

## Stewardship Moment #2—Jessica Hodgson – October 25, 2020

“Start by doing what is necessary, then do what is possible, and soon you are doing the impossible.”

– St. Francis of Assisi

To say that this year has been challenging would be an understatement. The Covid-19 epidemic has not only challenged our economy, our educational systems, and our way of life, it has most certainly changed the way that we at Adoration practice our faith. That being said, I am so proud of how Adoration’s leadership has been able to pivot in order to meet not only the needs of its parishioners, but also those of our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the greater Milwaukee community.

As many of you know, I am the champion of Adoration’s partnership with Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity through Thrivent and their annual Faith Builds home. Habitat for Humanity is a faith-based organization whose emphasis is providing safe, affordable housing to families who have put in the time and effort to meet their rigorous criteria. This unique opportunity provides “a hand up, rather than a handout.” Adoration has partnered with Milwaukee Habitat for the last seven years through hours spent building on site, providing lunches to the crew, and making monetary donations.

This has also been a challenging year for Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity. Due to Covid-19, they have had to reduce the number of volunteers on each site per day, adjust the age requirements (both minimum and maximum) for volunteers, and adjust its practices to provide for additional sanitization of equipment between use by volunteers. Habitat leaders have also had to scale back the number of houses they had hoped to build this year, leaving them short of the 100-house mark they had set forth in their Midtown 100 Initiative.

Despite the challenges, both Adoration and Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity push on. At the beginning of the year (pre-pandemic), Adoration had pledged \$1,000 toward this year’s Faith Build home. The previous year, we had struggled to meet this same goal. I had hoped to run a tool drive following the service over Father’s Day weekend to help meet our goal, but with the building being closed, this fundraiser was put on hold. Rather than being discouraged and abandoning the original plan, I took the time during our “pause” to apply for a Thrivent Action Team and coordinated with the Council and Pastor Debra to hold the tool drive during one of Adoration’s Drive Thru Communion events.

Between monetary donations, in-kind tool donations, and the seed money from the Thrivent Action Team visa card, Adoration was able to raise just under \$1,300 to support Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity. Adoration members have also helped install windows in this year’s Faith Build home and are looking forward to installing drywall in the next month. Although we are unable to worship as usual and “pass the plate” to support our various partnerships in ministry, the Lord continues to work through us to be a light to our greater Milwaukee community.

~~Jessica Hodgson