

[Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity](#)

A Tailored Home, Safety at Last: Ron's Story

Ron woke to the smell of smoke. Then came the fire alarm. Relegated to a wheelchair and living on the third floor of his apartment building, he was all alone and there was no elevator. "I thought to myself there is no way I'm making it out of here on my own power," said Ron. "Thankfully, the firemen were able to pound my door down. Then they wrapped me in sheets and carried me down the stairs."

Scared of living alone after the fire, Ron, his girlfriend, Tari and her teenage daughter looked for apartments where they could live together. Finding an affordable place that was accessible for Ron's wheelchair and large enough to accommodate three was impossible. So they kept separate apartments, hoping someday they could afford a place for their family to call home.



One day, Ron came across an article about the need for affordable housing for disabled people. Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity was holding informational meetings. Ron and Tari braved a snowstorm to attend a meeting in Minneapolis. That very night they began the application process.

"It wasn't more than a couple months after the meeting that we received the call telling us we had been selected for a home in Plymouth," says Ron. "I was so thrilled to be a homeowner in the city I've lived in for the past 15 years." Twin Cities Habitat tailored a home for Ron's special needs—cupboards with shelves that slide out, lowered light switches, and specially positioned windows to help regulate Ron's delicate body temperature. He no longer deals with elevators or stairs and there are ramps leading to the front and back doors. Ron says, "It's been an absolute joy getting to know everyone we have come in contact with through this program."

Total TC LISC support: \$805,954 in grants and loans since 1994

Our COACTION Fund grantees share real life stories about the impact of their community development work on local residents. [COACTION Fund](#) is a \$3.3 million capacity-building effort to support 15 high-impact, local community development initiatives. The Fund focuses on new and existing partnerships between Twin Cities organizations working to connect physical improvements in neighborhoods to economic opportunity for residents.

Content and photo provided by [Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity](#)