


 RACHEL HAGENBAUGH
 605-630-3259
 PO BOX 1331 - Mitchell, SD 57301
 mitchellregionalhabitat@gmail.com

*Together, we can build strength,
stability, self-reliance, and shelter.
Join us in making a lasting impact
on our community.*

South Dakota Habitat Affiliates to Advocate for Affordable Housing in Washington, D.C.

Mitchell, SD – February 2025 – The Mitchell Regional Habitat for Humanity (MRHFH), in collaboration with Habitat affiliates from Brookings and the Black Hills, will proudly represent South Dakota at the upcoming Habitat on the Hill. This annual legislative conference for Habitat for Humanity is scheduled to be held in Washington, D.C., from February 11-13, 2025 to advocate for affordable housing.

Nationwide, housing costs are skyrocketing, leaving more families without access to a safe, affordable, and decent place to call home. Here in South Dakota, one in 11 households spends half or more of their income on housing. This growing crisis underscores the urgent need for action from lawmakers to support affordable housing solutions.

Executive Director Rachel Hagenbaugh of MRHFH, who received a rural scholarship to attend the event, will join her counterparts from Brookings and the Black Hills to meet with South Dakota’s congressional delegation, including Senator John Thune, Senator Mike Rounds, and Representative Dusty Johnson. These meetings will focus on advocating for policies that address the affordable housing shortage and sharing success stories from their communities.

“Our last 4-bedroom, 2-bath home sold for only \$170,000—remarkably below the cost of most new construction homes,” said Hagenbaugh. “That home wasn’t just a structure; it was a fresh start for a family who now has the stability to thrive. These are the stories we want our representatives to hear. Behind every policy is a family whose future depends on safe, affordable housing.”

“Every day, we see the toll that housing insecurity takes on families in our community,” Hagenbaugh added. “Parents are forced to choose between paying rent and buying groceries, and children are left without the stability of a permanent home. We are heading to Washington to ensure these families are seen, heard, and supported.”



John Thune

Dusty Johnson

Mike Rounds

Habitat on the Hill provides a platform for attendees to engage in workshops, collaborate with peers, and directly advocate for change. Together, South Dakota’s Habitat affiliates aim to amplify the voices of local families and bring attention to the critical need for affordable housing in both rural and urban areas.

Mitchell Regional Habitat for Humanity is thrilled to collaborate with Brookings and Black Hills Habitat affiliates, along with other affiliates from across the country, to elevate the voices of South Dakotans on a national platform. This united initiative aims to emphasize the significance of federal support in promoting local housing projects and enhancing the lives of families in need. By joining forces with affiliates nationwide, we can strengthen our advocacy efforts and create a more significant impact on housing issues that affect communities everywhere.

For more information about Habitat on the Hill, visit www.habitat.org/about/advocacy/habitat-on-the-hill. To learn more about the work of Mitchell Regional Habitat for Humanity, please contact Rachel Hagenbaugh at 605-630-3259 or email MitchellRegionalHabitat@gmail.com

About Mitchell Regional Habitat for Humanity:
Mitchell Regional Habitat for Humanity is dedicated to building strength, stability, and self-reliance through affordable housing, partnering with families, volunteers, and donors to foster community development.

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Date

February 2025



Habitat on the Hill 2025

Voices in Action, Building Toward Our Vision

February 11-13, 2025 • Washington, D.C.