

Budget Blinds Gives Back

Written By Jaime-Lynn Dyck - Photos Submitted

Since opening their doors 13 years ago, Sue Swarbrick from Budget Blinds Southwest and Southeastern Manitoba has been passionate about giving back to her community. Although she has been involved with many charities and events, Habitat for Humanity has been close to her heart. Her commitment stems from observing other franchisees' involvement and recognizing the synergy between Budget Blinds and Habitat for Humanity. "I had seen other franchisees working with and supporting the cause and knew it was a great fit for us," she recalls.

In 2018, Habitat for Humanity Manitoba, Brandon Chapter launched the Designer Bag Bingo, an annual fundraiser that has become a highlight in the community. The event offers participants the chance to win one of ten designer bags while enjoying a lively evening of bingo. Entirely volunteer-driven, all proceeds from this event support the Brandon Chapter's Women Build, helping to construct local Habitat homes. The organization also established the first Women Build committee in Brandon, coordinating the inaugural week of women's teams, the first Designer Bag Bingo, and various other fundraising events. The Brandon Chapter continues to host and actively promote Designer Bag Bingo annually, ensuring a large turnout of enthusiastic attendees, with ongoing support from dedicated volunteers and sponsors.

Sue and Gord Swarbrick have worked closely with the Brandon Chapter, extending beyond fundraising events. Over the years, she has worked closely with the organization, installing blinds in new homes and providing window coverings for more than 15 homes. As a vendor partner, Budget Blinds offers free labor and not-for-profit pricing, ensuring that each new homeowner receives quality window treatments. Sue and her team take immense pride in this behind-the-scenes role, understanding the profound importance of creating a comfortable and beautiful home for new Habitat families.



Bonnie Mills, the Community Engagement Manager for Habitat for Humanity, Brandon Chapter, speaks highly of Sue's influence and mentorship. "Sue has been a great mentor and support system to me since I started my role in 2019," Bonnie shares. Sue values her working relationship and friendship with Bonnie, appreciating her phenomenal work as the face of Habitat locally.

Sue challenges everyone to get involved with local organizations like Habitat for Humanity. Over the years, she has also dedicated her time to other local organizations such as The United Way, the Heart and Stroke Foundation, and KidSport. Her team has sponsored and assisted at numerous events, including golf tournaments like The Pinkest Owl. Through her unwavering support, Sue has not only helped build homes but has also strengthened the fabric of her community, embodying the true spirit of giving back.



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