



## A Custom Home for the Rounsville Family

Kayley and Aubrey Rounsville both grew up and attended school in the Itasca County area. They met as teenagers, became high school sweethearts, and have been together ever since. They have three children, Jay age six, Lincoln age four, and Peyton age one.

After high school Aubrey was traveling frequently for the pipeline when they found out they were expecting their first child. Just nine days after the birth of their son Jay, Aubrey was in a head-on collision, with a semi-truck. The whole right side of his body was crushed, requiring 13 surgeries and four months in the hospital before Aubrey was able to get back on the road to work.

Kayley and baby Jay tagged along with Aubrey as his job brought him to various states. This unfortunately lasted for only two months because Aubrey needed another surgery. Following this surgery he tried again to return to work but was unsuccessful. Working a physical job with pins and rods in his leg caused Aubrey to develop foot sores which lead to the amputation of some toes on his right foot.

During this time, Kayley and Aubrey learned they would be adding another baby to their family. At 34 weeks it was determined that Lincoln had medical issues, including seizures and possible brain damage. Kayley delivered Lincoln early, and over the next four years, they learned Lincoln would live in a wheelchair due to seizures, cerebral palsy, and other medical conditions.

In March of 2018, Kayley and Aubrey got married. By November of that year, due to all the damage in his right foot, Aubrey's lower right leg needed to be amputated. The couple adjusted as Aubrey learned to navigate life and fatherhood with a prosthetic leg and then welcomed the birth of their youngest child Peyton, in 2020.

Life is busy with three boys, and the Rounsville's face additional challenges their unique needs create. The family currently rents a multi-level home requiring them to transfer a wheelchair up and down several flights of stairs each day. Additionally, there are not enough outlets in Lincoln's bedroom to accommodate all of his medical equipment, and an undersized bathtub makes it difficult to bathe him. All of this impacts their quality of life.

In July, Itasca County Habitat for Humanity will break ground on their one-level three-bedroom home that will include wide hallways and doorways to accommodate Lincoln's wheelchair, as well as a roll-in shower. The Rounsville home will also have a garage and all the necessary sidewalks to seamlessly transition Lincoln from the car to the house and out to the road for catching the school bus. This open floor plan will make family time together enjoyably easier. When asked what having a tailored Habitat home will mean to them, Aubrey and Kayley stated, "a safe one level home that will allow enough room for Lincoln's needs will be amazing. Being close to the hospital in a quiet neighborhood where our boys can grow-up is a dream come true."

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## Nolette House Update



Lacy Nolette, a single mother of two children, Emry, age six and Esme, age four, was chosen as a partner family in 2021. Lacy is an Iraq Veteran who works for First Call for Help 211 where she gives back to people in need every day. However, due to the increase in cost, supply issues and lack of volunteers during COVID, Itasca Habitat chose to delay beginning construction on their house. The Board approved Nolette's slab to be completed in the fall of 2021 so that it would be ready to begin construction in the spring. These delays worked to the family's advantage when Itasca Habitat was asked to be a pilot program for a group called Minne Village. Minne Village is organized out of the Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity. These volunteers would normally go on Global Village trips to other countries, but this travel had been put on hold since 2020 due to COVID. These eleven Villagers stayed locally at Camp Hiawatha and volunteered for three full days on the Nolette house. They came during very cold spring weather and absolutely amazed us by building and sheeting all the walls in the house while they were here. Itasca Habitat would like to extend a huge Thank You to Twin Cities Habitat and all the Minne Village volunteers!

Since spring, individual volunteers, civic groups, and businesses have all come out to lend a hand. Sub-contractors too have gone above and beyond to keep us on track during their busy season. Lacy has been putting in many volunteer hours around her busy work and home life as well as selecting her cabinet color, counter tops, flooring, siding color, and shingles. All of this has moved the completion date to the end of August.

Lacy is asked to contribute 300 hours either working on her home or helping in Habitat ReStore. Friends, family, and community members can also donate their time to her. Thank you to all the volunteers, civic groups, businesses and sub-contractors for your valuable contributions!

If you would like to contribute to this wonderful family and help them finish their new home, please reach out to the Habitat office at 218.999.9001 or email [volunteering@itascahabitat.org](mailto:volunteering@itascahabitat.org).



Itasca ReStore is in the full swing of summer! With this being the store's busy season, there is so much to choose from such as furniture, appliances, building supplies, and more! How do we end up with all these great items? They're donated by the wonderful residents and businesses of Itasca County! We even offer a free pickup service to help donors haul away their larger items! Call to schedule a pick-up today at 218.999.9099.



Shopping and donating at the ReStore is environmentally friendly! Since the beginning of our fiscal year (July 2021), sales from our store have helped divert over 700,000 pounds of materials from the landfill! We also sell Amazon Select Paints, a low-cost, recycled latex paint offered in a variety of colors at a low price of only \$18 per gallon! Stop in and check out the store's constantly rotating selection of inventory, and help us reduce, re-use, and recycle!

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