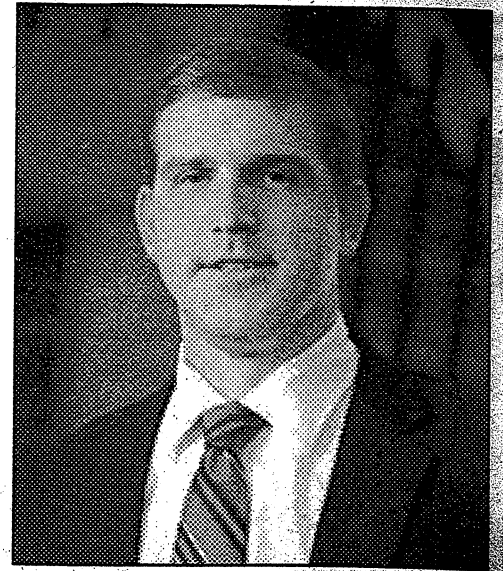


Ben McAninch is a Mankato trial lawyer litigating civil, insurance defense, agriculture, and probate cases. During Ben's free time he focuses on family; spending time with his beautiful wife, Jill, and three sons. Despite his crazy schedule he somehow manages to find time to volunteer in Habitat for Humanity of South Central MN's highest leadership position as the Affiliate Board President. Ben not only serves as Affiliate Board President, but is a master at carving out time in Leadership roles for Habitat over three years and counting.



Ben knows "busy" and has heart for ensuring everyone is afforded a safe place to call home. Ben completed law school at the University of Alabama-School of Law and started his career practicing for a litigation firm in Birmingham for seven years. Ben's experience in Alabama afforded him an opportunity to volunteer for the local Alabama Habitat Affiliate. Not only did this experience make him more of a fanatic to his alma mater's Crimson Tide football team, it also made him fanatic about Habitat. Just as Ben swung his hammer helping low-income families in need in Alabama, he carried this passion back to Minnesota. As Ben set roots back in Minnesota, he jumped at the opportunity to dedicate his leadership skills serving the Habitat for Humanity of South Central MN Affiliate Board.

As Ben reflects on the successes and stories of lives changed through local Habitat Programming, many moments strike him as outstanding. With Ben at the leadership helm, the Habitat ReStore is currently undergoing a large expansion project fueled by the hope of a successful Capital Campaign. The current HFHSCMN ReStore is leading the state in sales growth and awarded the "Best Practice Award" from Habitat MN for holding the highest sales increase in 2012. The key to HFHSCMN's success in serving families, in large part, depends on the success of the ReStore sales floor. Currently revenue from the ReStore funds one Habitat home a year. With a larger space, Habitat holds the ability to serve more low-income families in need. Ben is thrilled to be a large stake-holder in this important piece of Habitat history.

The highlight for any Habitat homeowner culminates when the blue print is real, and folks from all walks are gathering in the actual living room to dedicate and bless the homeowner in their new space. During these dedication ceremonies Ben derives immense humility and reward as he appreciates conversing with families whose lives move from one of uncertainty, to one of stability. The families are grateful and filled with gratitude and love for the Habitat organization, and at the time of home dedication, this phenomenon is contagious.

Habitat for Humanity of South Central Minnesota is honored to work with such an amazing person. Thank you, Ben, for helping steer the ship at Habitat. If you are interested in volunteering for Habitat for Humanity South Central Minnesota, like Ben, please contact Volunteer Coordinator, Kelli Hanson Magnuson, at 507-388-2081 ext. 2 or habitatsc@hickorytech.net