



REDEEMED

A Farmstead



## We are Redeemed

**H**ow does a story of loss end in a fairytale wedding? And not just one fairytale wedding but many fairytale weddings with many more to come? Julie and Jeff Gacek can tell you, over a glass of lemonade on the porch of their restored farmhouse, that while life can be difficult and painful at times, the journey doesn't end there and that there is much more in store if only you have a little faith.

The Gacek's purchased a century old farmstead in Scandia, MN back in 2013 with the intention of settling on it themselves. Julie grew up on a horse farm in Rice Lake, WI so going back to rural living was a natural move for her. And while Jeff grew up in the city, he too was drawn to life in the country and the farmstead spoke to both of them. They knew it was a special place and that they wanted to share it with others.

Redeemed Farm is a labor of love. The nine buildings that stood on the property, including a farmhouse, timber-framed barn, granary, machine shed, chicken

coop, and milk house were all well used and in need of repair. Julie and Jeff worked tirelessly for four years to meticulously restore each building with character and attention to detail. From circle-sawn boards to square bolts sourced from a warehouse in Oregon, not a detail was missed. There are even historic pavers incorporated into the design that were removed from University Avenue in St. Paul when the new Light Rail line was built.

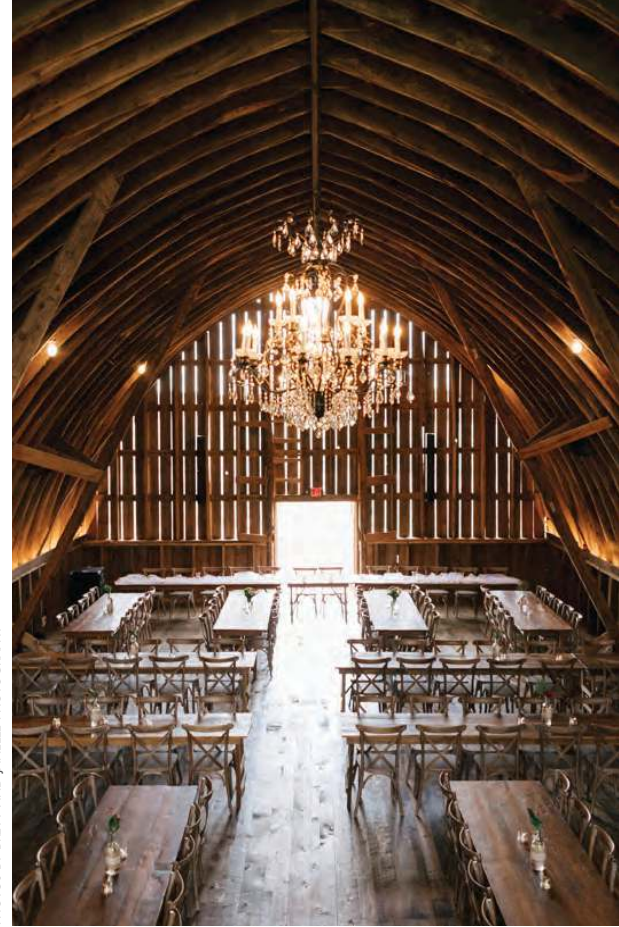
The newest addition to the farm is an 85 year-old dairy barn that was moved 3.5 miles to its new home at Redeemed Farm. While so many barns are being torn down, thus changing the landscape of the country, the Gaceks felt it was important to build from and source from the original. The two-story barn now has gentle white washed walls in the lower dining area. Follow the grand staircase up to the hayloft adorned with chandeliers where ceremonies and receptions take place. Sweeping views of the farmstead can be admired from the hayloft doors and the peacefulness that surrounds can be felt.



PHOTO BY JOSELYN LEONHART

As wedding venues go, Redeemed Farm is what rustic and romantic wedding dreams are made of. Awash in white, the bridal cottage provides a relaxing and inspiring space for the bride and bridal party to prepare for the special day. The former granary is even appointed with vintage makeup vanities and antique French doors overlooking the garden. For the groom there is a rustic turn of the century barn complete with leather couches and pool and foosball table. Outdoor areas on the farm offer additional spaces for gathering with friends and family. The machine shed is an outdoor pavilion complimented with a 30 foot tall field stone fireplace.

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PHOTOS BY BRETT AND JANELLE PHOTOGRAPHY



A crackling fire offers a cozy atmosphere around which friends and family can assemble and make memories. Native plants and wild flowers overflow from the country gardens while the nearby bubbling fountain provides a sense of calm.

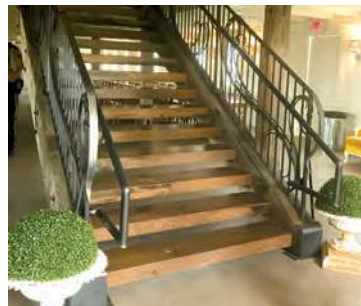
As the sun sets over Redeemed Farm, the Gaceks count their blessings. It was not too long ago that both Julie and Jeff lost partners of over 20 years of marriage. In an effort to find healing, they found each other. While on a mission trip in 2013 with the organization, *Healing Haiti*, Julie met Jeff. Jeff and his wife had founded the organization in 2006 to provide short-term mission work opportunities in Haiti. By working with the local people to secure fresh water, housing, and caring for orphaned children and the sick, mission

participants gain life changing experiences. These experiences change the way they see the world. Julie feels that this is exactly what happened to her.

Their journey has taken them from mission trips to Haiti and back to Minnesota where they finally found a home on a farm. With hearts overflowing with the gratefulness of redemption, the Gaceks opened their farm to other couples celebrating love and a new life. They also host worship at the barn and events such as photoshoots, non-profit gatherings, and Date Nights. Date Nights are special events held three times each season for couples looking to reconnect. These events are near and dear to Julie and Jeff and they invite any interested couples to attend. "Like" Redeemed Farm on Facebook for the latest date night event dates.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL STOBNER



To celebrate an event at Redeemed Farm, contact Julie at [Julie@redeemedfarm.org](mailto:Julie@redeemedfarm.org). See all that the farm has to offer at [www.redeemedfarm.org](http://www.redeemedfarm.org) [www.Healinghaiti.org](http://www.Healinghaiti.org) [www.printforchange.com](http://www.printforchange.com)