

Working with our many partners, Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity builds strength, stability and self-reliance through affordable homeownership in Hampshire and Franklin Counties. We are an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, an ecumenical organization that envisions a world where everyone has a decent and affordable place to call home.

## looking forward:

- » **April 29**  
**Lowes' Clinic**  
 Learn to frame a wall at the Hadley Lowes in preparation for Women Build Week. Hadley store, 9:00-11:30am Sign up with Mariah at 413-586-5430 or mariah@pvhabitat.org
- » **May 2**  
**Valley Gives Day**
- » **May 6-14**  
**National Women Build Week**  
 Women's volunteer days at new Amherst build site. Sign up to build with your Mother or a friend during Mother's Day week!
- » **May 17**  
**FEAST for Habitat at Cows Building Supply**  
 Amherst 5:30-8:00pm
- » **TBA:** Dedication  
 Ceremonies for Hawthorne Duplex, Amherst; and Wall Raising Ceremonies for Greenfield and Amherst Builds

## Big Enough

### Pioneering the Small Home Revolution in Western Mass

The Community Foundation of Western Mass has awarded Pioneer Valley Habitat an Innovation Planning Grant for a project we are calling "Big Enough". Our grant is one of 7 awarded by the Community Foundation in this competitive opportunity.



We propose to launch more families into the middle class by becoming first-time owners of small, simple, green homes. Our goal is to complete designs for an energy-efficient \$50,000 home. We expect that other non-profits and the for-profit housing market will build on what we learn, thereby reaching more people who want to decrease their footprint on the planet. We will research manufactured, modular and small footprint dwelling options. We will spend the next six months with our partners exploring the regulatory, financial, social and design opportunities and constraints, and will then outline a plan to put these ideas into homebuilding action. We seek a model that works for Habitat's end-user — earners at 60% of the area median income — as well as one that meets the needs of homebuyers with means to pay more, allowing for broader access than is currently available for smaller, greener homes.

"Here are the values that I stand for: honesty, equality, kindness, compassion, treating people the way you want to be treated and helping those in need. To me, those are traditional values."

- Ellen DeGeneres

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Building strength, stability and self-reliance through affordable homeownership in Hampshire and Franklin Counties.



**Get Involved!**  
 Scan the QR code or visit our website to sign up and volunteer!



"We the people should leave out none of the people."

— Millard Fuller  
 Habitat for Humanity Founder



140 Pine St Room 9, Florence, MA | (413) 586-5430 | www.pvhabitat.org

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Thank you to Mareika Phillips – graphic design extraordinaire – for helping us design our Annual Reports, Swim-a-thon brochures, FEAST booklets, and this very newsletter!

A special shout out to our weekly office volunteers:

Lucia Spiro: archiving, bulletin board, office organization  
 Jodi Kirschner: recent orientation and log book entry  
 Del Blank: archiving of past orientation sheets  
 Lyn Heady: donation thank-yous and deposits  
 Muriel Codwise: filing cabinet organization



## Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Habitat Community,

Our vision is a world where everyone has a decent place to live. This is a big vision. One part of this vision is increasing access to the dream of homeownership as a pathway out of poverty.

In an ideal world we wouldn't have to do this work, opportunities to access the middle class would be available to all. By building homes with community support we bring greater equity to our communities — we give those struggling to access homeownership the boost they need to make that a reality.

But what if those barriers didn't exist? I encourage you to work with us to provide access to affordable homeownership today and to challenge us to envision a world where the barriers are gone.

In solidarity,

Megan McDonough

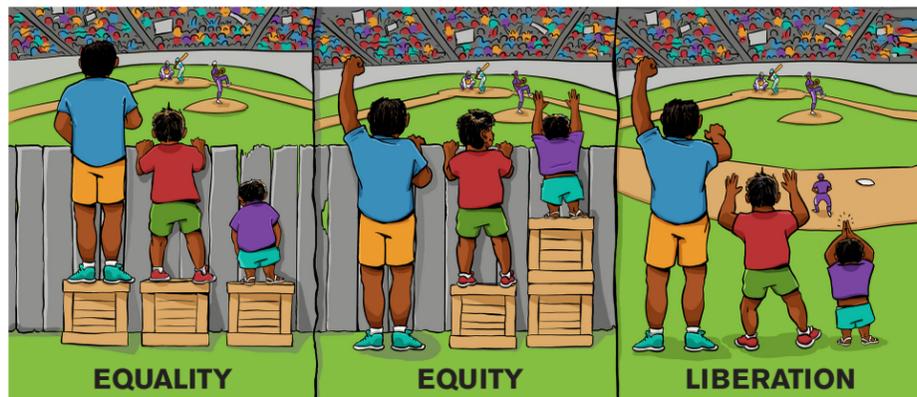


Image credit: storybasedstrategy.org



## Valley Gives Day

Donations made on **May 2nd** to Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity online through the Community Foundation of Western Mass Valley Gives Day may leverage additional funds! Visit [valley-gives.org/designee/pioneer-valley-habitat-for-humanity](http://valley-gives.org/designee/pioneer-valley-habitat-for-humanity)



## National Women Build Week

We invite women sign up on VolunteerUp on our website to participate in this year's National Women Build Week after attending a new volunteer orientation. National Women Build Week is **May 6th through the 14th**. We will be building in Amherst during Women Build Week. Sign up to build with your Mother or a friend during Mother's Day week!



## FEAST for Habitat coming Wednesday May 17th!

Join Pioneer Valley Habitat and co-hosts Cowls Building Supply for the annual FEAST for Habitat, a fun after work party to be held this year at **Cowls in North Amherst from 5:30pm - 8:00pm.**



For the \$45 ticket price, partygoers will feast on delicious food, enjoy a beverage, meet new people, hear some jazz provided by local musicians, and find some hidden gems at the auction table. New this year will be birdhouses at the auction "decked out" by local artists.

Come join us this year to celebrate the good work being done by so many including our volunteers, building and housing community, and building supply donors.

To purchase tickets online, go to: [www.pvhabitat.org/events/2017-feast-for-habitat](http://www.pvhabitat.org/events/2017-feast-for-habitat).



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 877-277-4344 | carsforhomes.org

### Wish list

- » Experienced Construction Site Supervisors
- » Interfaith Community Volunteer
- » Hospitality Committee Chair
- » Shredder (Cross cut or commercial duty)
- » Stepstool
- » Medium sized whiteboard
- » Round mailing stickers (to seal newsletters)
- » Greeting cards