

Pioneer Valley
Habitat for Humanity[®]
Newsletter

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Summer 2016

Working with our many partners, Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity builds strength, stability and self-reliance through 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 place to live.

**Meet our Homeowners :
Chey and Tim
and their Families!**



Helping Hands at Hawthorne Farm Site

When folks think of Habitat, they often visualize an average person wielding a hammer and learning to frame a wall on a Saturday afternoon, and a large part of our volunteer base does just that. But behind the scenes, local businesses often lend a helping hand.

When Yankee Home Improvement first contacted Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity, there was a mutual understanding of wanting to give back to the community. However, as more details were discussed on what exactly that entailed, jaws dropped. Not only did YHI want to donate labor to install shingle roofing, doors, windows, and vinyl siding at the Hawthorne Farm duplex, but they went beyond that by reaching out to their suppliers and asking them to donate “a new Atlas roof with Scotchguard, Preservation Insulated siding and windows, along with Provia entry doors.”

The owner of YHI, Ger Ronan, came out to the build site with his crew to kick off construction, and brought the whole company with him! It was very obvious that not only did the owner feel passionate about helping Habitat’s mission, all of the employees did too. Everyone found a way to contribute and voice support. Freedom Credit Union sponsored a lunch to show appreciation to all the workers, and Kelly of Cliff’s Barbecue donated a delicious assortment of food, saying that she contributes “three good things to the world per day and helping Habitat is one of them!”



“There was a time when I was without a roof over my head in the 80’s when I first came to this country, so I can appreciate the work that Habitat for Humanity does...knowing I am surrounded by people who care warms my heart.”

-Ger Ronan

Yankee Home Improvement are not the only folks volunteering their time on site, either. This past spring, Coca Cola of Northampton, Florence Bank, and Coldwell Banker Upton-Massamont Realtors all sponsored Team Build days at the Hawthorne Farm site. Employees traded in their briefcases and business attire for nail aprons and work clothes. We’re always grateful for the strong network of small businesses local to the Pioneer Valley who give back to the community which has helped them thrive.

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**Thank you endlessly to
our diligent office
volunteers:**

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Saying Goodbye to Walt and Paul

An enormous "Thank you!" to Walt Kohler and Paul McDonough for your many years of exceptional service on our Board of Directors. We'll miss you!

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Habitat Community –

You are the builders, the visionaries, the planners, the care givers and so much more for our community. You take up the hammer or the pen to share your belief in a better future. You listen. You build. You collaborate. You laugh and smile. You work hard.

Throughout this newsletter you will hear about the hard work and generosity of the Habitat community – working on a duplex in Amherst, planning fun events, taking care of the details needed to run a non-profit. In our next newsletter, we will have more to share with you about future collaborations with the Amherst Community Land Trust, Pioneer Valley Photovoltaics, the city of Northampton, USDA Rural Development and many more.

As Amherst Community Land Trust member Jim Oldham said in a recent opinion column in the Amherst Bulletin, "Efforts to make lasting contributions to the community take time and resources, and require the support of many people and organizations". We are glad ACLT will be partnering with us on a duplex in 2017.

Thank you for making Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity one of the organizations you partner with to make a lasting contribution.

*The ache for home lives in
all of us, the safe place
where we can go as we are
and not be questioned.*

-Maya Angelou



In gratitude,

Megan McDonough
Executive Director



Photo by Alicia Ralph

Gingerbread Build



The light is changing, lawns need a little less mowing, a new school year is just around the corner....you know what that means: *It's time to register your team of four for this year's Gingerbread Build!*

Gingerbread Build 2016 will be held **Saturday, December 3, 1:00-4:00pm** at the Eastworks Building in Easthampton.

To register go to www.pvhabitat.org or for more information contact Mariah at volunteer@pvhabitat.org. We open registration this early to give designers of all ages plenty of time to dream and scheme and plan their fabulous creations.



Award categories will be:

- Best Tribute to a Celebrity
- Craziest Engineering
- Best Bungalow for a Bookworm
- Greenest Living
- Most Amazing Duplex
- Best Nod to Summertime
- Animal Lover's Dream
- Most Comical
- Judges' Choice

Recognition will also be given for:

- Youth Entries
- Team with Greatest Number of Donations
- Team That Raises the Most Money

ReStore

On April 17, 2015 Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity opened their ReStore in Westfield. The ReStore accepts donations of new or gently used furniture, construction materials, and household appliances. These items are sold at a discounted price to the public, keeping usable items out of landfills, and Greater Springfield Habitat uses those profits to build more affordable housing. The Restore is supported by volunteers who contribute their time and talent to the operation of this successful business.

Although Greater Springfield Habitat and Pioneer Valley Habitat are two separate entities serving different counties (Hampden County and Franklin/Hampshire Counties respectively), we share the same goals. PVHFH does not currently operate a ReStore, so we are encouraging folks interested in donating or shopping to support our neighboring Habitat's store.

Since opening, the Restore has generated gross revenue of over \$275,000 and accepted over 1,600 drop-off donations. Stop by and congratulate the team on their success!

Item Wish List

PowerPoint projector
new office phones
fire safe

Volunteer Wish List

social media coordinator
experienced construction
site supervisors
graphic designer
website update volunteer

EASTWORKS



river valley co-op

wild about local

The Gingerbread Build would not be possible without the generosity of Eastworks and River Valley Co-Op. Thank you!



A big thank you to everyone who came out to support us at the fundraiser Mi Tierra hosted for us in July where we raised over \$2,000!





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Get Involved!
Scan the QR code
to sign up and volunteer!

How can I help?

Thousands of community donors and volunteers are impacted by and have participated in the work of our local Habitat. As they walk away from the construction sites, volunteers tell us that *their* lives have been transformed by helping build a Habitat home. Here are a few ways that you can be involved with Habitat:

- **Volunteer** at a Habitat building site
- **Use your skills** and serve on a committee
- **Donate** resources like money or land
- **Advocate** for affordable housing in your city or town

Please give your time, your voice, or your financial support to help build a world where everyone has a decent place to live.

*Real generosity toward the future
lies in giving all to the present.*

-Albert Camus

*Unity is strength... when there is
teamwork and collaboration,
wonderful things can be achieved.*

-Mattie Stepanek



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