Do you have items you no longer need or use? Leftover cabinets from a cabinetry project? Your perfectly good older electric stove you swapped out for propane? Aunt Jenny’s bedroom set that doesn’t fit your style? Our sister affiliate to the south, Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity, operates a ReStore in Westfield to help relieve you of unwanted items such as these. Proceeds from donations go toward building affordable homes, so your loss is a future homeowner’s gain!

Sign up and volunteer! Visit our website to get involved!

Call the ReStore at 413-642-8990 for more information.
Dear Habitat Community –

Last week I was a part of a wall raising ceremony at 1 Garfield Ave in Florence, MA. It was a hot sunny Tuesday morning and our new future homeowner got to meet some of the Habitat community – the mayor, local bank representatives and donors, Habitat volunteers who work on construction, in the office and on committees, local officials from the planning department and housing partnership and so many more than I can name. It lifted my heart to see the welcome that the new walls came with.

Long before walls can be raised, land must be found. At 1 Garfield Ave, a generous private individual donated the land for us to make a home. We are very grateful for the partnerships with local community land trusts, cities and towns that have helped us find wonderful opportunities for us to create opportunity for low-income families to live in higher income neighborhoods. Several projects in Northampton are currently in the planning stages.

I would like to ask you, our community, to help connect us with any opportunities in the greater Amherst or Greenfield areas. Do you have a particularly large lot where you live? Could a building lot be carved off for a future Habitat homeowner? Do you own a building lot where you thought you might build some day, but would rather make a charitable contribution of land at this time in your life? What makes a good site is often complex – water/sewer availability, topography, location, etc – but please be in touch if you think you may be able to say “yes in my backyard” to a Habitat homeowner.

Thank you for being a part of a community that cares for its neighbors.

In gratitude,
Megan McDonough, Executive Director
Letter from the Executive Director

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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.

Walls Go Up, Size Goes Down

On Tuesday, August 7th, a small crowd braved heat and humidity to gather at the site of what will be Pioneer Valley Habitat’s 43rd home to celebrate the onset of construction with a wall raising. Funders, board, staff and supporters were there to meet the future homeowner.

While it may be our 43rd house in our Franklin/Hampshire coverage area, this home represents a dramatic departure from business as usual for our local Habitat. This 650 square foot single family 1-BR home designed by Dorrie Brooks of Jones Whitsett Architects is Pioneer Valley Habitat’s first foray into truly small building, scaling down from our typical simple 2 and 3 bedroom home size to a house right-sized for a smaller household. It represents the culmination of over a year of planning and community forums that drew input from representatives of government, banking, zoning, design/build and potential end-user (low income residents) populations.

Northampton’s Mayor David Narkewicz acknowledged in his remarks to the crowd that this small home will be the final residence of a Habitat development project, joining five others at the end of Garfield Avenue. “This is a great project, really exciting for the city to be partnering with Habitat to build this neighborhood,” he said. “This is part of the city’s commitment to making sure that this city remains affordable for people at every rung of the economic ladder.”

The mayor’s sentiments were echoed by Matt Barnister, First VP of Marketing and Innovation from PeoplesBank, a home sponsors, who told the audience, “It takes a village, it takes a community... It’s all about affordable housing and finding people the right places to live so the community can grow and thrive and prosper.”

After donning hard hats, a dozen volunteers – including members of a group of visiting volunteers from the Covenant Evangelical Church in Pennsylvania and future homeowner Denis – took instruction from Site Supervisor Jim Van Natta to raise the first wall. Well-wishers inscribed their messages to Denis on the framing.

As architects, we don’t pay enough attention to regulation issues, to cost issues, to financing issues. All of those things have a lot to do with affordable housing. So this project was for us an opportunity to learn from you all and from the city about how maybe we can rethink housing and about how we can come up with better solutions about affordable housing.” - Dorrie Brooks, JWA

Looking Forward:

- 1st Wednesday of each month, 6:30pm
  New volunteer orientation, Habitat office, Florence

- 3rd Saturday of each month, 9am
  New volunteer orientation, Habitat office, Florence

- Monday, Sept 24, 6pm
  PVHH Annual Meeting, Esselon Café, Hadley

- Sunday, Sept 30, 4pm
  Blessing of the Site, Glendale Rd., Northampton

- TBD, mid-November
  Small Homes Forum and Just Big Enough Award Ceremony

- Tuesday, November 7
  Giving Tuesday, online day of giving

- Saturday, December 1, 12:30-3pm
  Gingerbread Build, Eastworks, Easthampton

Call the ReStore at 413-642-8990 for more information.

Get Involved!
Visit our website to sign up and volunteer!

140 Pine St. Rooms 3 & 4, Florence, MA | (413) 586-5430 | www.pvhabitat.org