

Summer Newsletter 2018

Volume 16, Issue 2

Summer 2018

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:

- » **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 27**
Giving Tuesday, online day of giving
- » **Saturday, December 1, 12:30-3pm**
Gingerbread Build, Eastworks, Easthampton

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 wallraising. 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.



Future homeowner Denis and mom

"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

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 Bannister, 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.

Now it's YOUR turn...If you'd like to volunteer for this or other community-building projects with Habitat, visit www.pvhabitat.org/ways-to-volunteer or call the office at 413-586-5430 and ask for Volunteer Coordinator Lindsay Berry. After a day on a Habitat worksite, volunteers tell us how their lives have been transformed by the experience.

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***“Where we love is
home – home that
our feet may leave,
but not our hearts”***

– Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr.



New Homeowners in Amherst, in Greenfield

On June 24th, after just over a year of construction, two new homes were dedicated in Amherst. We are grateful to the Amherst Community Land Trust for their generous contribution of land to make homeownership possible for these two families.

A month later, on July 28th, Christa's home was dedicated in Greenfield. Her home with its full solar array, provided by PV Squared of Greenfield was on the Greening Greenfield tour in July as an example of affordable green building techniques.

Welcome new homeowners!



Letter from the Executive Director

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

***“We make a living by what we get,
but we make a life by what we give.”***

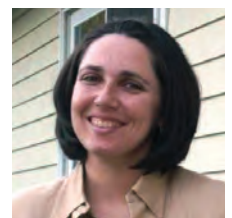
– Winston Churchill

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



Mod Squad

The deadline is over and the family selection committee is hard at work reviewing applications for three families to be chosen for a multi-home project on Glendale Road in Northampton. An ordinary Habitat announcement, right? What's extraordinary about it is that two of the homes will be built in a factory in Vermont and will arrive pre-assembled for finishing work to be done by volunteers and future homeowners doing their sweat equity.

Yes, we're going modular!

Not for good and not necessarily more than this one time. In our continuing quest to build smarter, modular is one innovation Pioneer Valley Habitat is piloting as part of the *Big Enough* initiative to see whether it is an option worth developing further. We are partnering with the Vermont Energy Investment Corp to bring two high performing energy efficient solar homes to Massachusetts as part of a statewide initiative funded through the MA Department of Energy Resources. The third home on Glendale Road will be built from the ground up by Habitat volunteers the old fashioned way, but will feature the same design as its neighbors.



**Sugar and
Spice,
Everything
Nice...**

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

Surely you've been inspired by the small home movement and you want to gather three friends/relatives/colleagues to dream up the quintessential small home and bring your creative vision to life with gingerbread? This is your chance! Every year we think we've seen the limits of confectionery imaginings, and every year the bar is reset. Maybe this year you and your team will take home a prize in one of these funderful categories:

- Best Use of Color (one or many)
- Animal Lover's Paradise
- Best Look into the Future
- Self Portrait
- Most Creative
- Flower Power
- Trash to Treasure
- Homage to Someone Special
- Looks like a Landmark
- Wild Card

Make your \$100 entry donation and register by going to www.pvhabitat.org/events/gingerbread-build/. Don't wait, slots fill up fast!



Interfaith Build

Members of more than a dozen faith communities on the west side of the river are pooling their time, talent and treasure to support the Glendale Road project. At a kickoff concert at First Churches, Northampton in June featuring three local vocal groups, over \$3,000 was raised. Groups continue to pledge financial support and volunteer hours to the work. Thank you!

Tom Petty Tribute Night a Success

Thanks to Hawks and Reed Performing Arts Center in Greenfield for hosting Covers for a Cause on June 28th, a fun event that drew a good crowd to hear music with voluntary contributions totaling \$1,260!

Wish List

Ok, this season we just have one wish and it's a big one. We REALLY need a cargo trailer (see photo below). Can you help?





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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

A graphic for the ReStore, featuring icons of a microwave, a chair, a bed, a lamp, a refrigerator, a sofa, and a table. The text includes the Habitat for Humanity logo, "ReStore", address "301 E. Main Street Westfield, MA (413) 642-8990", "OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!", "Discount appliances, furniture, building materials, and more!", "www.ReStoreWestfield.com", and "Shop the Store that Builds Homes!".

 **Habitat for Humanity®** 301 E. Main Street
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**Discount appliances,
furniture, building
materials, and more!**

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Shop the Store that Builds Homes!

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!

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