



P.O. Box 60642  
 Florence, MA 01062  
 413-586-5430  
 www.pioneervalleyhabitat.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non Profit Org.  
 U.S. Postage  
 PAID  
 Permit No. 15  
 Northampton, MA

## One of the Things that Makes the Valley Special: Valley Gives Day



It is no secret that the Pioneer Valley is a place of deep caring and social action, a region that attracts people to live and stay because of its neighborliness and ethos of giving and giving back, community building. Case in point: in five years of giving through the online vehicle provided by Valley Gives, more than 31,189 unique donors have made over 97,000 donations for a total of \$8,640,270 raised. This speaks volumes about the people who live here and their compassion for those served by nonprofit agencies of all kinds.

Pioneer Valley Habitat is one of the organizations that benefits every year from the generosity of the residents of this region (and beyond!) on Valley Gives Day. To learn more about taking part in this collective day of online philanthropy or to make a contribution to Pioneer Valley Habitat on Tuesday 1 May, visit [www.valley-gives.org/designee/pioneer-valley-habitat-for-humanity](http://www.valley-gives.org/designee/pioneer-valley-habitat-for-humanity).

### Get Involved!

Visit our website to sign up and volunteer!



140 Pine St Room 9, Florence, MA | (413) 586-5430 | [www.pvhabitat.org](http://www.pvhabitat.org)



# Winter Newsletter 2018

Volume 16, Issue 1

Winter 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
- » **Tuesday, April 17**  
Application deadline for future home in Florence
- » **Monday, April 23, 9am-noon**  
Lowe's of Hadley training clinic – learn the basics of wall framing (sign up required)
- » **Tuesday, May, 1**  
Valley Gives Day
- » **Sat May 5 – Sun May 13**  
National Women Build Week - volunteer days at Amherst and Greenfield build sites. Sign up to build with your mother or a friend during Mother's Day week!
- » **Wednesday, May 16, 5:30-8 pm**  
FEAST for Habitat, at Cowls Building Supply, Amherst
- » **TBA**  
Dedications for North Amherst and Greenfield homes

## Rightsizing the Dream of Homeownership

In last winter's newsletter we profiled the planning phase for the Big Enough initiative, Pioneer Valley Habitat's deep dive into small homes, funded by the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts. Now we are turning from research to reality and are excited to announce our first small home build, coming in summer 2018 at 1 Garfield Avenue, Florence (family selection process happening now! Apply by April 17<sup>th</sup>). Through the generous donation of the land by an anonymous individual, creative work by Dorrie Brooks of Jones Whitsett Architects, input from potential end users, and countless hours spent by community members, we are ready to right size the dream of homeownership.



Future home site, 1 Garfield Ave.

And the momentum doesn't stop with this build. Big things are happening in the small homes world! The Big Enough project has had a ripple effect in community affordable housing advocacy. Read Megan's letter for details about the recent Just Big Enough design contest hosted by the city of Northampton and the outpouring of interest and participation. The hundreds of people who streamed into the APE Gallery in Northampton to view these innovative small home designs on display in early February and hear presentations on the movement over the course of a week is an indication of the high level of interest and engagement.



The small home revolution has motivated a Northampton resident and vice chair of the Northampton Housing Partnership, Patrick Boughan, to start a local housing advocacy group called Yes In My Backyard – Pioneer Valley. He announced on Facebook that he is "organizing a group to advocate on local, state, and national level for housing affordability issues." We are excited to be part of local organizing efforts and are excited

to see how this group grows and affects change! If you are interested in joining this advocacy group there is a google form available by going to [bit.ly/yimbypv](http://bit.ly/yimbypv).

(continued inside)

### Board

John Ebbets, President  
 Stacy Metzger, Vice President  
 Reverend Janet Bush, Treasurer  
 Jane Andresen, Clerk  
 Christine Aubrey  
 Benjamin Barnes  
 Marybeth Bridegam  
 Anna Cook  
 Steve Harrington  
 Jeff Hutchins  
 Tom Jones  
 Libby McLarty  
 Devin Parziale  
 Christine Speek  
 Keith Woodruff

### Staff

LaVae Allard, Bookkeeper  
 Lindsay Berry, Volunteer Coordinator  
 Amy Landry, Director of Resource Development  
 Megan McDonough, Executive Director

### Interns

Katie Gartner  
 Sandra Hallett  
 Emilia McDanel  
 Nishan Papazian  
 Lastone Saya  
 Monika Sharma

### Graphics Support

Beth Graham  
 Sue Katz  
 Donna Lilborn

### Office volunteers

Del Blank  
 Ken Carpenter  
 Lyn Heady  
 Jodi Kirschner  
 Mary Olmstead  
 Lucia Spiro

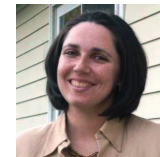
### Wish List

Stand-up lamps  
 Clipboards  
 Power strips

## Homeownership continued...

And in a recent editorial, the *Daily Hampshire Gazette* recognized our small home, small pricetag efforts, commenting in relation to the upcoming Florence build, "We commend Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity for thinking smaller in its next construction project aimed at a first-time homebuyer who is a minimum-wage earner."

The repackaging of the homeownership dream to be small, green, and affordable is happening now. What will you do? Be inspired and share anything you are doing in your neighborhood, in your school, in your community on our facebook page at [www.facebook.com/groups/BigEnough](http://www.facebook.com/groups/BigEnough).



## Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Habitat Community –

2018 got off to a creative start with the city of Northampton sponsoring an architectural design competition for three small homes to be built by Habitat off Burts Pit Rd. While construction for this project won't start until 2019 or later, we got to see designs from 16 architects for their vision of how to make small (even supersmall) green, affordable homes.

A jury of three experts from Vermont and Boston (no local conflicts of interest) deliberated for several hours on February 9th about which architect's concept was to win the competition. The varying perspectives of the jurors emphasizing overall design concept vs. meeting all the program goals led to different favorites, but all on the jury agreed to the following winners:

- First Prize: Simple City Studio
- Second Prize: Crosskey Architects
- Honorable Mention: Thomas Douglas Architects

But don't take their word for it. The People's Choice award went to Kuhn Riddle Architects and you can see all the designs online to decide for yourself: <http://www.northamptonma.gov/1834/Just-Big-Enough-competition>

In the coming months Habitat will select one of these 16 architects to work with on taking concepts into reality. We'll use the input from the competition when interviewing architects to see who will be the best fit for the project. We are grateful to all the architects who shared their ideas and vision about making simple green homes more accessible.

In gratitude,

Megan McDonough

*PS – While we enjoy looking to the future, we are still building in Amherst and Greenfield now, and planning for projects to break ground in Northampton in 2018! Come lend a hand.*

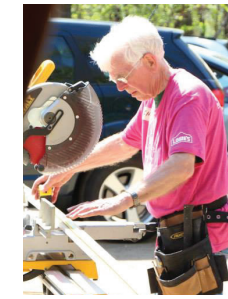


First Prize:  
Simple City Studio



## Remembering and Honoring Charlie Klem

What does it take to get things done on the Habitat build site? Charlie Klem, longtime volunteer and Site Supervisor on more than ten builds knew, and many homeowners are now the beneficiaries of how well and how often Charlie put that knowledge into practice. At the annual volunteer appreciation event in January, we established the Charlie Klem *Getting it Done* award in honor of and named for our dear friend and Habitat colleague who passed away this past year. This recognition, to be awarded annually, will go to a Pioneer Valley Habitat volunteer who best exemplifies



the singular constellation of attributes that describe Charlie: outstanding service, determination, dedication, commitment, fearlessness, friendliness and a positive, can do attitude. Big shoes to fill, to be sure! The inaugural award was presented to Charlie's wife Sheila. The Klems have together contributed in many, many ways to making the dreams of homeownership come true for Pioneer Valley families.



## FEAST for Habitat 2018: the Best Party in Town



Hang out with old friends and make new friends, surrounded by construction décor (hard hats optional) provided by Cows Building Supply at Habitat's festive annual spring afterwork party. Peruse the palettes to tempt your palate with the usual artful array of food and beverages provided by the Valley's finest purveyors. Cruise the tables of irresistible silent auction packages and – back by popular demand! – birdhouses designed by local artists and craftspeople for sale. Chat with other guests, hear about latest Habitat happenings, enjoy the soft groove of FEAST favorites Coop Jazz ensemble. Don't miss FEAST for Habitat on Wednesday 16 May, 5:30-8 pm!



For tickets, go to [www.pvhabitat.org/events/feast-2018](http://www.pvhabitat.org/events/feast-2018).



## Calling All Women: New to Construction, Veteran Builders Alike!

Do you feel insecure around hammers and saws and other tools of the construction trade? Or maybe you have many hours or years of building experience under your toolbelt? During National Women Build Week, Saturday May 5 – Sunday May 13, we encourage women who want to build skills and women who have skills to share to come together on one of our build sites in a week of construction camaraderie. WE NEED YOU. You can be a part of the final push to get three families

into their new homes as we head into the home stretch on projects in North Amherst and Greenfield, and you will be a part of a weeklong nationwide effort to bring more women onto Habitat construction sites.

As a partner with us for National Women Build Week, Lowe's of Hadley will host a workshop on wall framing on Monday 23 April from 9:00-noon. This is a free workshop, open to anyone, and space is limited. To register for this or a volunteer orientation (required before going on a build site), go to the volunteer page on our website to link to VolunteerUp! to check dates and times.



## What's Happening on the Build Sites?

We are nearing the end of builds in North Amherst and Greenfield, meaning very soon three families will be stepping over the thresholds of their new homes. Please help them make that happen, sign up for a build day on VolunteerUp! on our website. We will be sending out an announcement of the new home dedications sometime in the late spring / early summer.



Thank you Florence Bank! for supporting Habitat's volunteer community this year with T-shirts and other recognition items and events. Volunteers are the heart, soul and muscle of Habitat.

