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 for Humanity 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.

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

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

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, 8am
  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, 6:30-8 pm
  FEAST for Habitat, at Coe’s Building Supply, Amherst
- TBD
  Deductions for North Amherst and Greenfield homes

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

(continued inside)
Homeownership continued...
And in a recent editorial, the Daily Hampshire Gazette recognized our small home, small project 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.

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 the best to win the competition. The varying perspectives of the jurors emphasized 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 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 us for construction and will deliberate for several hours to find the right architect to work with. We are grateful to all the architects who shared their ideas and vision about making simple green homes more accessible.

In gratitude,

Megan McDonough
Executive Director

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 Klem’s have together contributed in many, many ways to making the dreams of homeownership come true for Pioneer Valley families.

Remembering and Honoring Charlie Klem

Feast for Habitat 2018: the Best Party in Town

Hang out with old friends and make new friends, surrounded by construction decor (hard hats optional) provided by Covel’s 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 grove 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.

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.