



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

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Women Build

For many years National Women Build Week has been an important part of Pioneer Valley Habitat's annual cycle of activities. A joint program sponsored by Lowes in partnership with Habitat for Humanity International, NWBW promoted women in construction, engaged our community. This program has been modified and it no longer engages small, local Habitat affiliates. Nevertheless, Pioneer Valley Habitat will continue our tradition of engaging and promoting women in construction through a new Women Build Weekend initiative.

Women Build Weekends are structured to encourage women who want to grow their skills and confidence and women who have skills to share to come together on a build sites in an atmosphere of construction camaraderie. The typical Women Build Weekend will include a Friday tutorial (on topics such as power tool safety and framing techniques) led by a construction professional and open to the public, a Saturday Team Build day (non-profit or corporate group of eight people who come onsite to build for the day for a fee) and a Sunday half day community build day.

Would you or your business or organization like to participate in a Women Build Weekend? Contact Volunteer Coordinator Lindsay Berry at lindsay@pvhabitat.org to learn more. *Please note: while the goal is to include a majority of people who self-identify as women, everyone is welcome!*



Get Involved!

Visit our website to
sign up and volunteer!



140 Pine St. Rooms 3 & 4, 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 place to live.

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

» Thursday, March 28

Applications due for Veteran
Build home, Glendale Road,
Northampton

» Tuesday, May 7, 6:30pm

FEAST for Habitat,
rk Miles, Hatfield

» TBD, Spring 2019

Small Homes Hero Award
Ceremony & Party

» TBD, Spring & Late Fall

Dedications

» TBD

Interfaith concert



Winter Newsletter 2019

Volume 17, Issue 1

Winter 2019

Thirty Years STRONG

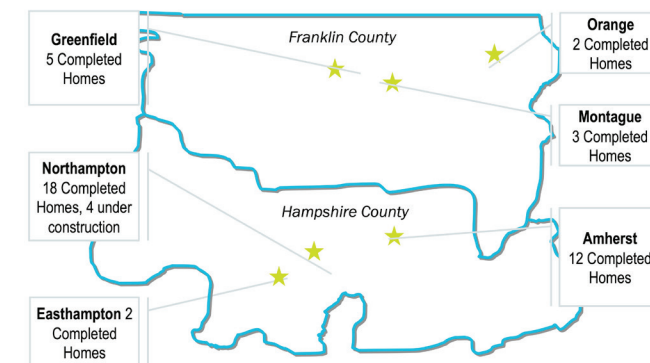
In 1989, a group of individuals from houses of worship in Amherst and Northampton who wanted to go beyond the necessary but temporary work of shelters, survival centers and soup kitchens and make a permanent difference in people's lives, gathered to make a plan. They established the Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity affiliate. Founders describe those early days as a lot of hard work with a generous amount of camaraderie and can-do attitude that was behind the completion of Pioneer Valley Habitat's first home on Pine Brook Curve in Northampton in 1993. Marge Lieneck, who was one of the most spirited of those founders and who passed away in 2018, shared with the current staff that "we sure knew how to have fun raising money!" Certainly, those early adopters set the foundation and the bar for the subsequent years of building homes with families with low incomes in Hampshire and Franklin Counties.



First home on Pine Brook Curve

By the end of 2019 we will have completed construction on our 46th home in just 30 years. See executive director Megan McDonough's message in this newsletter for highlights and fun facts of what thirty years of Habitat building has meant. We honor

the many volunteers, homeowners, donors and supporters who have had a part in the building of homes, lives, neighborhoods and communities since 1989. We hope you'll come to this year's FEAST or another of our birthday year events to celebrate with us all that we've done together to make homeownership more affordable for local families.



PIONEER VALLEY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
WHERE WE'VE BUILT

Your contribution this spring will help us continue to partner with families to build their homeownership dreams and to say, as a recent homeowner recently did, *"The run is done, we don't have to run anymore."*

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"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

Small World

While tiny homes have ignited the public's imagination and offer an alternative for some folks who feel they have lived too large for too long, **small** (500 -1,000 sf) homes are coming through as a realistic long term answer to the question of how a person working full time at a low wage job might finally own a home that is both comfortable and affordable. It's not as simple as it might seem, and fortunately there are some big ideas out there for living small. Pioneer Valley Habitat will be showcasing the creative minds behind advancing tools and strategies to increase access to affordable homeownership through the building, financing, design and zoning for small homes. Come honor and celebrate with us the 2019 recipients of the Small Home Hero award this spring with a fun award ceremony and small house tour.

*Detailed evite to be released in April.
Thanks to the Community Foundation of Western Mass for its support of the Small Home Hero award.*



Letter from the Director

30 Years of Building Homes & Hope in the Pioneer Valley

Friends –

This month I turn 38 years old – to my teenage daughter this makes me old, to some of you this makes me young – and to me it makes me feel truly blessed to be part of an organization with a 30th birthday this year. The commitment of the early volunteers who built this organization out of nothing is truly remarkable, and I feel honored to be a part of the continuum of volunteers and staff who work toward the vision of everyone having a decent place to live.

Together we have built 42 homes and we are working on getting that total to 46 by the end of 2019. And while I am on the topic of numbers, check out these interesting statistics from our 30-year history:

- I googled and found a home inspector who says the average 1,200 sq ft home has 12,000 nails. Multiply that by 42 homes, and Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity volunteers have probably driven home **over half a million nails** in the last 30 years.
- In 2018 about 8,500 volunteer hours went into PVHH. Multiply that by 30 years and **over a quarter million hours of volunteer time from hundreds of volunteers** have helped make homes for our neighbors. The variety of expertise, skill and community connection that comes from many hands doing the work is critical to our success.
- Thirty years is also a lot of time to make a difference in the lives of our neighbors. Habitat families over the years have averaged about 4 people per household at the time of application. **That's 168 people (+ any kids born later, or any sales of homes to new families)** that have had the stability of having a home of their own.



The numbers are interesting to be sure, but the real story is told by the Habitat homeowners who overcome obstacles and move mountains to build their homes and their dreams for themselves and their children.

In gratitude,

Megan McDonough, Executive Director

Family Selection Open for Veteran Build

We are now accepting applications for a great new affordable homeownership opportunity for a two-bedroom home to be built on Glendale Road in Northampton. This single story home will be adaptable for people in wheelchairs or other mobility impairments. Veteran preference if a member of the household meets the M.G.L. ch.4, sec.7 cl.43 definition of a veteran.

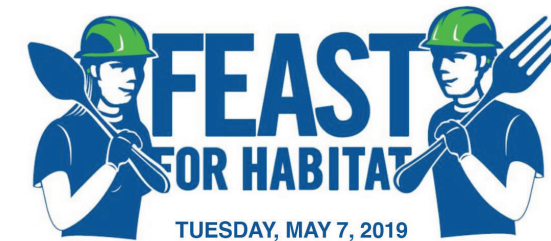
Any interested potential future home owners may come to an information session to learn more about the project and our homeowner application and selection process.

- Saturday, March 2nd at 10:30am at the Forbes Library, 20 West St., Northampton
- Wednesday, March 20th at 6pm at Greenfield Savings Bank, 325A King St., Northampton

Equal Housing Opportunity. For more details or to download an application please visit: <https://www.pvhabitat.org/apply>



FEAST for Habitat 2019: Come Party with Us!



It's everyone's favorite annual afterwork party, FEAST for Habitat, this year hosted by our friends at rk MILES at 21 West Street in West Hatfield AND a celebration of our 30th birthday. Hang out with old friends and make new friends in the friendly construction chic that is rk MILES' warehouse décor. Palettes of lumber will be laden 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 specialty garden table with items designed by local artists and craftspeople for sale. Chat with other guests, hear about latest Habitat happenings, enjoy the mellow groove of FEAST favorites Coop Jazz ensemble. Don't miss this special 30th birthday party edition of FEAST for Habitat on Tuesday 7 May, 6:30-9 pm!

For tickets, go to www.pvhabitat.org/events/feast-2019



The Homes That Faith is Building

Ruth's future home arrived on a flatbed truck in two pieces, built in a factory in Vermont. Her home and a second home next to it represent Pioneer Valley Habitat's first foray into modular homebuilding, an innovation supported by a grant from the



Michael McSherry with future homeowner Ruth and her daughter

Community Foundation of Western Mass. The modular dwelling on Glendale Rd in Northampton is coming together, with a little help from the faithful. To date, the local interfaith community has contributed a combined total of just under \$21,000 and dozens of hours of volunteer support in the form of construction help, hospitality and event organizing, office help and more.

Todd Weir, co-pastor of First Churches, Northampton who is active in the Northampton Housing Partnership and finding answers to local housing issues acknowledges that a Habitat home is "a solution for families, a partnership." Michael McSherry, minister of Edwards Church in Northampton tells of the widespread impact among parishioners participating in a communal build. "Being involved with Habitat is as much about the change it makes in the volunteer," he says, "the change it makes in the members of the community who become involved and donate their time, the person who comes and donates their time is changed, even transformed for the better in the process. I can't think of a better way to offer yourself as an instrument of love and justice."

What's happening on the build sites?

- At 1 Garfield in Florence, things are starting to get cozier inside with insulation installed by Energia and volunteers hard at work to finish construction by this spring.



- On Glendale Road, the two modular homes are waiting to get powered up by PV panels installed by local worker coop PV Squared so that the volunteers and homeowners can do finish work on the inside. As these two homes finish this spring, we will break ground on our look-a-like site built house right next door.

Volunteers needed!

