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- Wednesday, May 6 FEAST for Habitat, rk MILES, Hadley
- TBD Small Home Hero Award Ceremony & Party – May/June 2020
- TBD Dedication, 125 Glendale Rd., May/June 2020

Working with our many partners, Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity builds strength, stability and self-reliance through affordable homeownership in Hampstead 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.
Modular Homes Dedicated and Sold, Faith Community’s Support

On a warm afternoon last fall, a crowd of more than 40 well-wishers gathered to dedicate two modular homes to their soon-to-be first-time homeowners. Speakers at the ceremony—among them Northampton’s mayor David Narkewicz, Alison Donovan of VEIC (the coordinator for the high performance modular program that helped fund these homes), Build Team member David Dunn and Jim Ayres of the Community Foundation of Western Mass—shared what made this project experimental, innovative and a learning experience. The two homes represent Pioneer Valley Habitat’s first foray into modular construction and a few weeks after the dedication were financed using creative mortgage packages provided by two local banks to the homebuyers.

Minister Michael McSherry of Edwards Church and Pastor Todd Weir of First Churches also spoke about the efforts of the interfaith community to bring these homes to completion. Congregations raised funds totaling $30,000 and contributed 1,000 volunteer hours on the construction site, at special events, as meal providers and in a number of other supportive roles.

Congratulations to new homeowners Ruth, Olando and Fenessa!

Learn to Build: National Women Build Week

Would you like to feel more proficient in handling tools and materials? Do you wish you had more confidence to do small home repairs and improvement projects yourself? During National Women Build Week in early March, we encourage women who want to build skills and women who have skills to share to come together on our Glendale Road build site in a week of construction camaraderie. WE NEED YOU. You can be a part of the final push to get a family into their new home as well as part of a weeklong nationwide effort to bring more women onto Habitat construction sites. Pioneer Valley Habitat Women Build days are Thursday the 5th, Saturday the 7th and Sunday the 8th of March.

As a partner with us for National Women Build Week, Lowe’s of Hadley will host a how-to workshop on framing to prepare you for the worksite on Saturday, February 29th, from 10am to noon. This is a free workshop, open to anyone, and space is limited.

Next up: the fourth and final home in the Glendale Road development (a small 2BR home, solar powered, very different from its neighbors) and a 3BR home on West Pelham Road in Shutesbury, both sites starting up this spring.

Celebrate Spring at FEAST for Habitat 2020

Whether you’ve been to a past FEAST or this is your first, there is always something new at everyone’s favorite annual spring afterwork party. Come hang with other members of the Habitat family in the fun and friendly construction chic surroundings that is rK MILES’ warehouse décor. This year we welcome some new brewers, cidersmakers and creators of fabulous food items as well as many of our old favorite purveyors. You may find yourself in a bidding war, attempting to be the lucky person to go home with one (or more) of the eclectic auction items laid out on palettes of lumber including jewelry, sports memorabilia, tools for home and garden, and gift certificates for eating and entertainment among other items. Or maybe you will be competing for one of the creations designed by local artists and craftspeople for sale on the specialty auction table. All while you chat with other guests, hear about latest Habitat happenings, enjoy the mellow groove of FEAST favorites Coop Jazz ensemble.

You don’t want to miss the 8th annual FEAST for Habitat on Wednesday May 6, 6:30-9 pm! For tickets, go to pvhabitat.org/events/feast-2020
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**Letter from the Director**

Dear Habitat Community,

It was September of 2016 when the Community Foundation of Western Mass put out the call for “innovative” grant requests under the headline Be Bold and Create Change, and we began the journey of asking “What’s big enough to house the dream of homeownership?” Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity has spent 30 years building simple, energy efficient homes to bring strength and stability to the lives of people with low incomes – but how can we be a model in the region? Can we demonstrate innovative ways to bring small simple homes to the community?

Short answer – yes! We have finished our first few “Big Enough” pilot homes and are ready to share our lessons learned with the community. We hope you will hop online to watch the Foundation to Finish video highlighting our 2019 pilot projects, download our initial pilot report for some light reading, share your small home stories in our Facebook group and then show up in person on Friday March 27th for our 2020 small home forum. See the back page of this newsletter for more information about the forum. RSVP required: www.pvhabitat.org/events/small-home-forum-2020

As expected, we didn’t find any magic solutions to bringing small affordable homes to the masses. The challenges and solutions are intertwined in our four areas of study: design/construction, zoning/legislations, financing/ownership and social/cultural expectations (come to the forum to learn more about this!). But I think there is an important conversation happening around how we can learn from one another to make that dream of homeownership a reality in our corner of the world in the upper Pioneer Valley.

*“Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.”*  
- Theodore Roosevelt

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**Board**

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Jane Andresen, Clerk  
Christine Aubrey  
Anna Cook  
Sara Custodio  
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Jess Flotter, Big Enough Project Coordinator  
Amanda Hanley, Construction Coordinator  
Amy Lanyon, Director of Resource Development  
Megan McDonough, Executive Director

**Intern**

Abigail Moore

**Graphics Support**

Beth Graham

**Office volunteers**

Del Blank  
Ken Carpenter  
Sara Custodio  
Lyn Heady  
Jodi Kirschner  
Lucia Spri

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**What’s happening on the build sites?**

On Glendale Road in Northampton, we are finishing the framed-on-site home that looks like its two modular neighbors. We need you! Come help us get to the finish line for a spring closing.

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Anthony Hill: He’s in His Element

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Implementing “Big Enough” solutions for affordable home ownership in the Pioneer Valley

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

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

P.O. Box 60642
Florence, MA 01062
413-586-5430
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED