

## Hamid's and Fatima's Story

*"For me, this is life-changing. It is a dream I never would have thought would come true."*

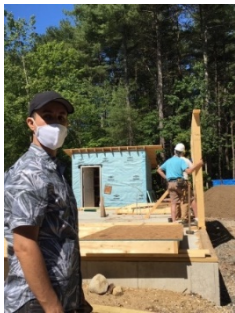
- Hamid

Hamid works at a small sensing equipment-making company in Northampton as an inside sales representative, a job with room to grow as he tells it. And very shortly he and his wife Fatima and four-year-old son Anir will be moving from their small apartment into a home with room to grow.

In the final weeks of 2019, Hamid and Fatima were chosen to be the future homeowners of Pioneer Valley Habitat's fourth home in the Glendale Road, Northampton project. Theirs was to be a small, energy efficient two-bedroom home, right-sized for their young family. They were eager to plunge in and begin work on the building of their house



*Helping at Gingerbread Build 2019*



*Wallraising, March 2020*

and to help with Habitat events as part of their sweat equity plan.

Four months later, construction ground to a halt temporarily as Pioneer Valley Habitat reconfigured our thinking and methods in order to build homes safely in a pandemic.

While the ensuing year of building their home wasn't quite as we all had imagined it would be, Hamid and Fatima worked with their mentor to creatively contribute to the homebuilding process.



*Fatima was part of 2020 Int'l Women Build week*

Some of the things Hamid and Fatima look forward to in their new home? Growing verbena, and mint for the Moroccan tea they love. Having a yard for their son to play in. Privacy and freedom, a kitchen that is comfortable for Fatima. Living in a sustainable home with solar panels providing their energy needs, while following their religious restrictions because the house has a Habitat mortgage with 0% interest.

"I couldn't ask for anything more," Hamid says.



*First gingerbread house!*