

Chuck's story: Hometown Homeowner

When Pioneer Valley Habitat opens a round of family selection for a home that's about to be built, applicants hail from near and far and the future family is ultimately chosen through a lottery system. It's not often a future homeowner gets selected to build a home that will be just minutes from his current residence in his hometown community.

But Chuck from Shutesbury did.



Not only does Chuck hail from Shutesbury, Chuck works for the town and is known and loved by many in this small rural western Massachusetts community. After a boyhood in Franklin, New Hampshire, Chuck came to this area and eventually went to Greenfield Community College to study Fire Science and then has put that knowledge to use as a volunteer fire fighter.

Chuck worked as a mechanic for John Deere for 20 years, handling equipment ranging from a string trimmer to huge pieces of machinery worth \$350,000. In recent years, Chuck has worked for the town of Shutesbury Highway Department and as a bus driver. "Driving the school bus was a great job!"



Chuck says. "I loved the kids on my route." He is also the father of two daughters.

What's so great about owning his Shutesbury home? Chuck says, "There will be more freedom. I love doing projects and yard work, I love being out in the woods, my kids are the same way. We'll have a good-sized garden, each girl will pick her crops."

And the best thing about building with Habitat? Again, Chuck's words: "I like being able to help build. I'm not a carpenter by any means and there's Walt and the other volunteers, showing me how to do things. Nancy, my mentor, offers all kinds of help. It's the way it should be, community members helping each other."

