Have a Heart for Habitruck

After years of faithful service, the beloved and beleaguered Habitruck has gone on to greener pastures and our intrepid construction volunteers need a new vehicle to move supplies and make runs to the transfer station. If you would like to contribute to the truck campaign, go to secure.givelively.org/donate/pioneer-valley-habitat-for-humanity-inc/habitruck-2-0.

Or maybe you have a used truck that will pass inspection and is ready to haul trash and building materials around the Pioneer Valley? Please contact us about making a donation or bargain sale of your vehicle!

Email truck@pvhabitat.org if you have a truck for us (and if you have any other vehicle that needs to go, you can donate to www.carsforhomes.org). Thank you!!!
Two Families Become Homeowners!

Well-wishers gathered virtually for a dedication ceremony held via Zoom on Wednesday the 16th of June for future homeowners Hamid and Fatima and their son Anir. During the ceremony, Hamid said, “It was pleasure working with everyone… I am looking forward to building more houses with Habitat as a volunteer.” Congratulations to Hamid and Fatima, who took ownership of their new home in June. Future Shutesbury homeowner Chuck told attendees of his virtual dedication ceremony in June, “I learned a lot of carpentry! It was a great learning experience.” Chuck and his daughters Evelyn and Abby will move into their new home in Shutesbury in the coming weeks.

...But it Doesn’t Stop There

Even before the dedications of the Florence and Shutesbury homes took place, the Build Team and regular volunteers were back at it, starting two new homes in Pelham. Already walls are up and construction is moving space on two 3-bedroom homes. Speakers at the virtual wall raising ceremony in August included David Shanabrook and Timan Lukas on behalf of the town of Pelham and Monica Curhan of Florence Bank, main financial sponsors of the project. Christine Aubrey spoke on behalf of the PVHH board of directors, Walt Kohler introduced the project as chair of the Build Team, and family mentor Carol Wood introduced future homeowners Hassan and Hajar and Tiffani.

Letter from the Director

Dear Friends,

I have been impressed with the resiliency of Habitat volunteers – from future homeowners who are just entering the Habitat community to those long-timers who have been carrying the workload for years… and everyone in between. It’s hard to know what the future holds these days, but that hasn’t stopped us from pursuing the dream of everyone having a decent place to live. One hammer, one house at a time, we are making a difference. And it’s not just the dedicated construction volunteers on the build site, it’s also those volunteering on committees, in the office and in the community who are doing the work of the organization. Please reach out to me if you think you might have time to give. We need a variety of skills – from mortgage underwriters to carpenters to social media mavens. Check out https://www.pvhabitat.org/ways-to-volunteer/ for details.

One of our newer committees is the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) committee that seeks to promote and maintain a culture of equity, inclusiveness, and proactive anti-racism in our organization and community. The DEI committee read the book “So You Want to Talk About Race” by Ijeoma Oluo and has been encouraging the Habitat community to take the time to read it as well. Please join us in reading this book and mark your calendars for the film screening of Ifahars in the Cotton Patch (see article, p.3). This movie tells the story of the civil rights movement against the backdrop of Koinonia Farm’s history from the 1940s through present, including the founding of Habitat for Humanity.

Jazz for Justice, Peace & Dignity at Center Church in South Hadley

In the wake of a year filled with concerns over health, food insecurity, and issues of justice, this live concert featuring NYC-based jazz trumpeter and vocalist Benny Benack and his band with special guest Tahira Clayton will seek to bring people together for a great night of music and to benefit the important issues in our town, region, and country. Hosted by the Center Church, partnering with Egan Valley Coalition.

FREE. Please be advised that this film contains words, images and content about racism that may be disturbing and is intended for mature audiences.

Screening of Award-Winning Film

Briars in the Cotton Patch

Broadcast on PBS stations across the country from 2005-2010, Briars in the Cotton Patch tells the story of the early days of Koinonia Farm, the community that spawned Habitat for Humanity. It is a story of the daring social experiment that was Koinonia, an intentionally integrated community in the middle of a racially divided South in the 1940s. In spite of being the target of attacks and intimidation, the community persisted in its peaceful pursuit of living harmoniously and equitably, “seeking to be a demonstration plot for the Kingdom of God.” Join us for a screening of this one-hour moving film with footage of the civil rights era followed by a discussion.

Monday, October 18, 7 pm, Christian Science Society auditorium, 46 Center St., Northampton FREE. Please be advised that this film contains words, images and content about racism that may be disturbing and is intended for mature audiences.

Build a House at Your House!

(or Office or Place of Worship or…)

Gingerbread Build 2021, December 4-11

Back by popular demand, Gingerbread Build at Home is coming around to a location near you (in fact, of your own choosing), this year December 4th to 11th. Teams will pick up their supplies at a designated location and have a week to design and build their mini masterpieces. At home with family. At designated location (or Office or Place of Worship or…)

Typical house, 25 mini-rooms.

(4-person team will do 1 room, 8-person team will do 2 rooms)

In community, by Megan McDonough, Executive Director

When we identify where our privilege intersects with somebody else’s oppression, we’ll find our opportunities to make real change.

— Ijeoma Oluo, So You Want to Talk About Race

PVHH Board

Christine Aubrey, President
Benjamin Barnes, Vice President
Muhtomi Magua, Treasurer
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Kathy Caputo
Lydia Goldthwaite
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Construction Coordinator
Amy Landry,
Director of Resource Development
Megan McDonough, Executive Director

Intern

Lyla Flitch
Keith Lyman

Graphics Support

Beth Graham

Administrative Volunteers

Del Blank
Lyn Heady
Jodi Kirschner
Lucia Spino

Youth Build

Youth Build 2022.

BR) on Burts Pit Road

Construction to begin

Spring 2022.

Future homeowner information sessions online for three small homes (1BR, 2 BR, 3 BR) on Burts Pit Road in Northampton!

Do you have an aging vehicle you are considering taking out of service? Turn your old car into kitchen cabinets for a family in need of a home! or maybe a window or two to bring sunlight into the new home of a first-time homeowning family?

Check out Habitat’s Cars for Homes program by going to pvhabitat.org/donate/cars-for-homes. Go to pvhabitat.org/donate/cars-for-homes to learn more.
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Jazz for Justice, Peace & Dignity at Center Church in South Hadley

The Benny Benack Band

Friday, October 29, 2021
Doors 6:30 pm
Opening Set: 7:00 pm
Featured Set: 7:30 pm

In the wake of a year filled with concerns over health, food insecurity, and issues of justice, this live concert featuring NYC-based jazz trumpeter and vocalist Benny Benack and his band with special guest Tahira Clayton will seek to bring people together for a great night of music and to benefit the important issues in our town, region, and country. Hosted by the Center Church, partial proceeds will benefit Pioneer Valley Habitat.

Do you have an aging vehicle that’s ready for trade or trash? Turn your old car into something useful. Visit pvhabitat.org/donate/cars-for-homes to learn more.

Future homeowner information sessions online for three small homes (1BR, 2 BR, 3 BR) on Burts Pit Road in Northampton!

Construction to begin Spring 2022.

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