



***The lack of affordable housing is the issue,  
Habitat for Humanity is a part of the solution.***

## Dear Friend,

**WELCOME TO 2020!** This newsletter is the road map of what you can expect from Hartford Area Habitat for Humanity in 2020. We celebrated our 30th Anniversary in 2019 and now we are ramping up to serve more families for the next 5 years.

I've shared that we are striving to serve 50 families annually through our homeownership model that includes new construction, rehabs, repairs for our vulnerable populations and our financial freedom center. We seek to fulfill the vision that everyone has a decent place to live in the world.



### So what can you expect in 2020:

- Expansion to serve more towns and communities in Hartford County and beyond. In 2020, we will be returning to Bloomfield, Bristol, East Hartford and Windsor. We are seeking opportunities to partner in West Hartford, Granby, East Windsor, Enfield and Windsor Locks.
- We've partnered with the Home Depot Foundation to provide affordable repairs to our veterans. Our repair program works closely with veteran homeowners to address critical projects that would enable them to age in place.
- You will see more data and advocacy from Habitat regarding affordable housing and how our mission is a part of the solution.
- We will continue to build with our faith partners in 2020 and have designated a build site for each Saturday in 2020.
- Women Build, Golf Tournament, Build-A Thon opportunities are available in 2020.
- We will continue to expand on our youth advocacy and playhouse builds to reach the next generations of Habitat volunteers.

Thanks again for supporting our efforts to create affordable homeownership opportunities in the State of Connecticut and across the world.

In Partnership,

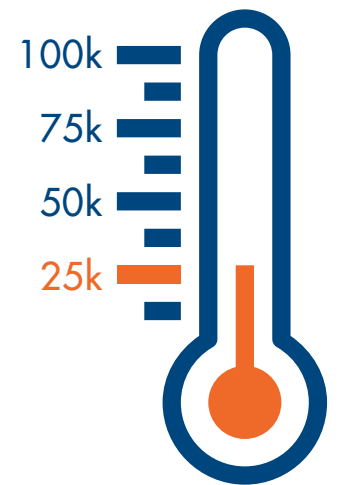
KARRAINE MOODY  
Chief Executive Officer

## The House the Board Built



It is considered strong governance when a non-profit's board of directors are engaged in the fundraising and financial stewardship of the mission. For the past 30 years, our board of directors has maintained a 100% giving policy, which means that each year our board members are charged with giving a meaningful financial gift.

To kick start 2020, our board of directors is committed to raising 100k towards the sponsorship of a single family home. This is exciting news and hope that you will support the board in this goal.



## 2020 Board of Directors

Mark Vasington, *Chair*  
Bildade Augustin, *Vice-Chair*

Crystal Floyd, *Treasurer*  
Anne Hamilton, *Secretary*

Matthew Bjorkman  
Eric Brown  
Jesse Carabase  
Sharon Cheeks  
Ben Daigle

Jennifer Guidry  
Abhist Dwivedi  
Steven Hernandez  
Emily Rivera  
David Symonette

## Come Network with our Board in 2020

Visit [HartfordHabitat.org/board](https://HartfordHabitat.org/board) for more details.

# Mission Complete: Rock the Block Celebration on Main Street



Our 30th anniversary year included the completion of six homes, on North Main St in Hartford, built by over 2,500 volunteers! This development started in September of 2018 when hundreds of volunteers framed the exterior & interior walls in a warehouse while contractors excavated, set foundations, and prepared the worksite. Late that fall and early winter, corporate, civic, school, and faith groups rallied to help us load and lift all the pre-framed walls into place. Our regular volunteers, known as Saints, installed windows and helped weatherize the buildings. By the end of February, contractors helped us frame and shingle the roofs and a month later the siding was installed, rough plumbing & electric were complete and the homes were being insulated. When the weather started to warm in the spring our amazing volunteer groups returned. We enjoyed a successful month long Women Build event in May

where we hung drywall and started painting and trim work. Through the summer we hosted corporate volunteer days and a variety of generous volunteer groups who helped us continue the project.



They hung doors, installed flooring, framed front porches, mounted window blinds, attached kitchen cabinets, built exterior stairs, and put in doorknobs among other final touches. As summer drew to a close contractors and volunteers alike buzzed around the site completing sidewalks, driveways, landscaping, painting, and cleaning. It all led to the moment our prospective homeowners dream of, when we dedicate the home to their family and hand them the keys! The Main Street dedication included a block party celebration for the whole community and all our volunteers to welcome the families into their new homes. The 6 new homes join 3 other Habitat homes, completed in 2017, creating a powerful visual impact along the City's northern corridor. We hope to partner with the City of Hartford in the future to develop additional homes on the Main Street corridor.



Turning donations into homes!



We here at the Hartford Habitat ReStore are about one simple thing: community. Nobody embodies that word more than our many amazing volunteers. People from all walks of life volunteer at ReStore. Everyone from retired men and women to corporate groups, schools and civic organizations. Why volunteer at ReStore? Three words: fulfillment, kindness and generosity.

gain valuable experience in the working world. Whether it's helping clean up, recycle metal, or move furniture, Gengras has been amazing since the day they started! The group from FPC have been with us for four years now, and thanks to them, many trailers have been unloaded in record time. A few of the boys we may not see anymore, but that's because they got jobs outside of school and we couldn't be happier for them! IEA, led by my Amy, have kept the ReStore clean and tidy. We look forward to seeing all of our groups every week! Major companies like Cigna, Aetna and Pratt & Whitney, colleges like St. Joseph's, as well as sororities such as Delta Sigma Theta, and even sports teams like the Hartford Hawks have come in. We are incredibly thankful to each and every group that volunteers with us.

We don't just benefit from our great volunteers. The volunteers themselves benefit from the experience. Groups from the Gengras Center, FPC and IEA come in throughout the week to not only give us a helping hand, but to also

The volunteers here at the Hartford ReStore not only give back to the community...they are a part of it! Without them there would be no ReStore, and we are grateful to all of them. Thank you!



500 Cottage Grove Road, Bloomfield 860-519-0828. Open Tues-Sat 9am-5pm Thurs 10am-7pm

## Sponsor Spotlight



David Alan Hospitality Group is a proud partner and supporter of our friends at Habitat for Humanity. When businesses come together to support a cause such as Habitat's, beautiful things are made. We love knowing that our catered drop-off lunches keep the Build Day teams fueled and nourished while they lend a helping hand. In the end, help is a cycle, and it gives us immense pride to know we are part of that cycle.

David Alan Hospitality Group recently expanded our operations moving from a 2,000 sq. ft. facility into a 10,000 sq. ft. facility. Our capabilities to service our clients to the fullest potential has greatly increased and we are thrilled to be able to bring people's visions to life and smiles to their faces. After all, food is just the beginning.

## We Would Like to Thank Our New Sponsors from 2019

Barlett Brainard Eacott Inc  
 Clarus Commerce  
 Gerber Technology  
 HESCO  
 MicroCare  
 Petro Home Services  
 Scapa Healthcare  
 Standard Builders  
 Talcott Resolution  
 Tucker Mechanical  
 Zurich Insurance

Central Baptist Church  
 Copper Hill United Methodist Church  
 Corpus Christi Social Action Committee  
 Emanuel Lutheran Church  
 Ensworth Charitable Foundation  
 First Baptist Church  
 First Church of Christ Congregational  
 First Church Congregational  
 First Church of Simsbury  
 First Congregational Church of Granby  
 South Congregational Church of East Harford

South United Methodist Church  
 St. James Episcopal Church  
 St. Jeanne Jugan Parish  
 St. Mary's Church



The CBRE corporate office in Hartford, Connecticut, has been committed to volunteering and supporting Hartford Area Habitat for Humanity. CBRE sponsors an annual Corporate Build Day for the past 20 years. Retired employee, Bob Daglio and Audrey Cherubin (CBRE Cares) both served on the Site Selection Committee and John Reed was on the Board in Springfield. We also have a core group of amazing employees that have supported our corporate build days since day 1. Audrey Cherubin, Jeff Livingston, John Reed, Dave Barnes and Jennifer Gosselin have volunteered for the entirety of the 20 years.

CBRE Cares is the company's corporate giving and volunteerism program. It strives to create real benefit for individuals in need through local community outreach and support, disaster-response initiatives, and locally driven, nationally sanctioned programs. At CBRE, our core RISE values of Respect, Integrity, Service and Excellence are the guiding principles in all that we do. And we approach our commitment to service with the same enthusiasm and creativity as we approach our business, every day. CBRE Cares encompasses all philanthropic events put forth by CBRE.



HartfordHabitat.org

## BUILDING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES WITH HOPE

OVER **300** families served to date

**0% INTEREST**  
 the reason our homes are affordable

greater hartford fundraising budget: **\$2.5 million** (annual)

ALL HOMES **3.0** ENERGY STAR CERTIFIED

**5000** volunteers hosted annually

**30 TOWNS** Serving Hartford County

over **\$34** million dollars ADDED TO GREATER HARTFORD REGION'S TAX BASE

**90.6%** of budget spent on program expenses

**10%** Tithe to Habitat International sponsored 294 homes globally

**150** HOURS OF SWEAT EQUITY PERFORMED BY EACH HOMEOWNER

**50** HOURS OF FINANCIAL LITERACY COMPLETED BY EACH HOMEOWNER

**CHARITY NAVIGATOR**  
 Four Star Charity

**82%** homeowners' children graduate high school

**Only 31 of CT's 169 Towns** HAVE 10% AFFORDABLE HOUSING



## 2020 DATES

### MARCH

ReStore Sale Day: March 5th  
Ambassador Workshop: March 5th (12-2pm)

### APRIL

ReStore Sale Day: April 2nd  
Youth Advocacy and Engagement Conference: April 25th (8:30am-3pm)

### MAY

Women Build: Entire month of May  
ReStore Sale Day: May 7th

### JUNE

ReStore Sale Day: June 4th  
Ambassador Workshop: June 4th (12-2pm)  
Key and Dedication Ceremony: (TBD)

### JULY

ReStore Sale Day: July 2nd  
Playhouse-A-Thon: July 22nd - August 1st

### AUGUST

ReStore Sale Day: August 6th  
Golf Tournament: August 24th

### SEPTEMBER

ReStore Sale Day: September 3rd  
Build-A-Thon: September 8th - October 3rd  
Neighborhood Bus Tour: (TBD)

### OCTOBER

ReStore Sale Day: October 1st  
Ambassador Workshop: October 8th (12-2pm)

### NOVEMBER

ReStore Sale Day: November 5th

### DECEMBER

Habitat Annual Meeting: December 1st  
ReStore Sale Day: December 3rd  
Key and Dedication Ceremony: (TBD)

# Women Build 2020

*Girls play house, Women Build them!*  
[www.hartfordhabitat.org/women-build](http://www.hartfordhabitat.org/women-build)



**Become a 2020 Women Build Team Captain**

Recruit a team of volunteers and sponsor the day's work. Bring a group of friends or co-workers out for a Team Leader Day at one of our Women Build homes during the month of May. Individuals and groups who commit to participating in a Women Build Day help to provide the resources necessary to build a home, including both volunteer labor and financial sponsorship.

For more information contact Rose: [rose@hartfordhabitat.org](mailto:rose@hartfordhabitat.org)



*Empowered women, Empower Women*

February 20, 2020, 6-7:30pm at Manchester Community College



*If you have any questions about any signature event, please contact one of our leaders:*

### Youth Advocacy Conference

Ryan Gorecki: [ryan@hartfordhabitat.org](mailto:ryan@hartfordhabitat.org)

### Women Build

Rose Vigdal: [rose@hartfordhabitat.org](mailto:rose@hartfordhabitat.org)

### Playhouse and Golf Tournament

Christina D'Amato:  
[christina@hartfordhabitat.org](mailto:christina@hartfordhabitat.org)

### Marketing

Olivia Arsenault:  
[olivia@hartfordhabitat.org](mailto:olivia@hartfordhabitat.org)

### General Questions

April Hansley: [april@hartfordhabitat.org](mailto:april@hartfordhabitat.org)

## Playhouse



Playhouse Build is a unique way for groups to help sponsor a Habitat home while also providing a team building experience for co-workers. Teams work together to construct and decorate colorful, themed, children's playhouses which are then donated to local families or community groups serving children in Greater Hartford. We are looking for volunteers to help grow this program and inspire the dreams of homeownership. Contact Christina D'Amato for details: [christina@hartfordhabitat.org](mailto:christina@hartfordhabitat.org)

Meet Ava, Habitat Homeowner since August, 2019. "She loves her house. Since we received it, she plays in it daily, bringing stuffed animals or babies inside and pretends to cook." – Loving Mom



**SAVE THE DATE**  
Monday August 24, 2020

Habitat for Humanity  
26th Annual  
Sticks for Bricks  
Charity Golf Tournament  
Wampanag Country Club, West Hartford

WHO KNEW A DAY ON THE COURSE, COULD BUILD A HOUSE!



## NEIGHBORHOOD BUS TOUR

JOIN US FOR A FIRST HAND TOUR OF OUR REVITALIZED NEIGHBORHOODS AND HEAR ABOUT OUR EXPANDED MISSION!

# SEPTEMBER 2020

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT ROSE VIGDAL AT 860-541-2208 EXT. 2205



Put your old car to work, building houses!

## Cars For Homes

Donating your vehicle could be tax deductible!

[hartfordhabitat.org/donate-a-car](http://hartfordhabitat.org/donate-a-car)



### I am a Habitat Homeowner.

Robin is a big believer in Habitat, and she continues to help anyway she can. For Robin, "Life is all about helping out." Having a safe, affordable home stabilized her life. It gave her time to focus on raising her family. She eventually earned her GED, and now works for Companions & Homemakers serving people in need. It's a natural fit and a job she loves. In two years her mortgage will be paid off, and then she can say, "This house is my house."



FINANCIAL FREEDOM CENTER  
— HARTFORD HABITAT —

**Do you want to achieve  
Financial Freedom?  
Do you need help  
managing your money?**

Call our **Financial Freedom Center** for help at  
860-541-2208 ext. 2210.  
**Classes will begin in April 2020**



### Applicant Information Meeting

To learn more about becoming  
a Habitat for Humanity homeowner,  
plan to join us at our next

#### Applicant Information Meeting (AIM)

Sat. February 22, 2020 8am Community Renewal Team (CRT) 555 Windsor Street Hartford, CT 06210	Sat. February 22, 2020 12pm Bristol Public Library Info Booth 5 High Street Bristol, CT 06010
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You may eligible if you have:

- A need for simple, decent, affordable housing
- Earn a minimum of \$36,000 per year
- A willingness to partner with Habitat



**ARE YOU A  
VETERAN  
AND HAVE A  
CRITICAL REPAIR  
NEEDED FOR  
YOUR HOME?**

**CALL US FOR MORE INFORMATION.**



**FOUNDATION**

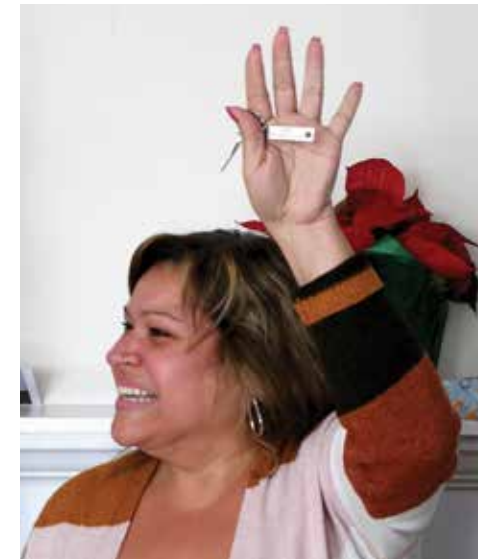
## Consider Habitat for your Legacy Gift

Hartford Area Habitat for Humanity has been putting God's love into action by helping hardworking and deserving families become successful homeowners. People of diverse faiths and backgrounds find common ground in building homes and establishing strong communities. We've come this far without a reserve of funds or endowment of any kind. Now, as HAHFH enters the next stage of its maturity as an organization, you are invited to consider a legacy gift to Hartford Area Habitat for Humanity by including us in your estate plans. By planning a legacy gift, you are building a strong foundation for your community's future and ensuring we are able to

continue serving others in our mission to eliminate poverty housing in the Greater Hartford Area.

Planned Giving is a set of ways you, a supporter of Hartford Area Habitat for Humanity, can arrange to leave gifts of money or other assets to fund our mission after your lifetime. While, on some level, all gifts are "planned," – we would like you to consider our affiliate in your will to help us continue our work of giving the opportunity of successful homeownership to a deserving family. *Just this past year, two homes were gifted to Hartford Habitat. In Bloomfield, we received a legacy gift from Stephen Gemski that co-sponsored the restoration of 10 Beach Drive in Bloomfield.*

**The first step is to develop a charitable giving strategy, call Rose Vigdal, our Engagement Manager to discuss at 860-541-2208 ext. 2205.**



Maribel Diaz and her family with the Gemski family at the key and dedication ceremony.

## Housing Spectrum

Habitat for Humanity's mission is based around homeownership and financial empowerment. Although we do not address the direct needs of homeless citizens and those

re-entering society, our staff is committed to being supportive of those that serve all within the affordable housing spectrum. Below are two examples of how our staff gives back.

## Building Welcoming Communities



Volunteer Manager, Ryan Gorecki, participated in the Leadership Greater Hartford, QUEST program in 2019. He joined a taskforce focused on building a welcoming community for citizens returning from incarceration. In their taskforce, Gorecki and the Welcoming Community Team, elected to host a dinner that would open doors for returning citizens as they began their journey to reintegrate into our community.

During this dinner, they raised awareness of returning citizens needs while reducing the stigma attributed to the re-entry population. This dinner also provided an opportunity to connect individuals to additional resources and channels of community support.

After the meal portion of our evening, we were fortunate to host a panel of returning citizens that shared their successes, challenges, and needs with our audience. The panel shed light on issues including lack of basic necessities such as, clothing, toiletries and housing, and discussed their experience in securing employment, transportation and stability. Several of our panelists faced significant struggle on their path, but all shared a resounding message of inspiration and hope."

To learn more about future initiatives, please reach out to:  
[buildingwelcomingcommunities@gmail.com](mailto:buildingwelcomingcommunities@gmail.com)



## The Navigators

Rose Vigdal, our Individual Engagement Manager, is volunteering her time as a member of the Navigator Team.

Working with The Permanent Commission on the Status of Hartford Women partnering with the Greater Hartford Reentry Council and Community Partners in Action, The Navigators lead, inspire and help direct justice-involved women maintain a steady life course coming home from incarceration.

The women who are reentering are known as The Drivers and will depend on the Navigator for direction and leadership. This program is grass-roots as its growth depends on support from the community and partnering The Drivers with The Navigators to build a strong bond of confidentiality and trust.

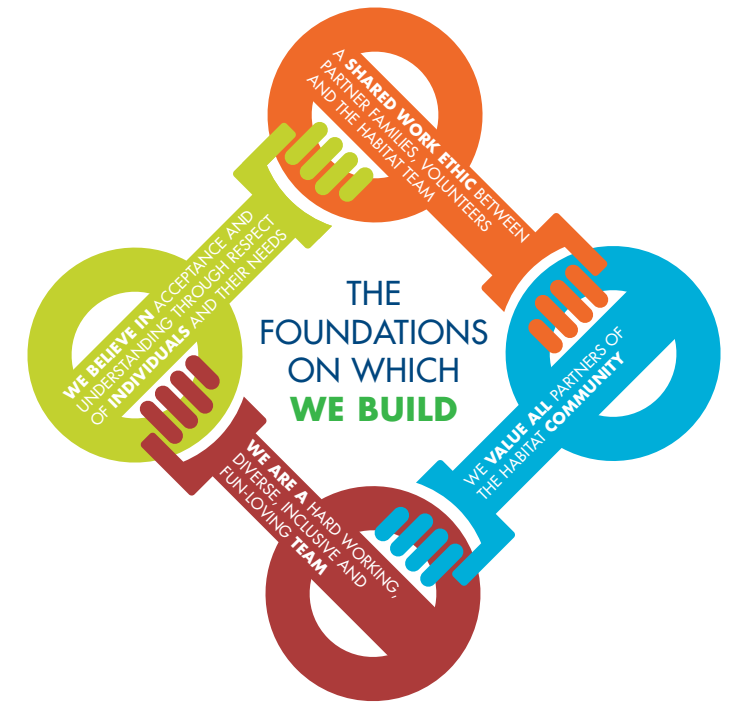
Rose is looking forward to being a positive mentor, helping to guide and instill empowerment as The Drivers embark on their journey of reentry.

## Youth Advocacy + Engagement Conference: April 25th, 2020

Hartford Habitat is pleased to announce our Third Annual Youth Advocacy & Engagement Conference!

The culmination event of our Youth Advocacy month, will highlight our future leaders ages 11-18 in an all-day event on Saturday April 25th, 2020. We will kick off our conference with several breakout sessions including an extended Habitat "101", a Habitat Homeowner Story, Youth Impact, a letter writing campaign, and more!

Lunch will be provided at noon, and light snacks will be available throughout the day. During the conference, participants will also have the chance to build and decorate several Habitat Playhouses! The playhouse portion of the conference will be a great opportunity for our youth advocates to get some hands on experience and add their own personal touch to our community. Please visit our website to learn more about all Youth Advocacy & Engagement activities in 2020:  
[hartfordhabitat.org/advocacy/](http://hartfordhabitat.org/advocacy/)



**HARTFORD HABITAT**  
**SHARED VALUES**



2019 Youth Ambassadors

# Affordable Housing

Habitat for Humanity is a part of the solution.

Habitat for Humanity's mission is to create and support affordable housing through homeownership. We are providing a stable home solution for prospective applicants that are the working class and are earning between \$37,000 and \$70,000 annually. They do not qualify for subsidized housing and typically will not qualify for a conventional mortgage. **Our model is unique in that we serve as the general contractor, the lender, the realtor and also the family support system.**

Over the past five years, there were several major reports on Connecticut's housing crisis. The symptoms and causes of this epidemic have been described as:

- Market rate apartments are well over 30% of household income and families simply cannot afford the rent
- The number of ALICE families continue to grow annually (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed)
- Suburban towns do not want "subsidized housing units"
- Subsidized units are concentrated in urban areas



Karraine Moody, Habitat CEO, breaking ground with Mayor Leclerc-East Hartford and prospective homeowner Sara Davis



Completed six units on Main Street-Hartford



Bill Rabbit, Private Capital Group (Habitat sponsor) congratulating Donovan Howard at dedication ceremony

- Many units are in disrepair and labeled substandard
- Higher paying jobs are needed so families can afford the current housing rates
- Reduction in the number of new construction permits

All of the above symptoms are correct and relevant to the problem. However similar to a health condition, our housing crisis will require multiple solutions to resolve this epidemic. Habitat is one of the perfect solutions to aide in this crisis. **Our model is the perfect private/public/grassroot blend of resources, efforts and accountabilities.**

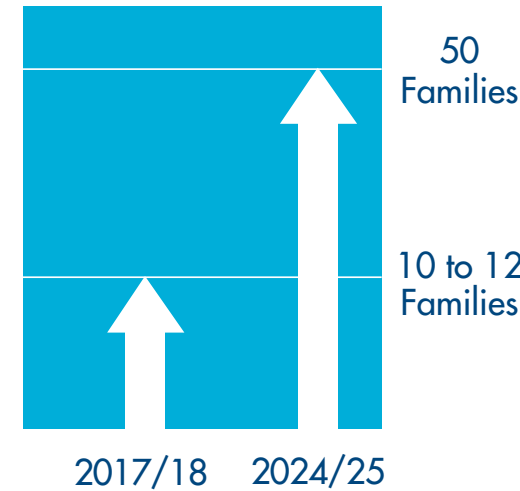
As a leader in building affordable housing in Hartford County, Habitat works closely with municipalities such as East Hartford, Bloomfield, Bristol, Granby and New Britain. We engage local businesses and their employees who support our fundraising efforts and volunteer not only to identify community needs, but to help satisfy those needs.

The Habitat for Humanity model is a **win-win situation** for affordable housing because we build energy efficient homes, 0% interest mortgage and the training to become a successful homeowner.

**We offer a hand up, rather than a hand out.**

## Strengthening Communities Through Homeownership!

### SUPPORTING EVEN MORE FAMILIES!



New Construction  
Rehabs  
Repair Projects  
Financial Freedom Center  
Restore Special Needs Initiative  
**\$10,000/family**



Habitat Volunteers



A Brush with Kindness



150 hours of sweat equity = homeowners!



ReStore Home Improvement and Donation Center



**YES, I want to help Habitat build homes and hope in Hartford County!**

**Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**I wish to make a monthly contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

My enclosed check is made payable to: Hartford Area Habitat for Humanity

To give online please visit [www.hartfordhabitat.org/donate-now/](http://www.hartfordhabitat.org/donate-now/)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

All contributions are tax deductible in accordance with IRS regulations

I am making my gift:

- In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_
- In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_
- My company will match my gift. (form will be forwarded)
- I am interested in Volunteering.
- Please send me information about Planned Giving.



