



HABITAT HAPPENINGS

JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

A LETTER



BEFORE

Pictures of 61 Taylor Drive that was rehabbed by volunteers in 2020. This is one of the many previously blighted properties that Hartford Area Habitat for Humanity has completed in the past five years.

Volunteers and Donors Build Resilient Communities

"Nothing is more satisfying that a day of hard work w/ HAHFH"

"Great day, hard work, very invigorating and inspirational experience."

"1st time volunteer, awesome experience. Never stressed or overworked, felt like I was appreciated. Thanks!"

"Very rewarding experience."

Volunteer Survey Comments

Message from our CEO



If I can say one word to summarize this year, it would be resiliency. If I was to make it a full sentence; it would be simple. *Volunteers and Donors Build Resilient Communities.* 2020 has taught us to

value the most precious moments we have with our families and even more to love our neighbor. I would like to thank all of the donors and volunteers that have supported Hartford Habitat this past year. As you can see, we were able to make tremendous strides despite the pandemic.

Our cover page features the before and after pictures of one of our rehabs that we completed in 2020. I am happy to report that the families have closed on their homes and have begun their journey as homeowners. We will continue to press forward in 2021. In May, we will complete the two homes on Haviland in Bristol and we aim to break ground on multiple sites in East Hartford, Hartford and Windsor. Happy New Year and may you continue to be well!

In Partnership,

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Chief Executive Officer

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Building "Green"

The terms "sustainable building" and "green building" are used somewhat interchangeably within the building industry. They describe a type of construction that focuses on: maximizing energy efficiency, ensuring indoor air quality, and conserving natural resources.

As we move into the New Year, Hartford Habitat is implementing the following three goals as the cornerstone of our continued focus on sustainable, green building practices:

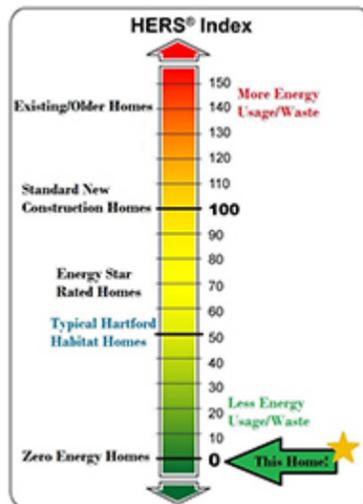
- New Habitat houses will be Zero Energy Ready Home Certified. Following trusted guidelines set by the Department of Energy that include providing:
 - Healthy Indoor Air Quality
 - Extremely Efficient Heating and Cooling Systems
 - Low Utility Bills (electricity and water)
 - Reduced Environmental Impact
 - Safety and Durability
- All Habitat houses must be healthy and efficient homes for our partner families to live.
- Habitat will incorporate building practices and materials that limit the use of nonrenewable natural resources and improve the environment.

Our affiliate will be starting construction of new homes and renovation of existing vacant & blighted properties in the Greater Hartford Area starting in the Spring and Summer of 2021. Our tentative schedule includes starting:

- 2 New homes on the corner of Forbes & Chester in East Hartford (4 Bedroom, 1.5 Bath, 1 car garage)
- 4 New homes on Rainbow Rd, Windsor (4 Bedroom, 1.5 Bath, 1 car garage)
- 2 New homes on South St, Manchester (3 Bedroom, 1.5 Bath)
- 1 Rehab home on Vineland Terrace, Hartford. Our 2nd one on this street! (2 family home, 4 rooms & 2 baths total)
- 1+ Additional rehab properties currently under acquisition



Thanks to the success of our first Zero Energy home, we will strive to build all new construction homes to be Zero Energy Ready Home certified!



Hartford Habitat Builds Green Homes



With their sweat equity, and the guidance of Hartford Area Habitat for Humanity (HAHfH) and sponsors, Chris and Sharmane Walton helped build their award-winning energy and material efficient single-family home in South Hartford. The home is Energy Star Certified, meets the EPA Indoor airPLUS and Zero Energy Ready Home (ZERH) requirements.

The Department of Energy defines a ZERH home as a "high-performance" home which is so efficient, that a renewable energy system can offset all or most of its energy consumption. The Walton's home had to achieve several criteria to be defined as a ZERH rated home, such as: optimal thermal protection, high-performance heating and cooling, whole house water protection, comprehensive indoor air quality and solar ready construction. Thanks to the talented Green Team at HAHfH and their consultants and sponsors, the Walton's home met all the requirements and achieved a Home Energy Rating System (HERs) index of -7.

Chris and Sharmane Walton feel grateful for this opportunity to be Green Homeowners. They are seeing the benefits of living in a home that runs on electricity using current technology to heat, cool and run all the appliances, lighting, etc. Dollars saved allow for spending

to go towards other essentials such as their children's education. What has become increasingly important is the ability to ensure that sustainable housing is affordable to homeowners over the long term. This means building homes that incorporate energy-efficient measures and technologies in their design.

The Walton's home is not only energy efficient, it is an award winner for 2019 CT Green Building Council – Residential Award of Honor; CT Zero Energy Ready Challenge receiving the 2019 Award Winners for Lowest HERs Rating before Renewables and Affordability and 2020 Housing Innovation Award – Grand Prize Winner in the Affordable Housing Category from the United States Department of Energy.

HAHfH will continue to build sustainable housing to take better care of the environment, homeowners, and volunteers. Goals to be reached are to reduce the home's monthly and life cycle costs and increase efficiency and durability while providing healthy environments.



Walton home, 2019

AmeriCorps + ConnectiCorps Service Members

Since the early 2000's, Hartford Habitat has been privileged to host dozens of AmeriCorps Service Members at our affiliate. AmeriCorps Service Members are an absolute asset to our team and have had an incredible impact throughout their service with us. We are excited to share that during the 2020-2021 service year, we will host three AmeriCorps Members, from two different AmeriCorps Programs:

AmeriCorps National - Allows organizations to address community needs by using AmeriCorps resources to support existing programs and build program capacity. National Members currently engage in direct service on site, leading our volunteer teams through all stages of construction.

ConnectiCorps - A new community service program designed to help address the growing demand on essential services provided by Connecticut's nonprofits. ConnectiCorps offers an opportunity for high-impact service in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. ConnectiCorps Service Members currently engage in strategic planning for volunteer recruitment and retention, and direct service on site.

Meet Our Team



Uendi Carcani
ConnectiCorps
Service Member
2020-2021

I have had the most unforgettable experiences with this team, and I have certainly learned a lot. I believe that this is the perfect opportunity to grow and gain a new

perspective on life. There is nothing more rewarding than to see the change that volunteer service brings to our community, and it's my greatest motivation to keep serving with HAHFH!



Annie Geitner
AmeriCorps National
Construction Crew Leader
2020-2021

Working with Hartford Area Habitat for Humanity has provided me an avenue to explore my interests in developing affordable housing.

The best part about working at HAHFH is that I get the opportunity to be a part of a community full of amazing people!



Meghan O'Connor
ConnectiCorps
Service Member
2020-2021

As a graduate social work student at UConn, I am very excited for the opportunity to get to work with Hartford Habitat and serve within the greater Hartford community. I volunteered with Habitat for Humanity throughout college, and I am excited learn and work with prospective homeowners, volunteers, and staff on site, as well as assist with volunteer recruitment in COVID-19. I am grateful for this opportunity and what this service term will bring!

Now Recruiting!! AmeriCorps National Construction Crew Leaders

For one year, you can get paid to build sustainable solutions in a community, gain valuable hands on experience and prepare for your future. This full-time AmeriCorps service position offers a great opportunity to make a real impact in the lives of others, while building your own knowledge and skillset.

Program benefits include a living allowance, access to AmeriCorps healthcare benefits, and a Segal Education Award upon successful completion of service term.

Contact volunteer@hartfordhabitat.org for more information!

Greetings Habitat Ambassadors + Youth Community Leaders,

We are pleased to announce that our annual Youth Advocacy & Engagement month has been scheduled to commence in April of 2021! In response to COVID-19, we have restructured our program to offer virtual engagement and informational sessions, and will not host an in-person conference in 2021.

All virtual sessions will be available on our Youth VolunteerHUB throughout the month, and will highlight several different topics including Habitat "101" Information, Why Home Matters, Youth Advocacy Opportunities and more! We will also offer several virtual activity packets that your family can sign up to receive such as: letter writing campaigns, virtual fundraising opportunities, and our Habitat Youth Ambassadorship guide.

Please visit our website at hartfordhabitat.org/advocacy or email volunteer@hartfordhabitat.org for more information.

Habitat AmeriCorps
25 years of impact

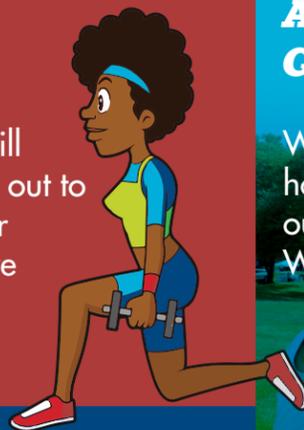
11,256	Habitat AmeriCorps members gained job skills like homebuilding experience, volunteer management, project management and leadership
4.2 million	volunteers were able to invest in their own communities
18 million	service hours completed by Habitat AmeriCorps members
122,758	individuals served by Habitat AmeriCorps members

Photo of a smiling man wearing a white hard hat and a white t-shirt with Habitat for Humanity and AmeriCorps logos. A name tag on his shirt reads "Brandon".

2021 Calendar of Events

April: #Lunges4Lumber

We are lunging for lumber. Will you take the challenge? Reach out to become an ambassador for our virtual challenge. Keep your eye on our social media for more information!



August: Sticks for Bricks Golf Tournament

Who knew a day on the course could build a house? Join us on Monday, August 23rd for our annual charity golf tournament at Wampanoag Country Club



September: Build-A-Thon

Offered strictly to local corporations, this building blitz event offers organizations a chance to invest in their employees and community while receiving additional build day perks and marketing benefits.



October: Building on Faith



May: Women Build Teams

This is a great build opportunity for your sorority, church, co-workers and the mother/daughter teams!



Become a 2021 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



Empowered women, Empower Women



June-July: Corporate Build Days

Empower your female co-workers to join a community of strong, like-minded women coming together to be a force for good in our community. Connect with colleagues in a truly meaningful way with a private, on-site, team building experience.



November: Veteran Appreciation Month

Contact Habitat for Humanity for details on our various programs that focus on:

BUILDING

Safe, decent, affordable housing is the centerpiece of Veterans Build. In many communities, we are expanding programs to maintain and preserve homes.

VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

We provide volunteer experiences that bring together veterans, military families and their neighbors. These experiences help bridge the gap and ease the transition to civilian life with fulfilling community engagement.

EDUCATION

We offer financial education and financial literacy programs. Our programs support successful homeownership among veteran and military homeowners.

HONOR

Veteran's Day is a day on for our affiliate. We host an annual build week for those that served our great country. We invite you to join one of our build events.

Call 860-541-2208 for details or visit hartfordhabitat.org



December: Home for the Holidays



HARTFORD AREA HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



Girls play house, Women Build them!

In May, Hartford Area Habitat for Humanity holds our fundraising event Women Build to increase individual support of the mission & bring awareness to the need of homeownership for women. In the U.S., 1 in 6 households pay half or more of their income on their home. Women are disproportionately affected by this severe cost-burden. They make up a larger share of U.S. households living in poverty and as well as receiving government-subsidized housing. We know that safe, affordable housing means that individuals and families have the opportunity to thrive. However, women face challenges that make it more difficult to access this basic need.

Our Women build event brings women together in teams where they can learn and work to make a difference in the community. This even has the potential to bring in over \$100,000 with each participant donating a \$150 minimum to build for the day. The event provides the opportunity for women to take a proactive step in serving their communities and a deserving family while fundraising as a team.



500 Cottage Grove Road, Bloomfield, CT 06002

SHOP DONATE VOLUNTEER

hartfordhabitat.org/restore 860-519-0828

Furniture, appliances, building materials, and more at discount prices. Proceeds help build Habitat for Humanity homes in the Hartford area.

SAVE 50-75% OFF RETAIL PRICES

on quality home improvement goods



SHOP THE STORE THAT BUILDS HOMES.

500 Cottage Grove Rd, Bloomfield, CT 06002
860-519-0828
hartfordhabitat.org/restore

Your Donations Help the Community

Hartford Area Habitat for Humanity ReStore relies on your kind donations. Whether you're donating furniture, tools, a piano or even a sailboat, every donation helps! We are always looking for something new and saleable and we are calling on you for donation help.

Are you remodeling your kitchen? We would love your cabinets! How about appliances, are you replacing them? We take refrigerators, ovens/cook tops, microwaves, and dishwashers. Upgrading your bath? We have customers asking all of the time about bathroom vanities! Please consider donating your items to the ReStore; do not throw them away.

If you are downsizing and would like your furniture to potentially find a new home, donating to the Hartford Habitat ReStore may be for you. In addition to cabinets and appliances, we take living room, bedroom and office furniture, tools and building materials. Have tchotchkes/knick-knacks taking space, how about music/movies, and books such as novels, cookbooks and comics, we will take them.

Due to the ongoing Coronavirus outbreak, we need saleable items. Your unwanted items find new life for someone may be looking for exactly what you are tired of! Your donations help us in our mission, by raising dollars to build houses so that a family has a decent place to live.

Please send pictures of the items you are looking to donate to restore@hartfordhabitat.org

Thankful Turkey

It all started just a few years ago when Capri Brightenti came into the Hartford Habitat ReStore to purchase a cook top. Capri is the President of Miller Farms in Avon, which raises turkeys and partners with other family-owned farms for the birds since 1950. For 70 years, Miller Farms has been providing turkeys for families in the state of Connecticut, and for the past two years, has graciously donated turkey's for Thanksgiving to our Habitat families. They are continuing their generosity again this year.

Capri and her family at Miller Farms have been very generous not only to our Habitat families, but to the state of Connecticut. We look forward to our continuing partnership!

To learn more about the Thankful Turkey program, visit: www.millerfarms.us
More information about Restore: www.hartfordhabitat.org



ReStore Director Matt Boyne, Miller Farms President Capri Brightenti, Miller Farms COO Adam DeJulius

Making a Sustainable Impact



using Insulated Concrete Forms (ICFs) that are stacked and braced. The forms used while building the Jumps's home were 3" thick, both sides with a 6" opening for the concrete to be poured into. The ICFs had metal nailing strips that allowed the typical interior finishes and exterior treatments such as siding and sheetrock to be applied.

As for energy savings, the biggest area is in utility costs. The mass of the concrete slows down the passage of heat or cold moving through the walls. Their home stays warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer. Currently the heating costs are approximately \$100 month using gas heat in the winter and the summer cooling using A/C window units is minimal.

Gossett and Ethline are grateful for their unique Habitat home.

Their children are grown and out of the house and on their own, busy with their lives. They now have a grandson who comes for visits and the house is busy with family gatherings and holiday celebrations throughout the year. Asked if they were happy with living in a concrete home after all these years, Gossett replied, "yes, very happy!"



Jumps Home, June 2006

In 2006, Gossett and Ethline Jumps, along with their two children, were thrilled to become Hartford Habitat's first concrete-built homeowners. They were going to live in a home that was designed for energy efficient living. A few key benefits of building with concrete are durability and easy maintenance. Concrete and cement-based products form a solid, durable surface that resists rot, pests, and fires.

Concrete homes look exactly like "stick built" homes. They are constructed

The Multigenerational Impact of the Habitat Mission

Through a grant Travelers, Hartford Area Habitat for Humanity recently completed a 10 year homeowner impact study with the Connecticut Data Collaboration. Please visit our website to read the full report! As

a volunteer and donor, it will be encouraging to know that your support did so much more than build a house. www.hartfordhabitat.org

Veteran Repairs: A Brush with Kindness

Fred and Cheryl Lesniewski

Fred, a Connecticut native joined the US Navy in 1971 as a machinist mate on the submarine



USS Patrick Henry (SSBN-599) where he had periscope liberty just once! After 4 years of service he returned where he met and married his wife of 41 years, Cheryl. They purchased their home in 1978 and have lived there ever since. As they have aged so has the house and

with this year, in the midst of the pandemic, they have had several large areas of repairs (furnace, water heater, failed appliances) that needed immediate attention.

Cheryl and Fred were overwhelmed and didn't know where to turn when Fred, trying to step into the tub to shower, became a challenge. There are also other bathroom repairs that need to be done, including grab bar installation and flooring.

Cheryl shared her concerns with her good neighbor & friend, Susan, who recommended Hartford Area Habitat. Susan's son had volunteered with Habitat through their Church and said to give us a call. Through the spirit of friendship and Faith, they will soon have their bathroom repaired and a walk-in shower installed through our Hartford Area Habitat for Humanity's Brush with Kindness program & partnership with the Home Depot Foundation.

Gladys Berry

When Gladys met Private Samuel O. Berry Sr. in 1959, less than 2 years after his discharge from the US Army, she never thought they'd be married for 55 years and have 3 children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. At 82 years young, she is aging in place independently since the passing of her husband and doing well until her recent back surgery in 2019.

She is not able to step into the tub to shower and is in need of a walk-in only shower that also has grab bars and a seat. With a recommendation from her Hartford HealthCare physical therapist & home health aide a call was made to our Family Service department to ask about our Brush with Kindness Program. After a home



repair evaluation and a completed application, Ms. Gladys will soon be able to take a nice warm shower with ease.

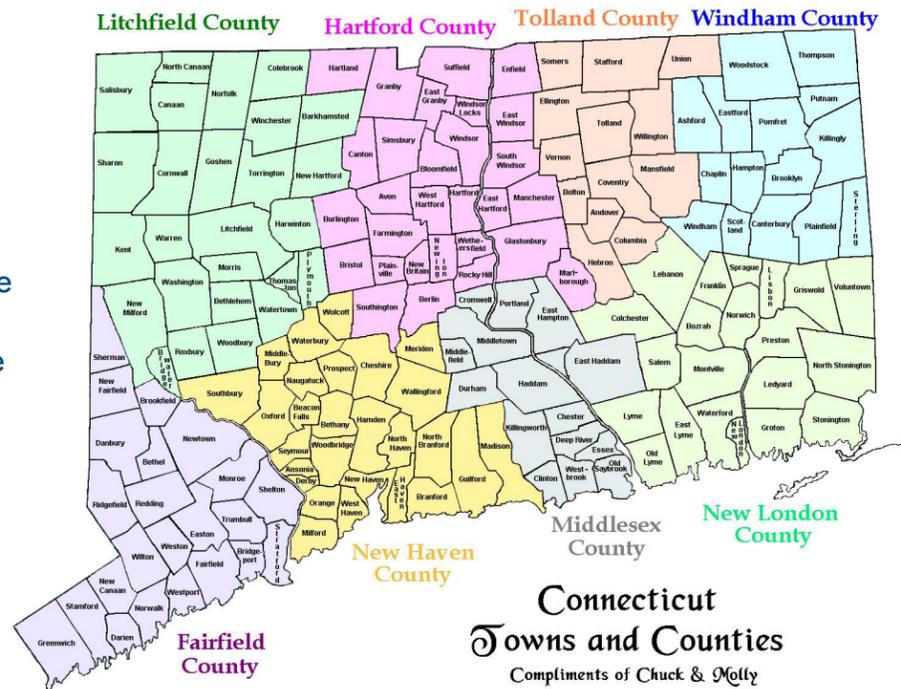
Tolland County Expansion

Hartford Area Habitat for Humanity is pleased to announce that our affiliate will be expanding our service area to include seven towns from Tolland County beginning in 2021. With this expansion, we look forward to providing services and support to families living in: Bolton, Ellington, Somers, Stafford, Tolland, Union and Vernon.

Our expansion begins in Vernon, CT working with our Faith Partners at the First Congregational Church, on the corner of Hartford Turnpike & Center Road. Confirmed office hours will be announced in February 2021. We plan on having a dedicated Habitat Staff member available one day per week to share our mission and program opportunities with the Vernon

Community. We will focus on servicing Veteran and elderly families through our "A Brush with Kindness" program, offering critical home repair and ADA accessibility opportunities.

Please feel free to reach out to Ryan Gorecki at volunteer@hartfordhabitat.org to learn more about our expansion into Tolland County and how you can get involved!



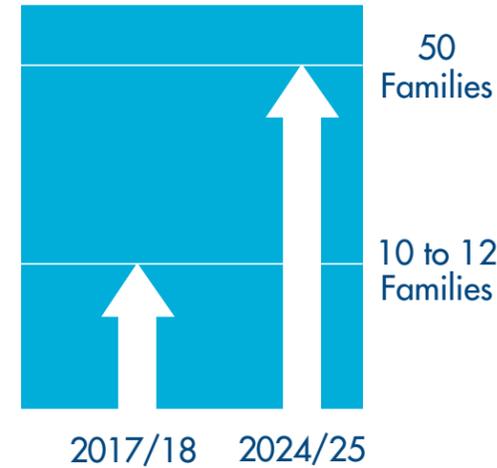
Be a Habitat GEM! Maximize Your Impact.

Please consider becoming a Habitat Gem (Give Every Month) supporting the Habitat mission all year long. Your support will reduce administrative costs and help us serve more families through our A Brush with Kindness repair program as well as our Financial Freedom Center that provides financial literacy for more families.

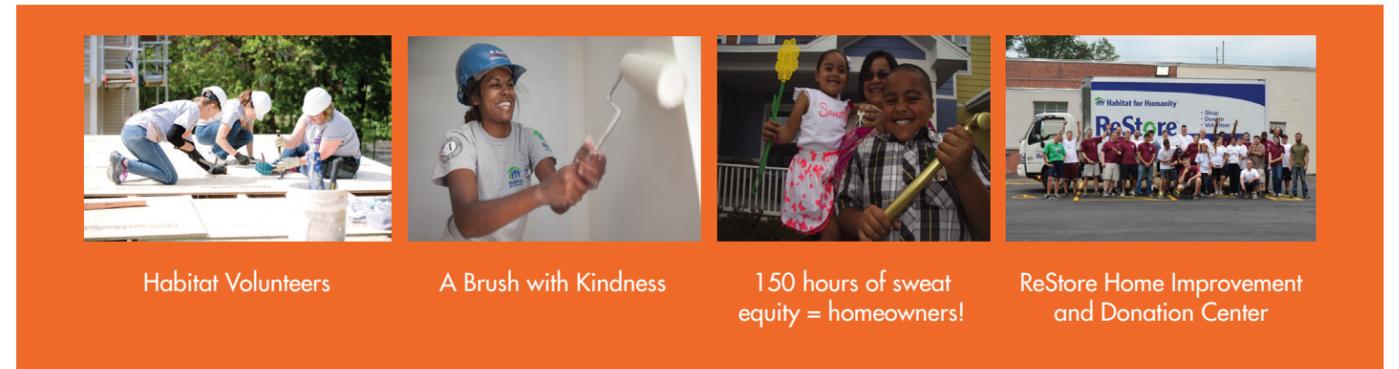
It is very easy to set up your gift by visiting www.hartfordhabitat.org/support. Choose your gift amount, select "Monthly Gift," and you're done! You can make changes to your commitment at any time.

Strengthening Communities Through Homeownership!

SUPPORTING EVEN MORE FAMILIES!



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



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/

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

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.

All contributions are tax deductible in accordance with IRS regulations

VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS BUILD RESILIENT COMMUNITIES



"Building More Than a House"



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