

*Come Together. Build Together*



2015



Hartford Area  
**Habitat**  
for Humanity®

# HABITAT'S EXPANDING MISSION



The Habitat for Humanity model is unique because we function as a housing developer, bank, retail center and offer support services to families seeking affordable homeownership.

In 2015, through an expanded vision, committed leadership and renewed resolve, Hartford Area Habitat for Humanity strengthened its mission to create and sustain affordable homeownership opportunities. With your generous support and our enthusiastic volunteer base, we successfully:

- Completed 13 homes in Greater Hartford
- Assisted 17 homeowners through our home repair and age-in-place initiative "A Brush with Kindness".
- Processed more than 100 homeownership applications.

## VOLUNTEER STRONG

More than 4,000 volunteers worked on our build sites, at our ReStore and in our administrative offices in 2015. They completed mission critical activities such as: working with construction crews, coaching families through our rigorous homeownership process, securing donations for our retail store and serving as Habitat community ambassadors. This high level of sustained volunteer support enables Habitat to build homes, community and hope – year after year.

## AREAS OF EXPANSION

In 2015, we adopted the neighborhood revitalization model which allows the affiliate to target ALL areas of housing support including: new construction, full house renovation and repairs, and creating community improvement collaborations with other non-profits. We provided basic exterior and critical interior home repairs to homeowners including the elderly, veterans and those with limited mobility. All of these initiatives fulfill our mission to eliminate substandard housing by building stronger, sustainable communities.

## FINANCIAL FREEDOM CENTER

In 2016, Hartford Habitat will launch a Financial Freedom Center in Hartford to support the financial literacy needs of the community. Through collaboration with other organizations, Habitat will offer various workshops pertaining to financial stability. The center will support families as they pursue homeownership and financial freedom.

## THANK YOU!

On behalf of our families, we would like to thank you for being our partner. **By coming together and building together, we are building communities, neighborhoods and hope.**



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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# A GREAT DAY OF SERVICE: BUILDING ON FAITH



In September Hartford Area Habitat for Humanity hosted "A Great Day of Service" as the Kick-Off Event to our [Building on Faith Program](#). This event was funded through a grant which we were awarded through the

Argosy Foundation and Habitat International. The Argosy Foundation Grant allowed us to designate a National Day of Service and Remembrance with an interfaith engagement event associated with the anniversary of September 11, 2001. We welcomed 32 guests of different faiths along with our staff and our homeowners. Representatives from Christian, Muslim and Jewish faiths read out loud, verses of their scriptures which address the obligation of the faithful to provide Service.

All guests signed beams to be used in the construction of the home. Emanuel Lutheran Church then hosted the second half of the

program, which was an in-depth conversation of our Faith Relations.

In 2016, we will broaden our Building on Faith program beyond "just" building a home together. We have expanded the initiative to include interfaith conversations, advocacy, youth involvement and volunteer opportunities - in addition to building with hammers and saws.

This helps the community focus on the ideals that *bring us together*, to do good for those in need. *By bridging theological differences and putting love into action*, we form partnerships founded on common ground.

## WOMEN BUILD

Hartford Area Habitat for Humanity's building projects are aimed at solving the unmet need of decent, affordable housing in the Greater Hartford Community. In particular, there is a great need to support families led by single mothers. The majority of our homeowners are women seeking to give their children a better opportunity in life. In response to this need, the "Women Build" program was created.

Women Build is a unique program that serves as a platform to bring women and girls together to secure education, social enrichment and financial independence. We use Women Build as a catalyst for change, by empowering women to become homeowners and mentors to others.

Women Build 2015 Activities included:

- "Women Build Week" May 2015: Female volunteers from throughout the Hartford area, built homes alongside our Construction Crew, while fundraising for the program.
- Construction of a Habitat House, known as the "Women Build House". Our 2015 house was located at 48 Branch Street, East Hartford.
- Homeowner Workshops: Financial Independence and Basic Construction/Repair education.
- Learning "Do-It Yourself Skills" on build-sites and in workshops.

Through the 2015 Women Build program, hundreds of women volunteers and homeowners gained the confidence and skills to lay bricks, pound nails, raise walls *and create hope*.



# BUILD-A-THON, BREAKING RECORDS



Beyond being Hartford Habitat's largest annual corporate fundraiser, Build-A-Thon is also our most important event of the year. As we all know, living in New England has a way of always keeping us on our toes weather wise. For Hartford Habitat to continue building affordable housing, it's imperative that we take every measure possible to avoid preventable damage to our homes

during construction. With fall coming to a close, the main purpose of Build-A-Thon is to get all of our homes safely closed up and winterized.

This year we changed things up a bit and expanded what once was a 6 day building blitz, into a 12 day building blitz. During the 12 days of Build-A-Thon, Hartford Habitat hosted over 550 volunteers from 27 local corporations at 2 properties on Grand Street in Hartford and 3 properties on Willow Street in New Britain. Of the 27



corporate sponsors who participated 12 of them were new participants! With this support we were able to get all of our walls framed and raised, vinyl siding completed on 3 homes, 2 roofs built, 3 porches built, and sheetrock completed in one home.

With major build progress made and our construction crew ecstatic over the work accomplished (and also in need of cold beer and serious day of relaxation), we ended Build-A-Thon reflecting on the many kind hearted individuals in our community. They continue to demonstrate the remarkable things that helping hands can accomplish with some good old fashioned team work.

As with any non-profit striving to continue their mission, the true icing on the cake comes covered in dollar signs, and for us, with the words "house sponsorship" written across the top. We are thrilled to announce that through our efforts, we broke Build-A-Thon records and reached our goal of netting over \$100,000 to sponsor the construction of our Main Street, Hartford project. We are blessed to say that another deserving family will have a safe, decent, affordable place to call home thanks to our Build-A-Thon partners.



# GOLF TOURNAMENT & MORTGAGE BURNING CEREMONY



We hosted our 21st Annual Hartford Habitat Golf Tournament at Wampanoag Country Club in West Hartford, CT. Cornerstone Real Estate Advisers, the Title Sponsor, was among the many generous event sponsors and donors which helped to raise \$100,000 at this year's tournament.

After a beautiful day out on the course, 110 golfers joined us to celebrate a "Mortgage Burning Ceremony" during the Cocktail Hour. Two of our Habitat homeowners proudly burned their 25 year mortgages, while our Executive Director, Karraine

Moody led a toast to them: *"This ceremony is a celebration of true homeownership and what that means for the future of these families. Being able to care for parents, pay for retirement, live free from mortgage debt is what we all aspire to do. It is a dream come true."*





Charity Navigator is America's premier independent charity evaluator. They help charitable givers make intelligent giving decisions by providing in-depth, objective ratings and analysis of the financial health and accountability & transparency of America's largest charities. Charity Navigator awarded **Hartford Area Habitat for Humanity** four out of a possible four stars. Receiving four stars indicates that Hartford Area Habitat for Humanity adheres to good governance and other best practices that minimize the chance of unethical activities and consistently executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

- Over the past 25 years Hartford Area Habitat has created over \$5 million in tax revenue for the City of Hartford and provided consistent contracting opportunities for small businesses.
- Over 4,000 individuals volunteer with Hartford Habitat per year.
- Over 250 homes have been built by Hartford Area Habitat in Greater Hartford.
- The lives of 1,000 children have been changed, due to the positive effects of homeownership.



We hope that you will continue to *Come Together Build Together* with us in 2016.



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