

DOOR to DOOR

Habitat for Humanity of Eastern Connecticut Newsletter ■ Fall 2013

Building More than Houses . . . Building Momentum

In June 2013, representatives of Habitat for Humanity of Northeast Connecticut and Habitat for Humanity of Southeastern Connecticut met in Griswold to share a meal, share their commitment to Habitat for Humanity, and to sign the paperwork which would merge the two affiliates and form Habitat for Humanity of Eastern Connecticut (HFHECT).

HFHECT has said this merger is the culmination of nearly two years of discussion and planning, but truly it is the result of over 35 combined years of concern and compassion from Habitat for Humanity volunteers, donors and homeowners. Without communities of concerned individuals committed to creating safe decent housing for their neighbors in need, there would never have been the momentum for this merger to take place. Whether it was through giving hours of your time, a donation to the ReStore, or an annual contribution, we thank you for your caring and the role it played in building the momentum for this merger.

Habitat for Humanity of Eastern Connecticut serves all of New London County and 9 towns in Eastern Windham County. Cumulatively, the merged affiliated has completed 60 homes in 16 towns throughout the service area and served over 235 individuals. The merged affiliate is continuing to move forward with momentum, and we invite you to look inside and learn more about our new partner families, new projects, and more. For the caring and enthusiastic momentum you provide HFHECT, thank you.

Southeastern board secretary Nathan Medrek, Northeast board president Judy Haines, and Southeastern board President Richard Bennink signing the merger paperwork in June 2013.



Meet Our New Partner Families

The Pratts Family

We are extremely fortunate and thankful to have the opportunity to be future homeowners through Habitat for Humanity. We are a family of six, consisting of myself, Frankie; my wife, Laqueshala and our 4 children: Frankie 10, Roderick 9, Mercedes & Myrna 5. We currently live in a 2 bedroom apartment in which the bedrooms belong to the children and my wife and I use the living room space as our bedroom. As one would imagine, our living condition is definitely crowded and the lack of a family communal space can be straining. Laqueshala and I work very hard to support our family. I am a home improvement contractor, a full-time student at Three Rivers Community College, where I am pursuing a degree in criminal justice, and I also coach youth football in New London. For the past 9 years my wife has been employed by UCP of Eastern CT, where she is the supervisor of the day program for adults with disabilities.



When we met, we were both living in subsidized housing. Since our eldest son was born, we've lived in subsidized housing in Groton. Home ownership has been a dream for us for many years and through hard work and the priceless assistance from Habitat for Humanity and the wonderful volunteers that make it all possible, are dreams are soon to become reality.

The Rich-Manchester Family

My name is Mary Rich and I am the mother of 3 beautiful girls. I have been a single parent for 36 years. My first two daughters have families of their own and have blessed me with 5 grandchildren. My youngest daughter Cheyenne Manchester is 19 years old and attending Three Rivers Community College where she is studying psychology and exercise science. Cheyenne hopes to attend UNH in the future. I think that becoming a Habitat homeowner will open up many new possibilities for a brighter future for both myself and my daughter Cheyenne.

I first heard of Habitat for Humanity around three years ago when I saw an article in the Day newspaper. I applied but at that time had too much debt to income ratio. With a little guidance and a lot of soul searching I declared bankruptcy. The want to own my own home never left. With my finances cleared up and on a better path, I decided to look to Habitat again. I truly believed

that I would never be selected to be a future home owner because of what seemed like too many negative factors. My age... 54, my daughter's age... 19, and my bankruptcy. Happily, Habitat does not discriminate. They took the time to meet with me one on one to go over questions I had on filling out my big application. And when the home visit came they took the time (2 hours) to listen to everything we had to say. Our current situation with a broken heating system, electrical problems, leaks, mold and break-ins left us desperate for a better way.

We would like to thank Habitat for Humanity for believing and trusting in us. Cheyenne and I cannot wait to begin our journey.

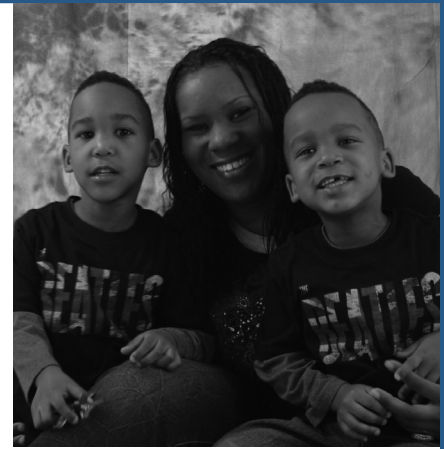


The Marshall Family

We are the Marshall Family and our household consists of myself – Sara, and my 5 year-old twin sons, Naphtali and Reuben. I am very thankful that we were chosen to be future homeowners through Habitat for Humanity. Since my sons were 6 months old we have lived in a subsidized housing, needless to say we encounter mildew and other uninhabitable conditions. A friend of mine invited me to accompany her to a Habitat session and I instantly had negative thoughts about my chances of being chosen, but I applied anyway. I wasn't chosen. Last year I applied again and once again I wasn't chosen. This year I applied once more and finally received the phone call that we'd been waiting for... I WAS CHOSEN! Elated and ecstatic, I couldn't say anything but "Thank you! Thank you!" Now, with Habitat's help I can give my sons the yard that they want, where they can play. In our subsidized housing, filth and garbage are everywhere, so my sons rarely play outside; we

usually drive to a clean park across town.

I work full time and my sons are in Kindergarten, we work really hard to keep our family functioning as a unit. My sons define my life and everything that I stand for and believe in. Out of the blue one of my sons asked me 6 months ago if we can move soon and it surprised me because I sometimes forget how observant children are. It was right then that I looked back in time and remembered the day that I realized I was pregnant: I sat on the side of my bed and made a conscious decision to always put my child's needs ahead of my own. I remember that day like it was yesterday and applying to Habitat was a step 1 in that direction.

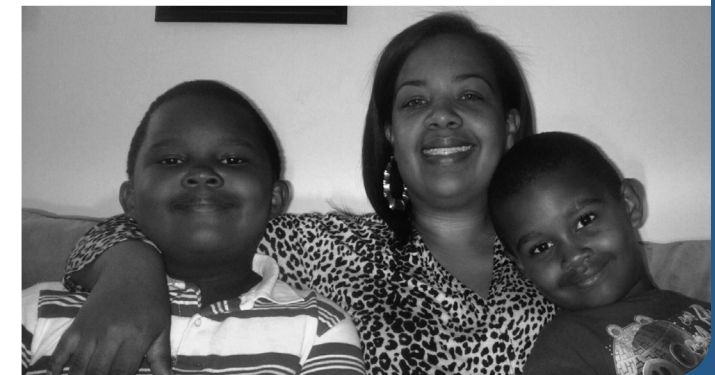


The Williams-Edwards Family

I am Lauren, a 29 year old, hard working mother of two boys Noah (6) and David (7) — my Football Stars!! Four years ago we didn't have a home of our own. Hopelessness was the only way to describe how I felt. I received declines left and right from every single shelter in Connecticut due to no space availabilities. I checked every day for weeks with hopes of a placement. Unfortunately, it never happened. Throughout the last couple of years we've moved on three occasions due to the unsanitary environment and unsafe living conditions. With every move the struggle seemed to be more intense. Looking into my children's eyes was heart breaking as I was so afraid of failing them. But, with God's strength, I fought on. With every shut door it was hard to smile, but I did, because I knew God's plan had to be much more than I could ever imagine. Not once in my life did I believe that I would become a home owner. Coming from Queens Bridge Housing project in NYC, that was just something one dreamt about.

for a response. After a home visit with two members of the selection committee I felt a little more at ease. They were absolutely wonderful, so kind and concerned, and treated me with respect and dignity. It amazed me that they were willing to fight on behalf of my family and we hadn't met prior to that day. It made me realize that there are Angels that walk on this earth working through Christ, and they are two of them. I'm so overwhelmingly grateful. Every time I think of how blessed we are, I let a few happy tears flow. I look forward to working hard to build my new home. Thank you, God, for such a wonderful blessing. Thank you to Habitat for Humanity and its volunteers (My Angels) for giving me the honor and privilege of raising my kids in a beautiful safe home setting.

I was introduced to Habitat for Humanity through a friend/coworker who thought I'd be a great candidate. I took her advice and joined one of the sessions, turned in all necessary documentation, and patiently waited



Project Updates

Recently Completed Homes



The Davis Family and their new home on 129 Prospect St., Norwich



The Needham-Jenkins Family and their new home on 9 Jefferson Ave., New London



111 Flanders Road, Niantic

Current & Upcoming Projects

HFHECT has many opportunities to get involved on its upcoming projects — remember no construction experience is necessary!

The 5 projects pictured on the left and below are under construction or will be soon.

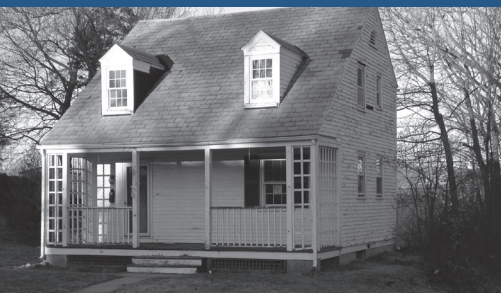
Recent Acquisitions: HFHECT has been blessed with several property acquisitions from private donors and businesses. HFHECT has been working with Bank of America's and Chase Bank's Real Estate Owned property programs through which the banks will donate vacant, foreclosed homes to the affiliate. Currently, HFHECT is in the process of acquiring

foreclosed homes on Summer Street in New London, Clairmont Court in Norwich, and on Mechanic Street in Killingly. The rehabilitation of these homes will revitalize vacant structures into tax-generating community assets.

As you can see HFHECT has many projects in the works! The affiliate would love to have your help through both volunteer and financial support. To begin volunteering, visit www.habitatct.org and click on the VolunteerUp icon. For information on sponsorship opportunities and financial support, please contact Amy D'Amico at 860-442-7890 x204 or adamico@habitatct.org.



344 Maple Avenue, Montville



151 Lincoln Avenue, New London



66 Raymond Street, New London



90 Van Den Noort St., Putnam

Let Hope Shine with Your Holiday Greetings

This holiday season you can help fulfill a family's need for a safe and decent home with a gift to Habitat for Humanity of Eastern Connecticut.



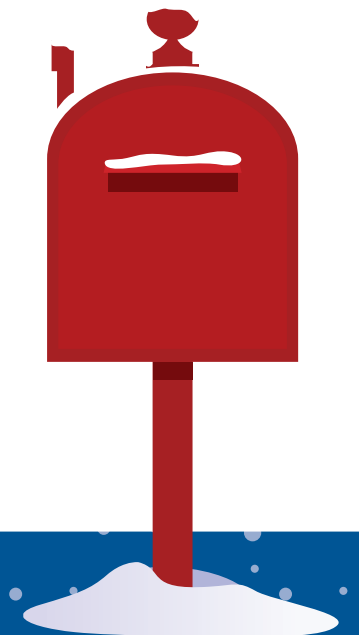
Each full color card is 7 x 10 inches — folded to 7 x 5 inches.

Inside of card has room for a personalized message.

"In Your Honor" gift card inserts are available.

*Let hope shine —
in our homes, in our hearts, in our world.*

A donation has been made to Habitat for Humanity of Eastern Connecticut in your honor to help fulfill a family's need for a safe and decent home.



Make a donation to Habitat for Humanity of Eastern Connecticut and we will provide you with attractive, full color, professionally printed holiday cards. You may use these cards to tell a friend, co-worker, client or relative that they inspired you to make a gift in their honor to support a family's dream for simple, decent shelter.

Please complete the attached order form and send it with your tax-deductible donation. There is no limit to the number of holiday cards you can order; however, a minimum donation of \$5.00 per card is suggested.

Make a difference with a gift that lets hope shine.

Upon receipt of your donation, your cards and envelopes will be sent to you immediately, giving you time to personalize and send them.

Deadline for all orders: December 6, 2013.

We, along with our home buyer families, wish you a happy holiday season!

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HOLIDAY CARD ORDER FORM

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____

Please send me # _____ holiday cards.

Please send me # _____ "In Your Honor" gift card inserts.

Your Name _____

Address: (Please no PO box #s) _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

METHODS OF PAYMENT:

CHECK ENCLOSED. Make checks payable to: Habitat for Humanity of ECT. CHARGE MY CREDIT CARD

Cardholder Signature _____

MasterCard Visa

Credit card # _____

Exp. Date _____

Please mail to: Habitat for Humanity of Eastern CT, 377 Broad Street, New London, CT 06320

Tithe and Global Village

Tithing continues to be a core tenant of HFHECT's work. The affiliate tithes 10% of all unrestricted gifts to Habitat for Humanity affiliates in Haiti, Egypt and Guatemala. Since 1987, Habitat for Humanity of Eastern Connecticut has tithed over \$317,000 which has helped house over 101 families internationally.



Carin Judith Guzmán Pinto Family

Guatemala Partner Family

2012

Leave a Legacy of Home

What comes to mind when you think of Habitat for Humanity? Long hours spent working alongside a family to help them achieve their dream of safe, decent housing? Smiles on the faces of children as their new home is dedicated?

From your experience with Habitat for Humanity, you see the life-changing impact of owning a home and the difference your contributions have made in the lives of hard-working, low income families.

You can continue to help provide safe, decent and affordable housing for generations to come by remembering Habitat for Humanity of Eastern Connecticut in your will or as a beneficiary of your IRA, life insurance or other asset. Your planned gift will help families for years to come.

For more information about planned giving, contact Amy D'Amico at 860-442-7890 x204 or adamico@habitatect.org.

Interested in volunteering with HFHECT?

HFHECT asks all new volunteers to attend an hour long Foundations of Habitat class which are held twice a month.

2nd Saturday of the month
HFHECT office
377 Broad St., New London

3rd Saturday of the month
Future northern ReStore
808 Norwich Road, Plainfield

To register, go to www.habitatect.org and click on the **VolunteerUp** icon in the top right corner.

Youth Programs

Looking for away to get your school, scout, church, or other youth group involved with HFHECT? The affiliate has plenty of ideas for ways for youth of all ages to help create safe, decent housing for their neighbors! From helping in the ReStores and construction sites, to helping build birdhouses, to turning your homecoming dance into a fundraiser, there are opportunities to suite each age level and interest.

To request a youth packet, please contact Amy D'Amico at adamico@habitatect.org or 860-442-7890 x204.



To donate a car to HFHECT, visit www.habitatect.org and click on the Cars for Homes logo.



**Habitat
for Humanity®**
of Eastern Connecticut

860.442.7890

**Have you seen our
new website?**

Please note, you may
need to upgrade your
browser to Internet
Explorer 10 to see it
properly.

www.habitatetect.org



facebook.com/habitatetect



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Eastern Connecticut is proud
to be an Equal Opportunity
Employer that supports and
encourages diversity.



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06320
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Habitat for Humanity®
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ReStore

**SHOP
DONATE
VOLUNTEER**

Did you know HFHECT has 2 ReStore locations?

Visit both locations for unique finds and great deals on new and gently used furniture, appliances and building materials.

Waterford

82 Boston Post Road
Waterford, CT
Wednesday — Saturday
10:00 am to 6:00 pm
860.437.3422

Putnam

171 Providence Street
Putnam, CT 06260
Friday — Saturday
9:00 am to 4:00 pm
860.928.2200

HFHECT is excited to share that the Putnam ReStore will be moving to 650 Norwich Road, Plainfield! Check our website for info on a Grand Opening in early 2014.



Welcome, Marcy

HFHECT is excited to welcome Marcy Dawley to the staff as the northeast ReStore manager. Marcy is a former volunteer at the Putnam store, and she is sure to be a capable and enthusiastic member of the HFHECT staff.