

# A Thank You Letter from a Habitat Family

*The Madougou-Bangna family is one of more than 115 families who own a Habitat for Humanity home in New Haven County. Each Habitat home built by Habitat for Humanity of Greater New Haven is a collaborative, community effort. Habitat homes are built with funds donated from the local community and through the generosity of more than 2,700 volunteers each year.*

Traditionally, we bring the year to an end with a letter that we sent to you highlighting one family's story. This year we are doing something a little different. Waharietou Madougou, Habitat homeowner, sent the Habitat office a letter of thanks earlier this year. Waharietou Madoughou and her husband, Adjana Bangna and their three children, ages 12, 9, and 5, are the owners of 585 Sherman Parkway in New Haven. They moved into their home in 2016. Both Waharietou and her husband work full time and their children attend a school close enough to walk to each day. Their joy and delight at owning a safe and stable home is evident.

**Waharietou gave us permission to share these words.**

"I came to the Unites States (to New Haven) in 2003 from Togo, West Africa as part of an immigration program. All my life I studied French as my second language, so after I immigrated I had trouble communicating with people and finding work. A friend of mine told me about Literacy Volunteers and I began going to school. As a result, I learned English and I was able to get a good job and I could communicate with people and I can help my kids with homework.



The Madougou-Bangna home: 585 Sherman Parkway



The traditional Togolese outfits were made by Waharietou. She is a talented seamstress. She creates traditional West African clothing for her family to wear on special occasions and to sell.

It is important for me to be a good role model for my kids. I have to be a good example. My strongest desire in life is for them to accomplish everything possible in life and to have opportunities. I work at my job very hard to provide a better life for my children, but no matter how much we earned, we could not find a place that we could afford that was good for my kids. We lived in places that were dangerous and some places didn't have enough heat in winter. They couldn't have friends over and I couldn't let them outside most of the time. I had been in the United States for about 8 years when my friend Kady, who was already a Habitat homeowner, encouraged me to call the office. I could speak English very well at that point and I decided to stop being so shy and I called. I attended an orientation program and I was given an application. My family and I went through a long application process. I was very worried we wouldn't be chosen. When we received the letter saying we were accepted into the program, it was one of those days I'll always remember.

Once we picked where the house would be, many volunteers came to the house lot to help build it. It took many months. These volunteers were like magic. Some days the volunteers were all college students, then other days the volunteers would be from a business. Many of the volunteers were seniors. None of them knew me or my husband, but that didn't matter. They worked with us every day, no matter what the weather was, and we built our house. Everyone

*(continued on back)*

## Help Us Build Community ...one house, one family at a time

For more information about Habitat for Humanity of Greater New Haven, Inc. visit [www.habitatgnh.org](http://www.habitatgnh.org), call 203-785-0794, or email [jrook@habitatgnh.org](mailto:jrook@habitatgnh.org)

☐ \$500    ☐ \$250    ☐ \$100    ☐ \$50    ☐ \$35    ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

You can make your tax-deductible gift to:  
Habitat for Humanity of Greater New Haven, Inc.  
37 Union Street, New Haven Connecticut 06511

☐ Check    ☐ Credit Card:    ☐ Visa    ☐ MasterCard    ☐ AmEx

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name (as it appears on card): \_\_\_\_\_

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Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form in the enclosed envelope, or contribute online at [www.habitatgnh.org](http://www.habitatgnh.org). Thank you!

*If you wish to removed from the HfHGNH appeal list, please return this form with your request or email [jrook@habitatgnh.org](mailto:jrook@habitatgnh.org)*

*Habitat for Humanity of Greater New Haven does not sell, rent or give away names of donors.*



Waharietou and Adjana building their home

was kind and these volunteers will be in my heart and my memory for my whole life. Without Habitat and all the people who volunteered, we would not have our wonderful house.

My family is now able to meet all our financial obligations and we have a safe and forever home to live in. Thank you to the volunteers, thank you to the construction staff, thank you to the people who donated. Thank you to Habitat. You changed our lives. You have given my children so much.”

The Madougou-Bangna family purchased their home from our organization with a 25-year, zero percent interest mortgage. A typical Habitat home sells for \$96,000 with a monthly mortgage payment of \$300, excluding insurance and taxes. Owning a well-built, Energy Star certified home provides stability and allows families to launch themselves into a cycle of progress, opportunity and a better quality of life. Homeownership rekindles hope and allows families and our community to thrive.

There are many hard-working families that qualify for Habitat’s program. We need your help to serve them. Please help us by donating today.

**FOR 31 YEARS WE HAVE BEEN PRIVILEGED TO BE BUILDERS, NOT ONLY OF HOUSES, BUT OF FAMILIES, LIVES AND HOPE. WITH YOUR SUPPORT, WE CAN CONTINUE TO WORK SIDE BY SIDE WITH THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST TO BUILD A HOME OF THEIR OWN.**



# Habitat News

Habitat for Humanity of Greater New Haven | WINTER 2017

## Habitat ReStore: Shop and Donate!

The organization has a donation based retail store (named ReStore), located in Wallingford. Proceeds from the store are used to build Habitat homes in New Haven County. ReStore sells new and gently used building materials, appliances, furniture and household items, windows, doors, cabinets, and more. The ReStore helps us fund Habitat homes in our local community.

Come to the ReStore and hunt for bargains and treasures: 286 S. Colony Rd Wallingford

Have items to donate and you cannot bring them to the ReStore? Email your request to [restore@habitatgnh.org](mailto:restore@habitatgnh.org) or call (203) 774-7560. We pick up throughout New Haven County and in Clinton and Killingworth.

## Become a Habitat Volunteer!

Every year volunteers donate thousands of hours to HfHGNH. The support of individual and group volunteers helps us achieve our goal of building affordable, decent homes for qualified working low income families.

**CONSTRUCTION:** Habitat volunteers build and rehab houses from start to finish under the guidance of our professional construction staff. No prior construction experience is necessary! Monday through Saturday opportunities available

**RESTORE:** At the ReStore in Wallingford, volunteers help with customer service, merchandise display, price research and other tasks as needed. Tuesday through Saturday opportunities available

**OFFICE:** Volunteers are needed for entering in donation information and many other administrative tasks. Monday and Thursday opportunities available

Contact the Habitat Volunteer Coordinator at (203) 785-0794 or register and sign up via Volunteer Up on our website at [www.habitatgnh.org](http://www.habitatgnh.org).



## Cars for Homes

Each year our Habitat affiliate is able to help a greater number of Habitat families thanks to donations of cars and other motorized vehicles through the Cars for Homes Program. Help up spread the word: have a car, RV, boat, motorcycle or other vehicle you want to get rid of? All conditions accepted! The program is easy and convenient. Call 877-277-4344 for more information or to schedule a pick up. In return, you will be provide a tax receipt and all proceeds from your donation will help build Habitat homes in New Haven County.

## Helping Veterans

The organization is continuing its Veterans Build Program, which provides homeownership opportunities for veterans in need. We recently completed our 3rd Vet Build project. We built a Habitat home in Hamden for veteran Michael Doyle, a retired Marine, and his family. We are beginning to fundraise for our 4th project now.



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