



The majority of new Habitat homeowners have small children when they move into their Habitat homes. We all know that children benefit profoundly from growing up in stable and safe homes and Habitat is proud to provide that benefit to young families. On the other side of the coin, the benefits keep coming for Habitat homeowners long after the children have grown up.

When new Habitat homeowners sign their Habitat issued mortgage, they not only become homeowners for the first time, they also gain the security of knowing that they have safe and affordable housing. Lower housing costs mean many things. For some families it means a bigger budget for groceries or warm winter coats. For others, it represents more education for the children or the ability to save money for retirement.

One of our long time Habitat homeowners, Patty Walters, has been in the work force for more than 40 years in order to support her family. For the last ten years, she has held down a full-time and two part-time jobs, but her full-time position recently ended.

Thanks to owning a Habitat home, Patty can weather that loss without fear of losing everything. As Patty says, “Everyday I am thankful that I own a Habitat home. With my boys on their own now, I’ve been able to save for the future instead of paying high rent. My mortgage is low. I know I will be okay and that I can live out my life in my house. My savings account isn’t huge, but it is enough to live simply and in my own home.”

While Patty speaks of “living simply”, being accepted into the program is far from simple. Habitat families are selected by a committee of board members and trained volunteers. Prospective families must demonstrate a need for housing, an ability to pay the mortgage and a willingness to partner with the organization. This partnership continues long after the required 400 hours of sweat equity are completed. Habitat families help build their home by working alongside Habitat’s construction staff and community volunteers. They assume a mortgage and take responsibility for their home.

Habitat homeowners, like Patty, tell us what they receive in return is more than worth it. It includes the opportunity to work with volunteers from all over the area, to feel the pride of homeownership for the first time, to know that your home is well built and safe, to be able to have friends and family over, to have a yard, to experience living in a neighborhood as an invested homeowner, and to be able to save money for the future. All of those things are possible thanks to the generosity of donors and volunteers.

This holiday season, please donate to Habitat for Humanity of Greater New Haven. 100% of the funds needed to build Habitat homes comes from donations from our local community. On behalf of the families we serve, thank you for your support.



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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** or call **203-785-0794**

☐ \$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): _____

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____ Phone _____

Signature _____ Email: _____

Please return this form in the enclosed envelope, or contribute online at www.habitatgnh.org. Thank you!

If you wish to be removed from the HfHGNH appeal list, please return this form with your request or email jrook@habitatgnh.org

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



Habitat News

Habitat for Humanity of Greater New Haven | Winter 2013



As we approach the holiday season, the people associated with Habitat for Humanity of Greater New Haven have much for which to be thankful. Most of all, we are deeply grateful for the support of the community as we work together to serve low-income families, stabilize neighborhoods, and provide a meaningful way for people to improve their communities through volunteerism.

ReStore

2013 has been an eventful year for the organization. A significant piece of news to announce: in July, the organization fulfilled a long standing desire to open a donation based retail store (named ReStore). Proceeds from the ReStore fund Habitat homebuilding. We found an excellent location for the store in Wallingford (286 S. Colony Rd, Wallingford/ (203) 774-7560). The store sells new and gently used donated building materials, furniture, household items, windows, doors and cabinets. We couldn't be happier with the response of people wanting to donate as well as the warm welcome from the Wallingford community. The organization has built eight homes in Wallingford, and we are well acquainted with the generosity of that area.

Gilbert Avenue Listed on State Register of Historic Places

A notable "first" for the organization: early this year we were notified that the historic 1892 farm house the organization gut rehabbed on Gilbert Avenue in Hamden was accepted onto the State Register of Historic Places. It is the first Habitat home in New Haven County to receive that designation, and we are proud of the successful effort to combine affordable homeownership with historic preservation.

Hill Neighborhood North

Also in progress in 2013 is the continuation of the revitalization of the north section of the Hill Neighborhood in New Haven. Although Habitat has homes in neighborhoods across the city, in the last few year most of our building efforts have been concentrated in Hill North. Habitat families love the easy access to public transportation and the walking proximity to downtown, as well as to many of the city's largest employers. This year we have built homes on Vernon Street and Congress Avenue. More

than 2,500 volunteers from all over the area have donated countless hours helping build Habitat home this year. Future homeowners volunteer, too. They contribute a minimum of 400 hours of sweat equity and many families end up donating far more.

Cars for Homes: Top 30 in the Country

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. Last year our organization was in the top 30 of more than 1,400 affiliates nationwide for the amount raised through



Cars for Homes donations. Help us spread the word: have a car, RV, boat, motorcycle or other motorized vehicle you want to get rid of? All conditions accepted! The program is easy and convenient. You do nothing other than calling 877-277-4344 to gather more information or to schedule a pick up. In return, you will be provided a tax receipt and all proceeds from your donation will help build Habitat homes in New Haven County.

★★★★ from Charity Navigator

Charity Navigator, a national organization which assesses non-profits nationwide, issued our organization a four star rating for the fourth year in a row. According to Charity Navigator, only 6% of all charities nationwide receive 4-star evaluations in consecutive years. Our organization was deemed to possess "good governance and other best practices that minimizes unethical activities and consistently executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way." We were pleased to receive such an excellent rating and we hope that you will place your trust in us as you make your giving choices.