

At Home With a Habitat Family

The Tchagouni-Gafo family is one of 127 families who own a Habitat for Humanity home in New Haven County. Each 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 2,600 volunteers each year.

Abdou and Zakiya became the proud owners of a Habitat home on Saltonstall Avenue in New Haven in November, 2017. For this couple, it was a crucial step in securing a more stable and safer future for their family. More than ten years earlier, Abdou and Zakiya were refugees from Togo, pushed out of their country by decades of violent unrest. They emigrated as part of the refugee program and gained full US citizenship in 2012 (Abdou) and 2017 (Zakiya). They have three beautiful and bright children: Jalal (7), Sarah (5), and Idris (3).

“All our hopes, all our dreams that we could ever wish, we have,” said Abdou, when we spoke with him recently. Since moving into the home, Abdou has completed his college degree, and their two oldest children attend New Haven Public Schools and are excelling. Abdou and Zakiya started college savings accounts for the kids last year. Before owning a Habitat home, they lived in a one-bedroom apartment that wasn’t suitable for a family. The apartment wasn’t in a safe location and there was no outdoor space for the children to play. Their lives are very different now that they have an affordable, well-built home of their own, and a yard. “We feel free,” says Zakiya, and most importantly, “I like it how my kids use the words ‘our home’ when they talk to people.”

The Tchagouni-Gafo family worked alongside Habitat’s construction staff and community volunteers to build their home, contributing more than 400 hours of sweat equity. They 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 about \$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, possibility, 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 in our community. We need your help to serve them. Please help us by donating today.

Photos, top to bottom: Abdou and Zakiya and their kids in 2017, on the day of the dedication ceremony for their new home (photo: Linda Srebnik); The family on their porch; Habitat’s Construction Manager, Antoine Claiborne with new homeowner, Abdou Tchagouni (photo: Geoff Gregory)



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, call 203-785-0794, or email 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

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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 HfHGHN 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 2019

2019 Year in Review

It has been a busy year and we are not finished yet! Here are a few of the highlights:

Six Families Welcomed to the Neighborhood

Six Habitat families in two neighborhoods in New Haven will move into their new homes by the end of 2019. Homes in the Fair Haven neighborhood include: 352 Peck Street and 631 Ferry Street. Homes in The Hill neighborhood include: 17 White Street, 62 Sylvan Avenue, 66 Sylvan Avenue, and 39 Elliott Street.

An Old Abandoned House Becomes a Family Home

In May 2019 we celebrated the completion of the historic rehab and preservation project of the Brown-Foote House at 387 Lenox Street (shown below) in the Fair Haven Heights neighborhood in New Haven. Homeowners Edwin and Ada Sanchez welcomed neighbors and Habitat supporters for a gathering complete with oysters at this historic home. Our organization was also

Coming Up! More Families to Serve, More Houses to Build

Our volunteer-run Family Selection Committee worked diligently from April through August to select the newest group of Habitat partner families. A record number of families applied to our home-buying program and eight families were selected. All selected homebuyers have been working at the home building sites alongside volunteers and Habitat staff since early fall and each family will be completing 400 hours of sweat equity in building these new homes.

Volunteer with Habitat for Humanity!

Have you always wanted to volunteer but weren't sure how to get involved? We need your help, now more than ever! Habitat volunteers are a diverse group of individuals who generously give their time to further our mission of building affordable, decent homes alongside qualified low-income families in our community. There are many ways to volunteer:



honored by the New Haven Preservation Trust as the recipient of the House Preservation Award in recognition of the work done to rehabilitate the 1830's property.

New Haven County ReStore: A Great Place to Donate, Shop, and Help Fund Homes

Our donation based ReStore in Wallingford has had a record setting year generating more homebuilding funds than ever before!

The ReStore provides financial support for Habitat home building in New Haven County, provides a lower cost alternative to a traditional store, and encourages reuse and recycling by diverting construction, household items, and appliances from landfills. Our ReStore sells new and gently used building materials, appliances, furniture and household items, windows, doors, cabinets, and more. We receive new items every day.

Shop the ReStore at 286 South Colony Road in Wallingford for great bargains and fun vintage and antique pieces. For current store hours please visit habitatgnh.org/restore.

We offer a pickup service in New Haven County and in Clinton and Killingworth for donated items that are large in size or quantity. Email restore@habitatgnh.org or text (203) 800-5517 with pictures of the items, your name, and location.

Nationwide Recognition for Cars for Homes

Thanks to people in our community donating vehicles, our organization was recently recognized as one of the top 10 grossing large Habitat affiliates participating in the Cars for Homes program! Where do the dollars go from the vehicles donated? Right into the construction program!

Donating your car, truck, RV, boat, motorcycle or other vehicle is easy. Call (877) 277-4344 or visit habitat.org/support/donate-your-car to enter your vehicle's information and schedule a pickup. Vehicles do not need to be in running condition. All donors will receive a tax receipt following the vehicle donation.

Construction: We are always building at Habitat. Construction volunteers help build and rehab houses under the guidance of our construction staff. No prior construction experience is needed and we provide the necessary tools, equipment, and instruction. Individuals and groups of volunteers ages 16 and older can help out on the site Tuesdays-Saturdays all year long.

ReStore: Not only is the ReStore a great place to shop but it's also a fantastic way to give back as a volunteer. ReStore volunteers help with sorting items, light cleaning, price research, assisting customers, and creating displays. Individuals ages 15 and older can volunteer seven days a week. No prior retail or volunteer experience is necessary to join our team.

Office: There are sometimes special projects where volunteers are needed to help with data entry, research, or filing. Opportunities may take place in the office during normal business hours and other projects can be completed remotely.

Contact our volunteer coordinator at amangles@habitatgnh.org or (203) 785-0794 ext. 110 for more information. You can also sign up via VolunteerUp at habitatgnh.org

See Your Donation in Action

Volunteering at the build site, attending a ground breaking ceremony, or joining us at a home dedication are fantastic ways to see the power of your donations of time, money, and goods. Sign up to receive our e-newsletter at habitatgnh.org to stay up to date on all of the happenings at Habitat.

Why support Habitat for Humanity of Greater New Haven?

We are a locally funded, community based organization. Since 1986 we have been serving low-income families from our community, and working to stabilize and revitalize neighborhoods, block by block. Your donations will help us to continue this work.



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