

A Place to Belong Sabir and Abeer's New Beginning

In July, Sabir and Abeer, and their three children, Taliah (9), Ahmed (7), and Eyad (3), became homeowners through Habitat for Humanity of Greater New Haven, joining numerous others who have found homes through Habitat's Homeownership Program. Recently, we had the opportunity to speak with Sabir about his family's path to homeownership. Here is their story.

Originally from Sudan, Sabir and Abeer came to the U.S. in 2006, settling in West Haven and starting their family. For nearly a decade, they raised their three children in a poorly maintained, one-bedroom apartment in an unsafe part of West Haven. The apartment had cracked windows and poor insulation leading to cold winters, and a pest infestation ignored by management. They received constant noise complaints about the children running around laughing and playing. There was no room to study and little privacy. Sabir and Abeer dreamed of the day they would have a place to truly call home. That dream came true through Habitat's Homeownership Program.

While working at Medtronic, Sabir received an email about volunteering for Habitat for Humanity. This reminded him of the meaningful work he used to do back in Sudan, where he participated in community development efforts. He signed up to volunteer on the home building site, where he learned about the Habitat Homeownership Program and decided to apply. After a long application process, he was accepted into the program, completed beyond his 400 hours of his sweat equity and now Sabir and his wife, Abeer are the proud owners of the Dyer Street Habitat home.

Today, their life is transformed. The joy in their voices and the light in their home tell the rest of the story. *"We're so much happier now, it feels like our lives finally have balance,"* Sabir says. Their new neighbors welcomed them with open arms, coming from blocks away to introduce themselves. *"Everyone was so friendly"* Sabir said, smiling. *"People came to welcome us, bring seeds, tools, even gardening tips!"* Sabir takes pride in the beautiful grass and garden he's worked hard to nurture. It's now one of the highlights of their home. Most mornings, Sabir starts his day outside, coffee in hand, sitting in his favorite spot in the backyard. *"I notice the different kinds of birds that visit our yard now,"* he says. His youngest son, Eyad often joins him, sitting beside him, sharing that peaceful moment.

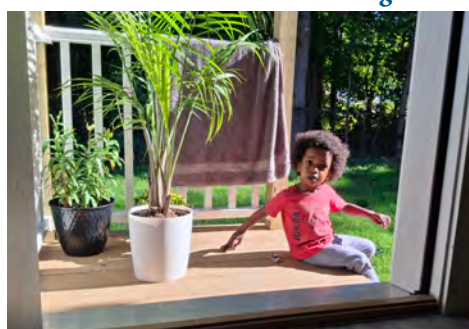
Their older children, Taliah and Ahmed once endured an hour-long bus ride to and from their apartment in West Haven to their school in New Haven. They now live three minutes away from school and are thriving. They've met other neighborhood children and made new friends.



"You can see how happy they are. They laugh more, and they're doing better in school. They finally have space to be themselves" Sabir said. They shop at the same stores as before, and when Sabir teases the kids that they're going to go back to the old apartment, the kids all shout, *"NOOO!"* with laughter, showing how much this means to them. *"It's a feeling of being stable, a sense of belonging"* Sabir says.

The house has also brought practical blessings. *"Our energy bills have been shockingly low,"* Sabir explains. *"The home is so well-built, energy efficient, quiet, and comfortable. It keeps the temperature steady all the time. In our old apartment, the cold would come right through the walls."*

Sabir said this is an experience he will never forget. *"Habitat didn't just give us a home; they changed how we see the world. It makes you reshape the way you think and act in your community."* Now that his own home is complete, he's eager to help others. During the building process, Sabir learned new skills and discovered how capable he truly was. *"Whenever I have the chance, I want to volunteer and help build,"* he says. *"Now that I know what this change means for a family, it's my turn to give back."* Most of all, Sabir is looking forward to slowing down and savoring life. *"Now that we're settled, I want to focus on my kids, gardening, cooking, playing, doing homework together,"* he says. *"Building memories in this house, our forever home."*



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Habitat News

Habitat for Humanity of Greater New Haven | WINTER 2025

Shoreline Update

Construction is well underway on the Habitat home located at 24 Old Schoolhouse Road in Madison. Thanks to a generous donation of land by Kent and Susan Allen, Habitat was able to expand our building program to the shoreline and build a beautiful home alongside Habitat home buyer, Deya and her three children. With completion expected in December 2025, we are so excited to give another family the gift of homeownership. The children are already picking out what colors they want to paint their bedrooms and designing their room layouts! Follow our Facebook page for announcements on the dedication ceremony for a chance to see our first shoreline Habitat home completed.

Accessory Dwelling Units Coming Soon

We are excited to share that Habitat will be building our first Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) in New Haven, beginning in Spring 2026. The Habitat homes built at 35 Arch Street and 39 Arch Street will include an apartment built onto each house, allowing their respective home buyers to become landlords, in addition to homeowners. The apartments attached to each house will be affordable units to uphold Habitat’s model of creating affordable homeownership and now rental opportunities. The home buyers who qualify for these two houses will receive additional education on maintaining an ADU and being a landlord. We are looking forward to doubling our impact and giving four families a safe, affordable place to live.

Volunteer with Habitat

Have you always wanted to volunteer with Habitat? Now is the time! We offer volunteer opportunities on our build sites alongside Habitat home buyers and our staff as a group or an individual. No construction experience is needed. We supply all necessary tools, equipment, and instruction. We also have opportunities at our ReStore where volunteers help to sort, clean, and organize donations, create displays, greet customers, and help with the store’s day-to-day operations. Volunteers must be at least 16 years of age to help on the build sites and at least high school age to volunteer at the ReStore.

Visit habitatgnh.org to sign up or contact Allison at amangles@habitatgnh.org or (203) 785-0794 for more information.

Cars for Homes

Donating your car, truck, RV, boat, motorcycle, or any other vehicle through the Cars for Homes program helps us build homes in the New Haven community. Vehicles do not need to be in running condition to be eligible for donation. Call (877) 277-4344 or visit habitat.org/support/donate-your-car to provide your vehicle’s information and schedule a pickup. Following your donation, you will receive a tax receipt. Your contribution makes a significant impact in supporting our mission.

Shop our ReStore

The ReStore offers a wide selection of new and gently used household items, including furniture, appliances, lighting, cabinets, vanities, and more. The funds generated from ReStore sales are channeled into supporting Habitat’s homebuilding program in New Haven County. The ReStore is a great place to donate your items to a local cause or hunt for household treasures. A pickup service may be available for your items. To donate, please call or text the donation line (203) 800-5517 or email restore@habitatgnh.org to schedule a free pickup. We pick up in New Haven County, plus the towns of Clinton, and Killingworth. To shop, visit 286 South Colony Road, Wallingford, CT 06492.



Top: Habitat home buyer, Deya, and her three children standing inside their future home at the kickoff ceremony in October. Above: Progress on the Habitat home at 24 Old Schoolhouse Road in Madison.



Check out our Facebook page and website, or join our email list to learn about upcoming Habitat homes, ceremonies, and all things Habitat for Humanity of Greater New Haven.

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