



the

Homesteader

www.hfhplymouth.org

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plymouth, Inc.

Spring/Summer 2015

Habitat of Greater Plymouth awarded bid from Town of Plymouth for first Veterans Housing Build

In a first-of-its-kind partnership, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plymouth was recently awarded the bid from the Town of Plymouth to build veterans housing on town-owned land. Designated for veterans housing by Town Meeting, the land is located off Long Pond Road in Plymouth and has enough room to build three homes. Two of those homes will be designated for veterans and their families.

The Plymouth Board of Selectmen made the award at its November 19, 2014 meeting where Habitat was represented by its president, Stephen Dubuque and other volunteers, Dennis Randall and Carol King. Also present for the award was Michael "Buster" Main, who along with local developer, Tom Wallace, sponsored the warrant and worked tirelessly to see it passed.



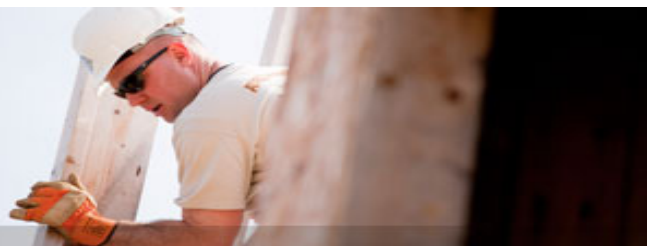
Photo courtesy of Habitat International

"We are excited and honored to partner with the veteran community to serve those who have served," said Jim Middleton, executive director of Habitat of Greater Plymouth. "It's a perfect match to provide decent, affordable homes!"

Habitat of Greater Plymouth is the latest locally based Habitat for Humanity affiliate to participate in Veterans Build, Habitat's nationwide effort to engage veterans and current military members. The Veterans Build program focuses on developing housing solutions and both volunteer and employment opportunities for U.S. veterans, military service members and their families. Habitat for Humanity International provides training to Habitat affiliates that promotes a better understanding of military culture and increases effectiveness in interaction with veterans and military families.

In partnership with numerous veteran-focused organizations, Habitat seeks to offer veterans volunteer and employment opportunities in addition to improved access to services such as housing assistance, financial literacy, homeownership education programs and post-service transition programs. Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plymouth is actively seeking to be connected with the veteran community to help identify individuals and families that might qualify for the housing when it is built.

For information on services provided locally through Veterans' Build, please contact our Veterans Build Coordinator, Krista Vicich, at (508) 866-4188 or hfhplymouth1@verizon.net.





72 North Main Street
P.O. Box 346
Carver, MA. 02330
(508) 866-4188

Email: hfhplymouth1@verizon.net
Website: www.hfhplymouth.org

Habitat ReStore

72 North Main Street
P.O. Box 346
Carver, MA. 02330
(508) 866-4199

Hours of Operation:

Wednesday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Thursday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

www.restore-plymouth.org

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Vice President: Linda Gigliotti
Clerk: Dottie Kelley
Treasurer: Doreen Bent
Recording Secretary: Donna Martin

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Thanks from Habitat's Outgoing President



As we emerge from the deep freeze of the worst winter we have had in years, Spring holds great promise for Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plymouth. The promise of a build in Kingston and the construction of three homes in Plymouth dedicated to our veterans will fulfill our goal of building three homes within a year.

The ReStore continues to be profitable despite the snow and ice. Gary Miller has done a great job of keeping the ReStore going and making sure that it has contributed to the affiliate, as we all had hoped.

The Veterans Build initiative has created enthusiasm and new friends as well as supporters. We are once again going to fulfill the hopes of a community and serve our mission, as we did in Carver by assembling the resources and people to install a lift for David in Carver. Jim, our Executive Director and Doug with our construction crew exhibited the skill to undertake a project the entire community wanted to address. The project required a great deal of coordination as well as financial resources to complete. We demonstrated that we are a "can do" organization, able to form new partnerships to get the job done.

We have established a new partnership with Homebuilt, the exciting, innovative and award winning concept designed to create affordable and efficient houses constructed with nothing more than a screw driver (actually an electric screw driver). Dennis Michaud has demonstrated his commitment to Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plymouth and the Habitat ethic of "a hand up not a hand out." Hopefully we will be building a new home with the Homebuilt system in the near future.

It is worth remembering that you, the Habitat family, has raised over a million dollars to complete ten new houses and a countless number of home repairs for families unable to afford them on their own. These repairs have often been the difference between people being able to remain in their homes and having to move.

The true worth of our work lies in the lasting effects on the families and their children living in Habitat homes. Better housing translates into better education and stable family life. We are fortunate to have long serving volunteers and new volunteers willing to take up the challenge of building for the future.

We welcome Doreen Bent, Den Forbes, Joanne Hamer and Liz Luiz as new board members who bring new insights and perspectives to our efforts. We thank Nancy Morse for her energy and invaluable leadership as she departs the board.

It has been a pleasure to work with my fellow board members over the last two years. Although I'll be stepping down as president and a board member, I will continue to work with the site selection committee and Jim as we seek building permits in Kingston and Plymouth.

In the end, Habitat is all about the people. The families we help and the volunteers that make it all possible. Thank you for your commitment.

- Stephen Dubuque, Outgoing President, Habitat Board of Directors



**Make every day
Earth Day.**

Recycle your vehicle and help
Habitat for Humanity build
decent, affordable homes.

Start your donation:
www.carsforhomes.org/ed



Shopping Party!



**Come shop for some new Spring clothes and help raise funds for
Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plymouth!**

Date: Friday, April 24, 2015

Time: 6 pm until 8 pm

Place: Talbots

DERBY STREET SHOPPES

96 Derby Street

Hingham MA

Light refreshments provided by Talbots.

10% of sales will be donated to HFH of Greater Plymouth.



Join us for our Annual Gala celebrating our Veterans partnership!

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plymouth is pleased to announce its Annual Gala, scheduled for Friday, May 1 at the Radisson Hotel in Plymouth. The event begins at 7:00 p.m., and tickets are \$65 per person. You also have the opportunity to purchase a full table seating 10 people for \$450. **Tickets must be purchased before April 24, as no tickets will be sold at the door.**

In honor of our recent status as a Veterans Build affiliate, this year's theme is "Spring Fling - Building for America's Hometown Heroes." As with previous years, this year's gala features dinner and music, silent and live auctions and raffles. Our live auction items include a trip on an African safari, a "Wall of Wine" and a trip to Ireland in the Fall.

Please join us in celebrating our mission to provide simple, affordable housing in conjunction with veterans and deserving families. You can also enter in our raffles and auctions to win any one of our fabulous prizes. We are thankful for the many area companies who donated to our event, as well as our supporters. Special thanks to our sponsors: Bridgewater Savings, Richards Micro-Tool and HarborOne Bank.

Tickets are available at the Habitat of Greater Plymouth office, located at 72 N. Main St. in Carver, William Raveis Real Estate, 29 Main St. in Plymouth, and on our website at www.hfhplymouth.org.

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plymouth leads a Community Partnership for Local Family



Over a year ago in the Fall of 2013, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plymouth received a call for help from a local church, the Town of Carver and members of the community. Everyone wanted to help, but they could not put the entire effort together.

“That’s where Habitat stepped in,” explains Jim Middleton, executive director of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plymouth. “We were in a unique position to draw on all the resources of the community to pull the project together.”

Thanks to the generosity of the community and the dedication of the generous Habitat volunteers, life for the Freitas family now runs more smoothly in spite of the ongoing medical needs.

The family has two teenage children who have a rare genetic condition, MELAS (Mitochondrial Encephalomyopathy, Lactic Acidosis, and Stroke-like episodes), which causes serious medical challenges. David’s situation was so involved that he spent the majority of his time at Boston Children’s Hospital for a year-and-a-half. When he was at home he was either in bed or in his wheelchair. His parents faced the added challenge of transporting him up and down stairs whenever he needed to leave

home for medical treatments or check-ups.

David’s sister, Deanna, also spent considerable time at Boston Children’s Hospital with seizures and strokes from MELAS.

At first it was thought that a ramp would be sufficient, but the house is a split-level raised ranch where a ramp would be too long to help. A contractor suggested the best solution would be a residential wheelchair lift, and the project was underway—although more technical and complex than most Habitat projects!

Assessment of the whole situation quickly showed that there were more factors to consider to have things work for the family. Projects included: enlarged bedroom and storage for medical equipment and supplies for David, hardwood floors for ease of movement of the wheelchair, an outside ramp for access to the lower level from the driveway, repair of the front entry, renovation of a downstairs bedroom and bathroom for Deanna, moving the parents back into their bedroom from temporary sleeping quarters in the living room, repairs and painting inside and outside. The project was ambitious, but all were determined to see it through.

HFHGP construction volunteers joined architects, contractors, tradesmen, elevator installers, volunteers from local businesses, town agents and board members, landscapers, church groups, and others. Money came in from the Town of Carver Redevelopment Authority, private individuals, foundations, businesses, Share.Habitat crowdfunding, and others. 101Mobility, the lift company, provided free labor and negotiated a discount on equipment from the manufacturer.

After a big push in November and December final inspection by the state took place at the end of January 2015, just before the heavy winter weather set in. As the snow, wind, and cold piled up, David and his family were able to use the ramp and lift to avoid the difficult and tricky entry through the front door of the home!

“The list of those who pitched in to help is long and covers over a year of work!” said Middleton. “Nobody but Habitat could have led this. Habitat brought people together in the community to rebuild a home and to give new hope!”

The Freitas family is tremendously grateful for the care and attention everyone brought to them. Habitat and its many thoughtful volunteers are now among their new best friends.



The Freitas Family and care providers during renovations to the home in Carver.



The Freitas Family with Construction Coordinator Doug Ballum.



Construction crew putting new wood flooring into the home.

“People finally paid attention to our situation and did something that really helped when Habitat got involved. We can’t ever thank them enough.”

- Donna and Dave Freitas



The Freitas Home



Habitat of Greater Plymouth welcomes new Board members

At our Annual Meeting held on March 15, the Affiliate was happy to elect four new members to our Board of Directors: Doreen Bent, Den Forbes, Joanne Hamer and Liz Luiz. Each member has been an active volunteer for the past several years. Doreen and Den have been serving on our Finance Committee, Joanne has been active on our Major Events team and Liz has been a star Construction volunteer and member of the Construction Committee.

With every change, there also seems to be people to whom we must say good bye. This year, long time Affiliate volunteers Nancy Morse and Steve Dubuque finished their terms as Board members. They will both continue to serve as volunteers in various capacities, for which we are very grateful!

The Annual Meeting was held at the American Legion Post 40 in Plymouth through the generous donation of meeting space for the event. The Post is a new partner in our efforts to reach the Veteran community in our service area.

Board of Directors for Fiscal Year 2016

President: Drew Cook
Vice President: Linda Gigliotti
Clerk: Dottie Kelley
Treasurer: Doreen Bent

Teresa Dollfuss
Shawn Gearin
Liz Luiz
Judy Randall

Den Forbes
Joanne Hamer
Tom Mudgett
Arnold Thorell
Hannah Woodbury

Special thanks to Donna Martin, who continues to serve as Recording Secretary.

A Welcome Message from New Board President: Drew Cook



As the incoming president, I would like to express my appreciation for those who have nominated me for this position. When I began volunteering on our job site roughly six years ago, I could not have imagined becoming has involved as I have. It has been a humbling and gratifying experience that has always given me more than I could ever give back.

I would also like to thank the outgoing board members for their hard work and dedication. In particular, our two prior presidents leaving the board Nancy Morse and Steve Dubuque, who have both worked tirelessly to ensure our chapter is able to continue building homes within our community. Thankfully, I know that they will both be staying involved with Habitat, as we will certainly look to lean on their knowledge as we move forward.

This is an exciting time for our chapter! We are poised to build three homes within the next 1 to 2 years. This includes our chapter's first veterans build. Last week we signed the purchase and sales agreement on this lot in South Plymouth, and our volunteers are working hard to ensure we can break ground as soon as possible. All the while our construction volunteers are staying busy completing numerous rehab projects and critical home repairs.

As we head into what will be one of the busiest times in our chapter's history, our need for dedicated volunteers will only continue to grow. Our chapter's success has always been built on the generosity and energy of our volunteers. Over the years hundreds of volunteers have given up their Saturdays to help build houses or provide lunch for our construction volunteers. They have helped behind the scenes with fundraising, grant applications, locating land, event organization, locating material donations, family support or one of the other numerous tasks that go unseen, but are vitally important to ensure our construction crew is able build on Saturday.

If you have been involved in the past and would like to get involved again, or if you have intended to volunteer but have not had the opportunity, I encourage you to join us now as we continue toward our mission of bringing people together to build homes, communities, and hope.



Invites You To Our Annual Gala



Friday May 1, 2015 7:00pm to 11:00pm
Radisson Plymouth Waterfront

Tickets

\$65 if purchased by April 24th

No tickets will be sold at the door

Table of 10 = \$450

• **Live Music**

• **Dinner**

• **Live Auction**

Featuring Various vacation packages,
Wall of Wine, and more!

• **Silent Auction, Raffles**

• **Balloon pops!**

Thanks to our Sponsors:



TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

Habitat for Humanity Affiliate Office • 72 N. Main St., Carver

William Raveis Real Estate • 29 Main St., Plymouth

Online at www.hfplymouth.org

Thanks to our supporters:

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P.O. Box 346
Carver, MA 02330

Need help with home repair?



**Contact us for more information
and to get an application.....**

 **Habitat for Humanity**[®]
of Greater Plymouth
A Brush with Kindness

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