



the Homesteader

www.hfhplymouth.org

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plymouth, Inc.

Spring 2014

Habitat helps Carver family in need of a residential lift and ramp



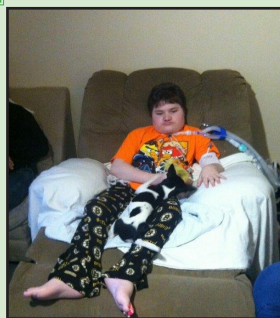
A photo of the family's house in Carver.

In the Summer of 2013, Habitat for Humanity was approached to do a ramp project for a family in Carver where there is a teenage son whose medical condition requires frequent transport to Boston Children's Hospital for treatments. The 15 year old boy, David, is mostly confined to his bed and is transported via wheelchair.

Due to the constraints on the family, the mother, Donna, has had to quit work in order to care for both David and his sister, Deanna. The father, Dave, is a Marine Corps veteran and licensed plumber who often has to curtail work to help care for the family. Both children have been diagnosed with MELAS syndrome; an illness that has rendered David nearly blind, unable to speak, and confined to a bed or wheelchair full time with breathing assistance. Deanna experiences fewer confining symptoms from the syndrome. However, she does periodically experience seizures and strokes.

The home is a raised ranch style, with stairs from the ground level entry to the second floor living level, which requires the parents to carry their son, breathing equipment, and wheelchair up and down the stairs. It has been determined that a residential lift needs to be constructed inside the home to access a small upstairs bedroom. An outdoor, poured concrete ramp and walkway would complete the project and allow access to the lower level of the home.

In order to help this family the best way we can, Habitat of Greater Plymouth has begun raising money to help pay for the residential lift and ramp needed to make their lives a little easier.



Give David a Lift : Crowdfunding helps HFHGP Raise Funds

Habitat's mission is to bring people together to build homes, communities and hope. In today's electronic age, what better way to achieve this than to use crowdfunding to raise funds for projects.

Crowdfunding, or crowd-sourced fundraising, is defined by Wikipedia as "the collective effort of individuals who network and pool their money, usually via the Internet, to support efforts initiated by other people or organizations." A quick search online turns up an interesting array of funding requests; from individuals needing assistance to pay medical bills to organizations raising funds to fight ailments of all kinds. So, why not use it to help affiliates raise funds for their build projects?

That's what the Habitat for Humanity International team thought too...and so Share.Habitat was, well, created.

In short, Affiliates can log into Share.Habitat and create events. For example, HFHGP recently created one to support our next project in Carver ("Give David a Lift"). From there, requests in the form of links can be sent via email, Facebook or Twitter to friends, family and supporters of the Affiliate. Those individuals can click on a button to instantly donate to the cause, and they can share the information with their friends and family. So, a community of sharing and giving is created.

We are thrilled with the early results of our "Give David a Lift" campaign. In just one week, supporters and donors have raised over \$5,000 toward the installation of a wheelchair lift for this deserving and grateful family. We'd love to reach our goal by the time construction starts. Please consider logging on, taking a look at the campaign, reading David's story, and, if it's in your heart, donate toward giving David and his family a better life. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Share.Habitat link: www.share.habitat.org/give-david-a-lift



President's Perspective

Habitat of Greater Plymouth brought joy and hope to Cynthia Candlin and her family last year by making substantial repairs to her home. Cynthia returned that gift with grace and appreciation at the dedication ceremony, and shared the Habitat message with her church as our newest Habitat family. The bright smile on her son's face expressed the significance of our work when he rushed up to embrace Doug Ballum at the dedication. It is about the children.

We are about to embark on another journey of recovery and hope. The Freitas family needs a lift for their son who has been confined to a wheel chair as a result of a debilitating disease. His dad has to carry him up and down two flights of stairs to get him to medical appointments. The lift will not only carry David up and down to his room, it will help get him outside. It will also lift a burden from a family that has experienced much hardship in the last two years. This will mark the second major home repair undertaken by our affiliate. We are also now more confident than ever that we will receive a permit to build a new home in Kingston. David Drain has designed a beautifully rendered sewerage disposal system that will work and hopefully satisfy the town officials.

There are many families and elderly home owners better able to remain in their homes because of Allen Hanford's home repair crew. Among the many things they do are: install handicap ramps, repair bathrooms and fix stuff that needed fixing. The ReStore is showing a profit despite one of the worst winters we have seen in recent years. The volunteers and our new ReStore manager, Gary Miller, have worked tirelessly to make certain we achieve and exceed the goals we set last year. We had the best golf tournament we've ever had, earning over \$12,000.

In the next year we will build more, raise more, and repair more lives with our message of community and hope!

- Steve Dubuque

Executive Director's Corner



The mission of Habitat is to bring people together to build homes, communities and hope. Over the past year we have seen that happen in a special situation in the Town of Carver.

Last summer one of our board members and local pastor, Bruce Bardon, let us know of a family that could use some help. Perhaps our Brush with Kindness team would take a look at constructing a ramp to assist the family in getting their teenage son into and out of the home for his frequent trips to Childrens Hospital Boston? The son is in a wheelchair because of a very challenging, long-term medical situation. Allen Hanford, who is the leader of our Brush with Kindness team, spent time with the family to determine the best solution to the need; however they could not come up with an answer. They needed more than a ramp, and it was beyond our limited budget. Sadly, the family and Habitat agreed to put the project on hold.

Then as the year-end holidays approached, a communication came from the Town of Carver housing office. A number of contractors were more than willing to help if we could put the project together. Habitat was back in business!! A friendly contractor suggested a residential lift, and an architectural engineer volunteered to do research and design, the Town Redevelopment Authority committed some funds if the remainder were secured, a friend of Habitat volunteered to write grants for added funding, two churches made thoughtful donations, we reached out to sources of home modification financing. In short, the community came together to help a family in need.

This is how Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plymouth works. Thanks to all who are volunteers or friends of Habitat. For this family we have come together as a community, and we are giving hope.

- Jim Middleton



Meet our new ReStore Manager : Gary Miller

Customers who visit our ReStore will notice a distinct change compared to this time last year. Aside from the smell of freshly made popcorn, the percolating coffee pot and box of treats for customers to enjoy, they may notice that the Manager is a good bit taller and sports a beard.

Staff, Board members and volunteers welcomed Gary Miller to the position of ReStore Manager in late September 2013 after the previous manager, Doug Raymond, retired. Gary brought with him a tremendous energy, as well as experience in real estate and sales. His enthusiasm is contagious and has spread not only to the ReStore volunteers, but to the customers. Gary is a quick study and has learned a great deal about Habitat in his short time as Manager. We are all thrilled with the job he and his team have done to date.

If you have never been to the ReStore, located at 72 N. Main Street in Carver, or haven't been back in a while, please stop by and say hello to Gary while you enjoy fresh popcorn and shop for your home improvement projects.

Newly wrapped ReStore truck dedicated in donor's honor

Last Summer, Habitat of Greater Plymouth was notified that we would receive a donation of a box truck from the estate of Rodney MacDonald. After Rodney's passing, his mother and sister decided to donate the truck to Habitat, wanting it to go to a good cause. Habitat gladly accepted, and offered to dedicate the truck to Rodney after it was fully wrapped with the ReStore logo.

Rodney's sister, Kathy, along with her husband, Tom, and their son, Tommy, came to the ReStore in Carver this past Fall to see the newly wrapped truck that came to life from their generous donation. Their donation has now made it possible for Habitat to pick up donations and deliver items from the ReStore more easily.

Come visit Habitat of Greater Plymouth's ReStore, located on Route 58 in Carver, open Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Left to Right: Kathy Belcher, Wally Charles, Steve Dubuque, Tom Belcher and Tommy Belcher.



Nice car.

For Earth Day this year,
recycle a used vehicle.

Help Habitat for Humanity
build more homes.



Habitat
for Humanity

Cars for
Homes™

(877) 277-4344
carsforhomes.org

Help us get a lift gate

Something wonderful is happening at our ReStore...

...business is booming!! With the increase in business, we have also noticed an increase in donations. This means, of course, that our newly dedicated ReStore truck can be seen on local roads, occupied by two enthusiastic volunteers ready to lift, carry and, well, push items from local homes into the truck for transport back to our ReStore.

There's only one BIG hitch.

Our dear volunteers are flirting with injury having to lift larger items such as appliances and furniture into the back of the truck. We really need to save the backs of our volunteers - let's face it - they are no good to the Habitat mission if they are hurt, right?

This is where you come in.....

We have started a campaign on Share.Habitat to raise the funds required to get a lift gate installed on the back of our truck. Thanks to the efforts of our 28 online supporters and fundraisers, we have already raised \$780 toward our goal of \$3,000.

Donations of any amount are gladly accepted, and generous donors can process their credit cards right online via a secure software program that is managed by Habitat for Humanity.

Please, won't you help us.

Enter this link into your browser---> <https://share.habitat.org/affiliate-8?>



Finishing taking down the siding.

comfortable by including a hydrotherapy spa in the renovation. The spa had been prescribed by doctors to help alleviate her chronic pain, and was generously donated to the project. You see, Cynthia's troubles started when she suffered a debilitating head and neck injury in a car accident. The injuries were so severe that she wasn't able to work. The lack of income took its toll, and soon she found herself on the brink of foreclosure. This is where South Shore Housing stepped in. Once they were able to help her modify her home loan, she could then focus on getting the house fixed.

In October, the Habitat crew of volunteers celebrated the completion of the work by holding a dedication ceremony. The house was packed with well-wishers, and Cynthia could be found joyously giving tours all the while praising the team who did the work. At the ceremony, Cynthia exuded love for her new found friends.

A Hand-up, Not a Hand-out

Cynthia Candlin recently made some new friends....lots of them!

After helping Cynthia save her home from foreclosure, Veronica Truell, the Coordinator of SSH's Housing Education Center put her in touch with HFHGP to see if there was any way the home could be repaired. The house, located in Plymouth, had suffered from deferred maintenance brought on by a number of financial hardships. Electrical issues, roof damage and exterior decay made the family susceptible to the harsh New England weather.

Volunteers from HFHGP spent the better part of three months not only fixing Cynthia's home, but making it more



Replacing the boards.

"You have all reminded me that there is still good in this world. Your work, love and support have brought me to tears at points to think strangers would want to help me. I now call you friends - my group of volunteer angels. "



The finished product - Cynthia's new home.



Revealing the home at the dedication ceremony.

First Habitat House Gets a Facelift



Volunteers putting up a wall at Bethany's home.

Bethany Casoni was the first recipient of a new home from the, then, young affiliate - Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plymouth. Nearly 15 years have gone by, taking with it countless memories for a growing family.

When Bethany moved into the home in late 2000, her two young girls were small. Now, they are grown, entering the job market and taking college courses. Time has taken a toll on the home, as the budget for the active family remained tight. There are many needed updates and repairs on the home, including a need for more space. While the small rooms were just right for toy chests and other childhood things, the grown girls have acquired larger

furniture and more "grown-up" things.

Bethany reached out to Habitat for assistance a second time, and the team of volunteers enthusiastically accepted the challenge. Work began late in January to do necessary repairs on the home, install upgrades, and build more space for the family. Carpets will be removed in favor of tile and laminate flooring. Fresh paint will be applied and the basement will be finished to add living space to cramped quarters.

To some members of the volunteer crew, it's like a homecoming. This was the first house they saw built - the first of many to come. Going back and seeing how the family has thrived in the home, how they have loved the home, serves as a conviction that the mission of Habitat isn't just about providing decent, affordable housing. It's about giving a young family the chance to be successful for generations to come.

Work continues as this newsletter goes to print. If you are interested in helping build on this or a future project, please register at www.hfhplymouth.volunteerhub.com or call the office at 508-866-4188.



Photo of the volunteer crew.

Churches: The Cornerstone of Habitat's Foundation

Millard Fuller, the founder of Habitat for Humanity, helped forge Habitat into a worldwide Christian housing ministry.

"I see life as both a gift and a responsibility. My responsibility is to use what God has given me to help his people in need."

—Millard Fuller

HFHGP is fortunate to have partnered with several local churches that continuously support our projects. From volunteering on worksites, to providing funds for individual families to have work done on their homes, members from the churches help the mission progress in our small little area of the world.

We are extremely grateful to the members of the churches listed below. If you find that your church is not listed, please ask someone to call our office at 508-866-4188 to arrange a visit from one of our staff or volunteers. We would be excited to give a presentation on Habitat at a service, or talk with the church leadership about being added to the mission teams.

Chiltonville Congregational Church
Church of the Pilgrimage
Congregation Beth Jacob (Rabbi's Mitzvah Fund)
First Baptist Church of Middleboro
First Parish Church - Duxbury
First Parish Church - Norwell
Plymouth United Methodist Church
Sacred Heart Parish
Second Church of Plymouth (Ladies Benefit Society)
Second Church of Plymouth (Missions)
Trinity Episcopal Church

Join Us!

Annual Meeting & Volunteer Celebration

When: March 16, 2014 (Sunday)
2:00pm to 5:00pm

Where: Plymouth Radisson Hotel
180 Water Street, Plymouth

Come join the Board of HFH of Greater Plymouth as they celebrate the many volunteers who work tirelessly to accomplish the Habitat vision of "A world where everyone has a decent place to live."

RSVP by March 10 to the office at hfhplymouth1@verizon.net.



Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plymouth
PO Box 346 • 72 N. Main Street
Carver, MA 02330
www.hfhplymouth.org



Invites you to our 'Spring Fling: Help Us Grow' Annual Gala!



Friday, April 11, 2014
7:00 pm to 11:00 pm

Pinehills Golf Club
Plymouth, MA

Tickets \$50
\$40 if purchased by March 10, 2014

- Meet Jenna Nowlin, Second Runner-up in the Miss Massachusetts pageant!
- Your favorite live dance music by Brandy!
- Surf and Turf Dinner (with vegetarian option).
- Live auction featuring an African Safari, a week in Williamsburg, VA, 'Wall of Wine' and more!
- Silent Auction, raffles, balloon pops!



For more information, call 508.866.4188
or visit us online at www.hfhplymouth.org.

Tickets 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.hfhplymouth.org



President and CEO for Habitat for Humanity of Jacksonville, Inc opened the conference updating all affiliates on our new strategic plan.

main focus on the Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative ("NRI") was a terrific stage on which to highlight HabiJax's revitalization of the New Town area of Jacksonville.

The Summit kicked off with a bus tour of the New Town neighborhood before officially commencing with an informative general session and lunch. Affiliate leaders had the opportunity to review the recently completed Strategic Plan together before breaking into a series of smaller sessions. Our Affiliate leadership had the opportunity to learn about topics such as the changing mortgage laws, Board of Directors succession planning, and other key topics crucial to running an efficient Affiliate and serving our communities.

Habitat Affiliate Summit

In January, our Executive Director, Board President and Affiliate Manager traveled down to (almost) sunny Jacksonville, FL to attend the HFHI Affiliate Summit. One of three locations to host a Summit this year, the two day event was an opportunity to meet with over 300 other Affiliate leaders, volunteers, and Habitat US Office members to discuss a range of topics relating to the mission of Habitat.

The local affiliate, Habitat of Jacksonville ("HabiJax") was honored by being chosen to host one of the Summits this year. One of the most successful Affiliates in the US, HabiJax has served over 7,500 families. The Summit's



President and CEO for Habitat for Humanity of Jacksonville, Inc opened the conference updating all affiliates on our new strategic plan.



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 12 p.m.
Thurs. & Fri. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

www.restore-plymouth.org

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Thank you to our most recent donors (8/1/13 - 1/31/14)

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Traveler's Employee Match
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Trinchera, Frank and Jennifer
Trinity Episcopal Church
Tucker, David and Maureen
Verizon Foundation
Woodbury, Hannah

Traveling for Summer Break? Think Builder's Blitz!

Across the world, volunteers have been traveling to work on Habitat projects for many years. While working on a build in a more remote region of the world such as Haiti, Thailand or Africa is an experience of a lifetime according to those dedicated volunteers who have been able to make such a journey. But for many, trips like that are out of our reach. Thankfully, the US has Home Builder's Blitz.

Habitat's Home Builder's Blitz is an event that originated in 2002 when Habitat for Humanity of Wake County, NC formed a partnership with local custom home builder Tom Gipson. With the recruitment of 12 additional professional homebuilders committing to build one house a day in a five-day period, the Affiliate completed twelve homes. Much of the materials were donated, and an additional \$100,000 in cash donations was raised.

The project has grown to include two Home Builder's Blitz projects, off-year local builds and pilot projects and expanded from those original 12 homes, to over 1,067 homes constructed. This year, the goal is to construct 300 new homes while continuing to include rehabs and substantial repair projects.

During the 2014 event, June 3-9, professional builders will partner with local Habitat for Humanity affiliates to help construct more than 300 new houses, and rehab or make substantial repairs to existing homes. New partnership opportunities are available for builders whose specialties are outside of new residential construction.

For more information on how to get involved, contact Habitat for Humanity US Office at 1-800-HABITAT or email at homebuildersblitz@habitat.org.





P.O. Box 346
Carver, MA 02330

Don't forget to purchase your tickets to our Annual Gala!

Friday, April 11, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.
Pinehills Golf Club, Plymouth
Tickets: \$50 per person

- ◆ Live auction including: an African safari, a week in Williamsburg, VA, and more!
- ◆ Silent auction and raffles
- ◆ Music by Boston's own, Brandy
- ◆ Special guest Jenna Nowlin, second runner up, Miss Massachusetts pageant
- ◆ Surf and turf dinner included (vegetarian option available)

Tickets available at the following locations:

Habitat for Humanity office, 72 N. Main St, Carver
William Raveis Real Estate, 29 Main St, Plymouth
Online at www.hfhplymouth.org

Save the Date!!

Annual Meeting & Volunteer Celebration

Sunday, March 16, 2-5 p.m.
Radisson Hotel Plymouth Harbor

14th Annual Golf Tournament

Saturday, October 4, 8 a.m. shotgun start
Southerns Marsh Golf Club

