



the Homesteader

www.hfhplymouth.org

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plymouth, Inc.

Fall 2014

It's Official! HFH of Greater Plymouth is now a Veteran's Build Affiliate!

The Board of Directors, Volunteers and Staff are happy to announce the Affiliate's official designation as a Habitat for Humanity Veterans Build Affiliate.

The mission of Habitat's Veterans Build initiative is to engage active service members, veterans, their families and families of the fallen to build homes, communities and hope; while also ensuring they have the skills and support needed to achieve successful and sustainable home ownership. Nationally, Habitat has completed over 600 projects in partnership with veterans as partner families, including new construction, rehabs, renovations and home preservation projects.

The program is built upon "Five Pillars":

- ✓ **Build:** Through new construction, rehabs, repairs and barrier free renovations provide simple, decent, affordable housing and homeownership opportunities for service members, veterans, their families and families of the fallen.
- ✓ **Educate:** Provide veterans with access to financial education programs that support sustainable homeownership and promote a better understanding of military/veteran culture among Habitat's civilian supporters.
- ✓ **Mobilize:** Engage service members, veterans, their families, families of the fallen and Habitat's civilian supporters to serve and honor veterans together in volunteer opportunities and veteran focused advocacy.
- ✓ **Employ:** Leverage the skills and experience of veterans for employment, internship, fellowship, apprenticeship and national service opportunities within Habitat and enable similar opportunities with partner organizations.
- ✓ **Honor:** Identify opportunities to honor service members, veterans, their families and families of the fallen. Target dates include, but are not limited to Veterans Day, July 4th, Memorial Day, etc.



"The ability to buy their own house puts veterans in a position to put their kids in better schools; it puts (low-income veterans) in a position to have an asset for the first time in their lives and gives them a reason to continue to build other assets on top of homeownership."

– Neal Pointer (pictured above), Army veteran and AmeriCorps VISTA veterans' coordinator for Dallas Area Habitat for Humanity

Locally, our Affiliate is initially partnering with American Legion Post 40 in Plymouth. The members of the Post, whose Commander is Phil Ryan, have agreed to help us formally kick off our Veterans Build involvement at our Golf Tournament at Southers Marsh on October 4. Additional activities are also being planned during that month, culminating in a Veteran's Day celebration. Plans call for us to build on this foundation to join in partnership with other interested veterans organizations in our area.

Executive Corner

This issue celebrates the designation of HFH of Greater Plymouth as a Habitat for Humanity Veterans Build Affiliate. As such, we are pleased to turn this page over to one of our Board members, Dennis Randall. Mr. Randall proudly served his country in the Vietnam War, and is now proudly serving his community through HFH of Greater Plymouth.

“The board of directors has made two very significant decisions over the last three months. The first was to become a Veteran’s Build Affiliate and the second was to commit to raising \$100,000.00 in new funds over the course of the next year. For this newsletter, Jim and I have asked Dennis Randall to write the annual message from the perspective of a veteran taking hold of these new initiatives. The road ahead may be long and rough but it is full of hope and courage.”

– Stephen Dubuque, President, Board of Directors



Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plymouth was the first in the state to launch a ReStore and we, once again, are leading the way for Massachusetts by becoming the one of the first affiliates to officially join the Veterans Build Initiative.

As a Vietnam veteran and a member of the American Legion, I am keenly aware of the desperate need for affordable housing confronting so many of those who have served our nation. Overall more than 1.4 million veterans live in poverty and according to a 2011 report by the U.S. Congress Joint Economic Committee, one in eight post-9/11 veterans are living in poverty and the youngest of them have it the worst.

More than 40% of the homeless people on the streets of American cities are veterans and on any given night more than 60,000 homeless veterans can be found sleeping in doorways, cardboard boxes or shelters.

HFH of Greater Plymouth has begun to explore opportunities to address the needs of veterans and their families. We intend to do more than just “talk the talk”. We also intend to “walk the walk”. In Kingston we are investigating opportunities for a major veteran’s build. Our Affiliate will be taking a leadership role as we build a collation of individuals, organizations, and businesses united to create affordable housing for the sons and daughters of America who have served our country in time of war.

– Dennis Randall, Board of Directors

“Veterans and Habitat for Humanity have had a strong connection over the years. With this new initiative we will have an even more powerful way to help deserving people with affordable housing. We are honored to partner with and serve those who served!”

- Jim Middleton, Executive Director

Annual Gala - Spring Fling: Help Us Grow! Recap



More than 100 people came out for Habitat's Annual Gala this year, held in early April. Volunteers, Habitat families, staff members and supporters attended the gala, with this year's theme of Spring Fling: Help Us Grow! Hosted once again by the Pinehills Golf Club in Plymouth, the crowd enjoyed music, dancing and the chance to win any of the wonderful prizes auctioned off that evening.

Local artists created pieces of artwork to be auctioned off and local businesses donated baskets for the silent auction, as well as gift cards for the raffle. The big ticket items, found in the live auction, included a trip to Williamsburg, VA, an African safari, a "wall of wine"



and 2 decks built by Habitat's own construction team for the lucky winners.

As in previous years, we were joined again by Jenna Nowlin, second runner up in the Miss Massachusetts pageant, and Tom O'Brien, Plymouth County Treasurer, was our celebrity guest auctioneer. Musical entertainment was provided by Boston's own, Brandy.

For the second year in a row, the event was sold out! We thank everyone involved for their efforts in making the gala such a success to aid the Habitat mission in the community.

Meet our Veterans Build Coordinator: Krista Vicich



Krista Vicich, HFHGP's Affiliate Manager since April 2010, has graciously added the role of Veterans Build Coordinator to the list of her many duties. She will remain the Affiliate Manager, and will oversee the forthcoming veterans builds, ensuring that they comply with Habitat standards. In her role as Veterans Build Coordinator, she will also serve as the main point of contact for the Habitat US Office Veterans Build department, as well as the many community veterans organizations the Affiliate will be partnering with going forward.

Originally from Virginia Beach, VA, a largely military community, Krista comes from a military family herself. Her husband, John has served in the US Army where Krista volunteered as an Army Family Team Building Instructor and a Family Readiness Coordinator. John, currently serving in the US Coast Guard, was transferred to New England in 2003. Krista subsequently volunteered as an Ombudsman for two of his former units. She is currently the Ombudsman for Sector Southeast New England, which includes serving several of the smaller stations in the area. When her husband retires in 2015, her role as Ombudsman will cease, so she is excited to be able to continue serving military families in the area.



**Make every day
Earth Day.**

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

Start your donation:
www.carsforhomes.org/ed

Volunteers help rehab HFHGP's original home

Earlier this year, our build volunteers switched gears and helped one of HFHGP's Habitat Families in their own home. The Affiliate's first homeowner, Bethany Casoni, needed some help repairing parts of her home as well as building more space in the form of a family room in the basement.



Doug Ballum, demonstrates the proper depth for a sump pump.

When the family of three first moved into their home around 2000, the girls were small so the rooms were plenty adequate to hold toys and other child sized items. However, now that they are both older, their belongings are bigger and take up more room. Bethany called asking for assistance and the volunteers happily answered.

The project commenced as soon as the weather allowed work in the basement. The first task was to install a sump pump to keep the basement dry. Once that was complete, walls went up, an exterior door was replaced and a second window was

put in to allow more light into the room. Over a period of several weeks, the team of volunteers worked to help with the yard, finished the basement and laid the groundwork for Bethany to continue upgrading her original living space. Plans include pulling up the original carpet to lay wood flooring and painting the remaining rooms.

In her thank you note to the crew, Bethany wrote:

"I wanted to thank Doug and all the volunteers that did such a wonderful job refinishing my basement. Erin, Cheri and I love the added space...Giving up your Saturday's for the last four months was a huge sacrifice for all of you and your hard work has made such an improvement in our lives...."

- Bethany Casoni



View of the finished product.

How do the volunteers find their energy?

Our volunteers are amazing. Every weekend they dedicate a full day to building new homes and helping repair broken ones so that homeowners have safe, healthy shelter. If it is snowing, volunteers are there. Raining? You'll find them working hard. A gorgeous beach day? Yup...our volunteers are on the job despite many of them having put in a full week of work at their own jobs already. So how do they find the energy??

Lunches! We are fortunate to have been able to provide lunches for our volunteers from none other than, you guessed it, more volunteers. It truly takes an army to achieve the mission of Habitat and organizing that army take leaders. Leaders like Pat Mudgett, Sherri Slater and a slate of others who have organized teams of volunteers to provide a well balanced meal for the build crews.



(cont'd page 5)

'Give David a Lift' Campaign Update

In the last newsletter, we reported that our Affiliate had been approached to do a ramp project for a family in Carver whose teenaged son, David, who is confined to his bed or a wheelchair due to MELAS syndrome. At that time, we started a crowdfunding campaign through Share.Habitat to help raise the necessary funding to install the lift and do the other repair work around the home.



David and his dog.

We are thrilled to announce that, thanks to you, our supporters, we raised a total of over \$6,000 through Share.Habitat. Locally, thanks to churches, corporate sponsorships, and other donors we have raised a total of \$17,144.00. Further, the Town of Carver Redevelopment Authority has committed \$8,000 more to help us reach our goal.

Work on the project is well underway. Our volunteers have helped the family finish a bedroom and bathroom, allowing David's sister, Deanna, to have her own room. This phase of the project has also allowed David's parents to move back into their own room for the first time in several years. They had been sleeping on the family couch in order to be closer to David should he need assistance.

Additionally, crews have worked to build an outdoor, poured concrete ramp walkway, which allows access to the lower level of the home. They have also generously spent time landscaping the yard, painting the exterior of the home. One of the team's longtime volunteers, Joanne Re, coordinated the donation of new window boxes and flowers with the help of her fellow volunteers and Crystal Lake Garden Shop in Carver.



A before and after view of the front yard.

Our Executive Director and Build Coordinator are currently finalizing the plans and details required to install the wheelchair lift - which will complete the project and allow the family much more mobility in the future.

How do the volunteers find their energy?



Pat Mudgett serves lunch.

(cont'd from page 4)

Creating a schedule of community groups, church groups, women's leagues and individual volunteers month after month is no small task. Yet the angels who volunteered their time did so cheerfully, efficiently and without complaint, often stepping in themselves when there was an open spot in the schedule. They helped crews warm up when it was cold, celebrate holidays and birthdays and cool down when the sun was blazing.

While our Affiliate has grown to the point that it is no longer possible to provide a lunch to each crew, we are forever grateful to those who cared for our team as if they were their own family.

Thank you!!



14th Annual Golf Tournament

Saturday, October 4, 2014
Shotgun start at 8:00 a.m.
Scramble format

Southers Marsh Golf Club
30 Southers Marsh Lane
Plymouth MA

Early Bird Registration: \$100 until August 31.
Registration: \$115 until October 1.

Green fees include:
Cart, Steak and Chicken Buffet, Prizes and Gift Bag!
Lunch only tickets available for \$25 until October 1.

All proceeds benefit Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plymouth's mission to build decent, affordable housing in partnership with families in need.

Co-Sponsored by American Legion Post 40 In support of the Habitat for Humanity Veterans Build Program

Win a Car with a Hole in One - Sponsored by Tufankjian Hyundai of Plymouth
Lunch provided by SYSCO, Inc.



** In the event of inclement weather, please call the golf course at 508-830-3535 for guidance the day of the tournament.



REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____ TELEPHONE _____ COMPANY NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

ADDITIONAL PLAYERS:

NAME _____
NAME _____
NAME _____

| |
|---|
| Early Bird Registration \$100 each until August 31, 2014! |
| NUMBER OF GOLFERS (\$115 EACH): _____ |
| DINNER GUESTS ONLY (\$25 EACH) : _____ |
| TOTAL ENCLOSED : _____ |
| ** Deadline for registration and payment is October 1, 2014. |

Please make checks out to Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plymouth

Send payment and registration to :

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plymouth, P.O. Box 346, Carver MA 02330
For more information or for additional forms, please call 508-866-4188.



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 3 p.m.
Thursday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

www.restore-plymouth.org

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P.O. Box 346
Carver, MA 02330

**Don't forget to purchase your tickets
to our 14th annual Golf Tournament!**

Saturday, October 4, 2014
Southers Marsh Golf Club, Plymouth
8 a.m. shotgun start
Scramble format

Early Bird Registration (until Aug. 31): \$100/person
Regular Registration (Sept. 1 - Oct. 1): \$115/person
Lunch only tickets: \$25/person

Green fees include:

- ◆ Cart
- ◆ Steak and Chicken Buffet
- ◆ Prizes
- ◆ Gift Bag

**Stay tuned for details on our upcoming
Veterans Build kick-off event!**

**Veterans Day is
Tuesday, November 11, 2014**

***Tournament Co-Sponsored by
American Legion Post 40***

***Hole in One Prize sponsored by:
Tufankjian Hyundai of Plymouth***

***Dinner Buffet sponsored by:
Sysco***