



# Habitat Happenings

## spring 2024



### From the Executive Director's Desk

As we welcome another Spring, a season full of fresh energy and a sense of new beginnings, it's hard not to reflect on how quickly the year has passed. No doubt, our full days working hard to advance our mission have kept us very busy here.

We are thrilled to be making fantastic progress on our home build in Manomet for Marcus, Rachel and their two beautiful girls. Increasing our steady construction schedule to three days each week since the beginning of this project has made a big difference, both with the pace of progress and opening more opportunities for volunteers to participate.

Our volunteer crews have once again proven that their passion for working together is both powerful and uplifting. Driven by a shared commitment to service and a desire to make a positive impact for families in need, the diverse skill sets of our volunteers turn individual effort into collective energy and results that are truly remarkable. On the build site, day after day (even those the cold, windy New England ones), our amazing volunteers pour their hearts into the work and the walls of what will soon become a beautiful, life-changing home for this family. In the ReStore and on our working committees, they give their time and effort to help in a myriad of important ways that make our organization whole. And, it's always so heartwarming to see our volunteers truly enjoying one another's company, sharing in memorable moments together, inevitably with some laughs along the way!

Last, but certainly not least, in March, we received the extraordinary news that Habitat of Greater Plymouth was awarded \$2.3 million dollars in federal funding to support affordable home development in our service area. This incredible investment in our organization gives us a new pathway to property acquisition that will fill our pipeline and spur our delivery of completed homes like never before. Just as important, it is a testament to our proven history and will be transformational for HFHGP's impact in the community in the years to come. These funds are specifically designated for acquiring property, which means we still need support from the community to cover construction costs.

Tackling this state-wide affordable housing crisis takes unwavering determination, collaboration, new ideas and resources. We invite all of you to be part of this work and thank you for your support!

*Amy Belmore*

Executive Director  
amy@hfhplymouth.org

## Progress on Site



Progress is blossoming at our latest project site at 47 Indian Avenue in Plymouth. Since last fall, our dedicated team has been hard at work, seamlessly transitioning from demolition and site preparation in October to full-fledged building efforts in December. Our invaluable Construction Director, Doug Ballum, has been guiding our volunteers three days per week (Thurs.-Sat.), accelerating the timeline for our partner family to call this house their home.

Our collective efforts have already seen significant milestones achieved, including the installation of a new basement and foundation coupled with the construction of a two-story addition at the rear of the existing

structure. From framing to rough plumbing, new windows to siding, each phase has been diligently executed, thanks to the unwavering dedication of our volunteers and steadfast support of our community partners. The contributions of individuals, company groups, and civic organizations have been instrumental in propelling this project forward, bringing us closer to realizing our vision of providing a safe and welcoming home for this local family! Continue reading about our partner family's journey on page 2 of this newsletter.

### Board of Directors

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Gordian Corp.

### Make Earth Day every day



Donate your car and other vehicles today to help local families build affordable housing



# Planting New Roots: Meet Our Newest Partner Family



Marcus and Rachel embody the spirit of resilience and determination, their journey marked by challenges, sacrifices, and unwavering optimism. With roots in Hyde Park and Dorchester respectively, their path led them to Plymouth, where they were recently selected as the new partner family for our next Habitat for Humanity home.

Marcus, a former aviation mechanic in the Navy, served his country for eight years with deployments taking him on a World cruise on the USS Vincent and a West Pacific cruise on the USS Lincoln. His military service instilled in him a sense of discipline and routine, qualities that have been a cornerstone in his life. However, upon returning to civilian life, Marcus found himself grappling with homelessness and living in shelter, a struggle that persisted for three years until he found support through veteran housing programs.

Rachel discovered her passion for teaching after embarking on a journey pursuing early childhood education in college, following work as a teacher's aide after leaving high school. She credits her role at the elementary school at which her mother was a teacher as changing her life for the better. Despite facing personal and professional obstacles, Rachel remained steadfast in her commitment to nurturing young minds and making a difference in her community.

Together they have two daughters; Aaliyah (age 6) and Aubrey (age 2). Aaliyah, has a voracious appetite for learning and embraces various activities like basketball, soccer, dance, and skating. Aubrey is the sassy one, and her infectious laughter and charm light up the room. As a family, they cherish simple yet meaningful moments together, from movie nights to beach outings, enjoying each opportunity to bond and create lasting memories.

Now, Marcus and Rachel are thrilled that they can finally put roots down in Plymouth. With a "forever home" here, they will no longer have to worry about changing schools for the girls, finding new friends, joining a new church community, or any of the other challenges that come with moving to a new place.

Looking ahead, Marcus and Rachel aspire to pay forward the blessings they have received by giving back to their community and supporting initiatives that uplift others facing similar challenges. Their unwavering faith, coupled with the abundant support of loved ones and organizations like Habitat for Humanity, serves as a testament to the power of resilience and the triumph of the human spirit in the face of adversity.

In their message to other families navigating similar circumstances, Marcus and Rachel advocate for taking chances, embracing hope, and seeking assistance when needed. We can't wait to hand over their keys, hopefully by early summer!

## CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!



We're calling on all compassionate souls and eager hands to join our vibrant community of volunteers at Habitat for Humanity. Whether you're skilled in construction, passionate about event planning, want to help out the ReStore, or are ready to lend a hand in any other capacity, there's a meaningful role waiting for you!

Together, we'll continue to make a tangible difference in the lives of families in need, building not just homes, but hope and brighter futures. Sign up today to be a part of our inspiring journey!

Email [lmcmamus@hfhplymouth.org](mailto:lmcmamus@hfhplymouth.org) for more information.



To round out 2023, we saw **overwhelming success** with a generous year-end match challenge from our co-founders, Wayne and Karen Barnes, in memory of Rev. Bob Merritt, a fellow co-founder. We are delighted to announce that your thoughtful contributions helped us **meet our goal of \$10,000!** We thank everyone who gave toward this memorable match. As part of this initiative, we launched a new circle of giving, **The Merritt Grantors**, for those whose new gifts exceeded \$250. With deep gratitude, we extend our appreciation to our founding Merritt Grantors, and eagerly anticipate welcoming others into this special fellowship.



## Remembering Karen Barnes

*In Loving Memory of Karen Barnes, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plymouth's co-founder, lifelong supporter, and remarkable friend. Karen's unwavering dedication and tireless efforts were instrumental in the establishment of our affiliate, embodying the true spirit of service and community. Together with her husband, Wayne, Karen remained deeply committed to our cause even after they moved out west. Their passion for philanthropy and personal generosity inspired the Barnes' December Challenge Match and the creation of The Merritt Grantors fellowship circle. Karen's impact will continue to guide us as we carry forward her vision of hope and homes for all.*



## In the Pipeline



We're excited to introduce our next project: the complete renovation of a property nestled in the heart of South Plymouth. With plans to kick off preliminary site development this summer, our goal is to breathe new life into this existing 2-bedroom house and provide a deserving family with a safe and comfortable home. We look forward to updating the public as we progress in this new build, which you can find on our website at [www.hfhplymouth.org](http://www.hfhplymouth.org).

Your generous contributions are essential in fueling this transformative journey. Whether it's through financial support or volunteering your time and skills, every bit helps. Join us in making a difference by reaching out to [acon@hfhplymouth.org](mailto:acon@hfhplymouth.org) or calling our office today. Together, let's build brighter futures and stronger communities.

## Mark Your Calendars

Get ready to make memories at this year's **Hearts & Hammers Gala** on **Friday, November 1st**, hosted at the fabulous **Jones River Trading Company** for the second year! Last year's attendees loved the open atmosphere perfect for socializing with friends and we're thrilled to return this year. The Gala Committee is already buzzing with excitement, crafting an unforgettable evening for all our generous supporters. We eagerly anticipate welcoming you all back for another fantastic night.

We're currently seeking sponsors and auction items to make our Gala even more spectacular. If you or your business would like to be part of something special, or if you'd like to join the Gala Committee, reach out to Alexis Coon at [acon@hfhplymouth.org](mailto:acon@hfhplymouth.org).



## Meet Our Staff!

**Amy Belmore**  
Executive Director

**Doug Ballum**  
Construction Director

**Alexis Coon**  
Development &  
Marketing Manager

**Lynn McManus**  
Volunteer Manager &  
Office Administrator

**Jim Middleton**  
Project Director

**Kellie Parham**  
Bookkeeper

### ReStore Staff

**Brittany Wilson**  
ReStore Assistant Manager

**Jon Tirrell**

**Nick Juergens**

**Scotty Doherty**



# ReStore

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plymouth

## UPDATES



The ReStore is as busy as ever in 2024! Last year, we announced our new Cabinet Deconstruction program, which we are pleased to say has been very successful. Homeowners have been delighted by the efficiency and expertise of our deconstruction team. Help us spread the word about this valuable, **FREE service!** This initiative not only promotes sustainability, but also supports the Habitat mission of providing safe, affordable homes for those in need. Come check out our new space dedicated to the cabinets we have for sale, some straight out of store showrooms. Or reach out to us at [restore@hfhplymouth.org](mailto:restore@hfhplymouth.org) to plan your cabinet removal and pickup today!

The ReStore welcomes donations from the public and offers high-quality items for sale. It's a community hub for giving and finding treasures, ranging from gently used furniture & appliances, to new paint and even insulation. Proceeds from the ReStore directly support our mission work. With something to suit every taste, all are invited to explore our store—we look forward to seeing you soon!

**ReStore**  
Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plymouth

DISCOUNTS, GIVEAWAYS,  
& REFRESHMENTS

**CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY!**  
June 15, 2024

160 N Main Street, Carver



[hfhplymouth.org](http://hfhplymouth.org)



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[habitat-for-humanity-of-greater-plymouth](https://www.linkedin.com/company/habitat-for-humanity-of-greater-plymouth)



## ReStore Location & Hours

160 N. Main St. Carver  
(next to Tractor Supply)

Tues.: 10 am – 1 pm

Wed. – Fri.: 10 am – 6 pm

Sat.: 10 am – 4 pm

**\*New Sat. Hours!\***



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# Habitat Happenings

spring  
2024

## WIN THIS CELTICS SIGNED BASKETBALL!

Tickets \$10  
3 for \$25!



Let's celebrate the conclusion of March Madness and the kick-off of the NBA Playoffs with a chance to win this authentic signed basketball from the 2023-2024 Boston Celtics team!

Raffle open for the month of April. Winner will be drawn May 1. All proceeds benefit Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plymouth.

! For more info and to purchase tickets, scan the QR code below



or visit [www.givebutter.com/hfhceltics24](http://www.givebutter.com/hfhceltics24)

