

SPRING 2022

# toolbox

THE NEWSLETTER BY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF EASTERN CONNECTICUT



**Celebrating 100 homes  
and 35 years of service  
in Eastern Connecticut!**

*Dedicated volunteers, together with Eva, a future Habitat homeowner, enjoying a Group Build Day at our 100th home on Sylvester Street in Norwich.*

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

### Honoring Our Past, Celebrating the Present, Shaping Our Future

To our Friends and Supporters,

On January 10, 2022, we dedicated the 97th and 98th homes in our affiliate's history to two wonderful young families. The new homeowners, volunteers, community partners, staff, and local clergy braved the cold to come together and celebrate Habitat's mission in action. It was a memorable day.

January 10th was also the first day of my new role as Executive Director. I watched the ceremony and wondered how we got to such a monumental place - handing someone the keys to their first new home - and what that process entailed.

While learning about a family's journey from "homeowner application" to "homeowner dedication", it became clear that the key to building up communities is developing strong, positive relationships that work together at every step.

To honor not only the affiliate's achievements, but also the time and talent of all who came before us, we'll be celebrating two significant milestones this year. In May we will dedicate homes #99 and #100 on Sylvester Street in Norwich. And later this summer, we'll celebrate our 35th anniversary!

What do all of these achievements mean for our future? More homes. More opportunities for families to move out of inadequate housing. More safe neighborhoods where children can play and grow. More reusable material recycled at our ReStores. More people working side-by-side.

Our team is finding new ways to tell our story, dive deeper into the entirety of our service area, plan for the projects that are already in front of us, and swing for the fences on future developments. Anyone can be a part of the solution for families in need of a safer home. How? Advocate. Build. Call. Engage. Give. Share. Volunteer. Write.

And don't forget to celebrate!

In Health,

Sarah Lufler, Executive Director



# You're invited!

## Dedication of our 100th Home

Sunday, May 1, 2022 at 2:00pm

44 and 46 Sylvester St., Norwich

RSVP to Tara at [mission@habitatect.org](mailto:mission@habitatect.org)



## Save the Date to Celebrate

35 Years of Service in Eastern Connecticut

Friday, July 29, 2022

Details to follow



## Habitat Happenings: Sharing the good news



New homeowners, Siobhan and Kerri, seen here with their families and volunteer partners, John Fortunato and John Bolduc. Both families received gifts of quilts, prayer shawls, tool boxes, and Bibles during their Home Dedications in January. Thank you to Poquonnock Bridge Baptist Church in Groton and United Methodist Church in Gales Ferry for the beautiful gifts, made with love and care.

### Moving In

As Sarah mentioned, we recently dedicated two homes in Norwich. When completed next year, this wonderful neighborhood will have ten Habitat homes. Families there are already making plans for a shared community garden - a perfect symbol of their faith in their families' bright futures.

It was a joy to celebrate with these two families who will experience the peace and stability of having a safe, affordable place to call home.

Kerri, mom to two boys, said, "It's a wonderful feeling to know that so many people have dedicated their time to build our home with love. That positive energy is built right into the house...This is such a blessing to me and my boys."

Next door, two more future Habitat families are also feeling the love as they work alongside volunteers to finish building their homes. We hope you will join us for the very special milestone dedication ceremony of our 99th and 100th homes on Sunday, May 1, 2022 at 2:00pm.

### Building On

The need for affordable housing in Eastern Connecticut continues to grow and, with your support, Habitat is working to help more families in our region build a decent place to live.

We are building six more homes this year in the Greenville neighborhood in Norwich, and have plans to complete seven additional Norwich home rehabilitation projects.

But that's not all! We are finishing homes in Willimantic and Danielson, and will begin working soon on homes in Gales Ferry and Sterling.

Now that the weather is warming up, we'll be picking up the pace of construction at our home building sites and could use some helping



One of our Habitat homes being built in Willimantic. Volunteers, under the direction of Bill Briggs, included students from UConn and Eastern CT State University.

hands. No experience necessary.

Every volunteer can help families in our community build strength, stability, self-reliance, *and* a safe, decent place to call home.

Call Haley at 860-442-7890 x215 or visit [habitatect.org](http://habitatect.org) to schedule time to build with us.

## Help Us Build 100 More!



Looking for a fun way to...

Give back to the community? Learn something new?

Bond with family and friends? Team build with co-workers?

## Sign Up for a Group Build Day!

For more information, visit [habitatect.org](http://habitatect.org)

## Volunteer Spotlight: Reflections on Volunteering with Habitat

*From 1987 to now, volunteers have been the beating heart and faithful soul of Habitat, dedicated to the vision of a world where everyone has a safe, affordable, decent place to live.*

*In their own words, some of our volunteers share reflections on their experiences with Habitat, and why they love volunteering...*



**Name:** Charlie Ryan  
**Role:** Home Builder and Crew Leader  
**Volunteering Since:** 1988

My first volunteering experience was a renovation on Truman Street in New London in 1988. I'm pretty sure it was the first Habitat home. It was a fun experience and I learned a lot.

My favorite part of building is the help we get to give to the community and the home owners. You know, 'help' is one of those four letter words! Like 'home'. We help build a home!



**Name:** Providence College Group  
**Role:** Spring Break Home Builders  
**Volunteering Since:** 2022

Our favorite part was learning the history of Habitat and working alongside other volunteers. We got to learn how to install flooring and how to shine light on wet paint to see where we missed. Skills that we can use to work on our own homes one day.

Collaboration in physical labor is different than collaboration in an academic setting. It's an amazing feeling to see the results of people working together on a project.

We laughed a lot every day. We had a fun time working and it didn't feel like work. The days went by so quickly!



**Name:** Deb Hartley  
**Role:** Homeowner Selection Committee  
**Volunteering Since:** 2015

After retiring, I walked into the Habitat office one day and said, 'Hi, how can I help?' I started

doing things around the office and then began serving on committees. First, on the Events Committee, and now on the Homeowner Selection Committee.

I really enjoy meeting potential homeowners and seeing them through the whole process, from when they first apply to when they get handed the keys to their home. I love seeing it come to a wonderful finish for them.

My advice to anyone thinking of volunteering? Try it! It's a wonderful experience.



**Name:** Lynn Wynn  
**Role:** ReStore Volunteer  
**Volunteering Since:** 2018

I started out doing all kinds of things at the ReStore and now mostly do cashiering. I like the variety, I like the socializing, and I like the staff.

It's fast paced and there are lots of things to do. Everything from computer work to loading vehicles to cashiering. There is something for everyone.

*Thank you, Habitat volunteers, for working to help families in eastern Connecticut! To join us, call Haley at 860-442-7890 x215 or visit [habitatect.org](http://habitatect.org) today.*

 **Habitat for Humanity**  
**Cars for Homes**

**your old vehicle**  
can help a family build  
strength, stability and  
self-reliance.



**Donate a car**



# Not into hammers, but still want to lend a helping hand?

## Check out these other great ways to Volunteer!

### Habitat Volunteers

At Habitat for Humanity, we love our volunteers! While you probably already know that building homes is a great volunteer experience, we wanted to share other ways you can get involved at Habitat.

We invite anyone who shares our mission-focus and who is dedicated to filling these important roles to join us for a day, a week, every month, or more!

Check out these current volunteer opportunities and let us know if you would like to join the mission. No matter the role, every volunteer is helping families build strength,

stability, self-reliance, *and* shelter.

### Enjoy Retail or Organizing?

Our Habitat ReStore locations in Waterford and Plainfield help raise money for the construction of new homes by selling new and gently used furniture and home goods at reasonable prices. Volunteer as a sales person or cashier, or help receive and price donations and organize inventory.

### Prefer Working Behind the Scenes?

We have several special projects at our office in New London requiring skills in data entry and

archiving records. We also need ongoing office support. Schedules for these roles are flexible.

Or, consider joining one of our committees that meet monthly to plan events, offer guidance, work with future Habitat homeowners, or spread the word about Habitat in the community. We currently have volunteer openings on the following committees:

- Community Engagement
- Homeowner Selection
- Faith Engagement
- Development/Event Planning
- Homeowner Support
- Finance

To volunteer, visit [habitatect.org](http://habitatect.org) or call Haley at 860-442-7890 x215

every  
donation  
makes a difference



## Spring Cleaning?

Planning a home improvement project?

We've got you covered!

Donate or Shop at ReStore today!

 **Habitat for Humanity®**  
**ReStore**

**Shop · Donate · Volunteer**

### Plainfield ReStore

808 Norwich Road, 06374

860-564-7507

### Waterford ReStore

82 Boston Post Road, 06385

860-437-3422

### Store Hours:

Tuesday—Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.



377 Broad Street New London, CT 06320

860.442.7890 [habitatect.org](http://habitatect.org)

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planning your will and estate.



## Celebrating 100 Homes + 35 Years in Eastern Connecticut!

*Your gift of \$135 will empower future Habitat families  
to build a safe, decent place to call home.*

*Please donate today.*

**Every Home · Every Donation · Every Helping Hand  
impacts families and strengthens our community**

