

NEWS UPDATE



Building Homes

Building Hope

Building Community

2008 was a year of growth, partnerships, challenges and joy as we worked alongside four partner-families to build their homes. Thanks to the hard work of hundreds of volunteers and donors, each of these families celebrated their first Thanksgiving in their own homes!

Habitat for Humanity North Central Massachusetts is an independent affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, serving 25 communities in Middlesex and Worcester counties. For 20 years, we have worked to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness and make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action.

As you read about our endeavors, know that you are part of a worldwide effort. Habitat for Humanity has built more than 250,000 homes around the globe, providing more than 1 million people in more than 3,000 communities in 90 countries with a safe place called home.

FITCHBURG...We partnered with house sponsor Rotary District 7910 to build a home in Fitchburg with the Bruno-Peña family. The challenging, nearly vertical lot brought out the best in our construction volunteers. Many who helped us are now experts in cold weather construction as well as concrete mixing! We're grateful to the members of the 54 Rotary Clubs who pitched in and to all the other volunteers who climbed that hill to make a dream happen.



62 Essex Street, Fitchburg



62 River Street, Acton

ACTON...Ledge and Historic District Commission requirements challenged our construction crews while building the De Souza home in Acton. The handicapped-accessible features assure that the family can continue to care for their oldest daughter Rebeca at home - now, and in the future. Volunteers sealed a seemingly endless number of cedar shingles before installing them on many cold and snowy work days. The final product is beautiful, durable and low maintenance.

TOWNSEND...In Townsend, two 'angels' bolstered fundraising: Townsend Congregational Church and the Friends Project, a private group initiated by the Dionne family and friends. These, coupled with generous donations of services and materials by local craftsmen and businesses, augmented local fundraising, enabling this home to go forward for this new American family. We are proud to have our first solar array on this house, thanks to a grant from Transformations/Massachusetts Technology Collaborative.



14 Apple Drive, Townsend



203 Sherbert Road
Ashburnham

ASHBURNHAM...After sorting out land issues in Ashburnham, we broke ground for the McSparren home in April. The house was underwritten by an anonymous major donor and funds raised by the Local Partner Committee, along with a generous sponsorship from AMICA Mutual Insurance Company, their second sponsorship of a HFHNCM home. The McSparrens moved in an hour after the dedication ceremony was over!!

HABITAT FAMILIES...Throughout the year, we got to know the partner-families well, as they attended first-time homebuyer classes at Montachusett Opportunity Council with their family partners, participated in additional budgeting classes at HFHNCM, joined Family Partner Committee members and staff for potluck suppers, volunteered in the office and worked on their homes with local volunteers. The excitement, new experiences, new skills and even the frustration ("will my home ever be ready?") led to real growth and a solid foundation for being responsible homeowners. We are proud of them.



Homeowners (L to R):
Leah McSparren, Silvia
De Souza & Teuta
Baboci



HFHNCM's new Ford F250 Pickup (Vroom!)

WHEELS...As our projects - scattered throughout our large service area - started to come on line, we began pricing used trucks. Through the efforts of several Board members, Bob Moran of Acton Toyota and Iverson Ford provided a brand new 2008 Ford 250 with a snowplow at half cost, and our Board contributed the remaining funds.

LOUISIANA...A third team of volunteers traveled to Slidell, LA to join Habitat for Humanity's continuing rebuilding efforts. Habitat for Humanity is the most active home re-builder in that stricken area, having built more than 1000 houses hit by Hurricane Katrina in 2005.



HFHNCM volunteers with President Jimmy Carter in Louisiana



RE-STORE...Our virtual Re-Store project under the volunteer management of Ron Leger continues to grow. Offered via Craig's List Worcester, our Re-Store items now include donated new and gently used cabinets, appliances, flooring, tile and carpeting. The project generates revenue for Habitat and provides moderately priced home building supplies for renovation projects and vacation homes. What a great way to recycle perfectly good housing

materials and use the proceeds to underwrite more of our projects! To see our current Re-Store offerings, go to Craig'sList Worcester (<http://worcester.craigslist.org/>) and type 'hfncm' in the Search CraigsList box in the left column.

WOMEN'S BUILD...Our first Women's Build Days were launched at our Townsend construction site in partnership with Lowe's Home Improvement Stores. All-women volunteer teams staffed three full construction days, installing drywall throughout the house.



NIGHT OF THE ARTS...The Fitchburg Art Museum was the glittering venue for an enchanting evening of entertainment in late October. Our first formal gala fundraiser featured mimes, magicians and music as well as wine, cheese and beer tastings, and live and silent auctions. Over 200 guests joined us for a night of fun, festivities and friendship.

CAMPUS NEWS...We re-established a close relationship with Fitchburg State College, recruiting student volunteers from the college's construction management curriculum, the Student Athletic Association and through the alternative spring break program. The college now has an active Habitat for Humanity student group with hopes to become a Habitat for Humanity Campus Chapter shortly. Volunteers from other Massachusetts campuses joined us on our construction sites as well. We enjoyed hosting volunteers from Bentley College, Brandeis, Harvard, Johns Hopkins, Northeastern, and Tufts Universities, Wentworth Institute of Technology, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and Mt. Wachusett Community College.



Fitchburg State College

VOLUNTEERS...Board and committee members as well as construction workers logged more than 14,000 volunteer hours, bringing us to a record achievement of fulfilling the dream of home ownership for four new families.

With four home projects underway, we are fortunate to also have a large cadre of corporate, faith-based and civic group volunteers swing into action.



Volunteers from EMC help raise the roof in Ashburnham

NEWS UP DATE



**Volunteers are the lifeblood of
Habitat for Humanity!
Special thanks to
volunteers from:**



Acton Congregational Church
Amica Mutual Insurance Company
Ashburnham Community Church
Boxborough United Church of Christ
Bristol Meyers Squibb
Building Impact, Inc.
Church of the Good Shepherd
Congregation Beth Elohim
DeLuxe Pinpoint
DSM Thermoplastic Elastomers, Inc.
EMC Global Services
Faith United Parish Fitchburg



First Unitarian Church of Littleton
First Parish Church, Stow & Acton
GE Healthcare
Holliston Knights of Columbus
JD Associates
Kayak.com
MathWorks
Mid-State Antique Autos
Monster.com
New Directions
Otter River Knights of Columbus

Our Lady of the Lake Church
Property Portfolio Research
QuadTech
David Rocheford, Esq.



Rotary District 7910 Membership
Ruel Electric
SalesForce.com
Simplex Grinnell
Solid Works
South Acton Congregational Church
State Street Corporation
St. Elizabeth's of Hungary
St. Matthew's United Methodist
Sudbury United Methodist
Sunshine Programs
Target
The Beacon Newspaper
Thrivent
Townsend Congregational



Townsend United Methodist Church
Traveler's Insurance Company
UCC Boxborough Congregational Church
United Parish of Winchendon
West Acton Baptist Church
Worker's Credit Union



One Oak Hill Road • Fitchburg, MA 01420 • Tel: 978-348-2749 • Fax: 978-343-9386
Email: hfhncm@verizon.net • Web: www.ncmhabitat.org