



A Newsletter for Friends of Habitat CFC

March 2016

Greetings!

Throughout the past weekend we were inundated with dire forecasts of a late nor'easter that would replace the beautiful early spring weather we've all been enjoying with unwelcome snow, cold and wind! Well, apparently, Mother Nature is a lot tougher than we realize! Today's sunshine is a testament to her tenacious refusal to relinquish the season of new beginnings for more than a few hours! I am most grateful. Spring is truly the season for Habitat CFC and I couldn't be more excited to welcome its arrival!



This winter has been very kind to us and Habitat CFC staff, volunteers and future homeowners were able to keep working on houses much more aggressively than in recent years. As a result, we expect to be closing on a record number of new homes early this Spring - providing many families with the opportunity to enjoy their own "new beginnings" in the safety, security, stability and joy of a new home - and that's what we're all about!

Of course, this will lead to even more new beginnings - as we break ground and begin working on additional houses spread throughout the region. With so much work to do, the spring brings ample opportunity for even more volunteers to step in and make a

difference. I promise you that a day spent working with other volunteers under the guidance of our wonderful staff and the comradery of our hard-working and determined future homeowners will be a day that you won't soon forget. We would love to have you join us!

I hope that the season's "new beginnings" all exceed your expectations.

Sincerely,



[Donate Now](#)

Stuart D. Adelberg
Chief Executive Officer

PS: If your spring plans include "new beginnings" for your home - don't forget that the Habitat CFC ReStore will happily and gratefully accept donations of gently used furniture and other home goods. The ReStore is one of the primary sources of support for Habitat CFC's home building efforts. Additionally, reselling and recycling merchandise through the ReStore keeps over 800 tons a year of trash out of our landfills. It's a "win" no matter how you look at it!

All of us at Habitat CFC stand in solitude with the good people of Brussels and offer a sincere hope that we may soon see a world at peace.

News

Collegiate Challenges- Alternative Breaks that Make a Difference...

Every year Habitat CFC hosts a number of groups for our Collegiate Challenge, an alternative break program for students interested in volunteering in groups during their time away from school. In January we had Rutgers University and in March Providence College, Andrew College, SUNY Plattsburgh and Drexel University groups joined us.

All of the groups seem to have a great time volunteering with Habitat CFC! The students from Andrew College in Georgia created a collective journal of their recent adventures on their Collegiate Challenge in Bridgeport and of their trip to New York City! Check it here [AndrewServes Alternative Spring Break Blog](#).



Andrew College students at work



SUNY Plattsburgh students at their farewell dinner hosted by Habitat CFC staff and Habitat Homeowners

Our Collegiate Challenges will continue into July with Malden High School from Massachusetts, Stevens Academy, Cornerstone Church of Boston, Greens Farms Academy "Horizons" Program, St. Mary's of Massachusetts and St. Kateri of Schenectady, NY scheduled. If your group is interested in participating, please contact Eileen Bakos at volunteer@habitatcfc.org.

Fairfield County's Giving Day Exceeds All Expectations

March 10th was Fairfield County's Giving Day and Habitat CFC participated again this year. Hosted by Fairfield County's Community Foundation, Giving Day is a 24 hour online event to "Give Where You Live". Thanks to everyone who supported Habitat CFC for Giving Day! In a landslide day of giving, the third annual Fairfield County's Giving Day exceeded all expectations by raising a total of \$1,246,964.09. Not only did Giving Day as a whole raise more money for Fairfield county this year, Habitat CFC successfully raised more as well!



Church Pews at the ReStore Find a Home in St. Louis!



The ReStore in Stratford received a donation of 40 good quality wood pews from an anonymous donor who wanted to save them from ending up in a landfill and hoped they could be put to good use.

Meanwhile St. Joseph Croatian Church in St. Louis was updating their church and looking for pews. John Kozul, church volunteer and parishioner, said, "We couldn't afford new pews, so we were looking online all over the country to see if there were any that would work for us. Nothing was working, either the pews in the ad were already gone or they were too far away to pick up. We started refinishing the old ones, but it was taking a lot of time and labor and did not look good.

After more then a week we were exhausted and did not have even five completed!"

That's when parishioner, Slavko Jurcevic, found the ReStore pew ad online and Pastor Fr. Stjepan Pandzic made contact with ReStore Manager Rich Desautels to see if they were still available. "The pews had been in our store for a while, everyone thought they were beautiful, they were just too big for our regular customers to use. I was happy when St. Joseph Croatian Church contacted us for the pews. I said we would do whatever we

could to help get them to St. Louis," said Desautels.

The transportation was provided by the Jagar family, parishioners of the church. The drivers were sons Igor and Davor as well as their father Frank. With some heavy lifting, the pews are now in place and will serve the church's 450 families. "It is really amazing how this all worked out. The pews are perfect for our church. Thanks Habitat for helping us get them to their new home," said Kozul.

Volunteer

Put your talents to work for the Habitat CFC mission!

Have enough time for a one day build? [Go here](#)

Core Volunteer (one day a week or more) [Go here](#)

Are you able to make a longer commitment? Check these open positions:

[Grants Research Intern](#)

[AmeriCorps Construction Crew Leader \(2 positions available\)](#)

Upcoming Events

Youth United's 7th Annual Hoops for Habitat

Saturday April 9, 2016

McGivney Community Center, 338 Stillman St., Bridgeport

Join Habitat CFC for "Hoops for Habitat" a basketball-scoring competition, clinic and fundraising event to benefit Habitat CFC. The funds raised at Hoops for Habitat 2016 will be used to purchase materials for a fifth home-sponsored and built by Youth United.

Participants of the scoring contest will be divided into four divisions: elementary school (grades 1-5), middle school (grades 6-8), high school (grades 9-12) and college. Each contestant has a specific and limited amount of time to make as many baskets as possible. Prizes are awarded to the top scorer in each division.



2015 Hoops Participants

For more information contact Elizabeth Kemp at 203-333-2642 or ekemp@habitatcfc.org.

[Register Here](#)

**Save the Date! Another Great Opportunity to Support Habitat CFC's Women
Build**



It's Hammer Time!
Join Us for a Ladies Only Competition
to Raise Funds for
Women Build's 12th Home



WOMEN
Habitat CFC
BUILD

Wednesday, June 15, 2016
5:00 to 8:30 p.m.
Lower Fairfield County Location TBA

Get your team of 4 together and compete to be named the 2016 She Nailed It! Champions.

Habitat CFC's Women Build will be holding our first ladies only hammering competition - **She Nailed It!** to Raise Funds for Women Build, an initiative designed to recruit, educate and empower women to break stereotypes, build, and advocate for affordable housing in Fairfield County.

Get your team of 4 together and compete to be named the She Nailed It! Champions
A great opportunity to have fun and network with other women

Wednesday, June 15, 2016
5:00 to 8:30 p.m.
Featuring Appetizers, Desserts, Beer and Wine

Lower Fairfield County Location TBA

[More Information Here](#)

Or contact Eileen Bakos, Manager of Volunteer Services, at (203)333-2642
or volunteer@habitatCFC.org.

ReStore Finds . . .

Look What's New at the ReStore...



**Burgundy Home Theater
Seats - \$1,500**

[Check here](#)



**Espresso Glass Top Table
& 6 Chairs - \$599**

[Check here](#)



GE Drop-In Oven - \$499

[Check here](#)

For more info. on the store and to see items for sale, check the ReStore Facebook page [here](#).

More Ways to Get Involved



[DONATE](#)



[VOLUNTEER](#)



[APPLY](#)

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)



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Downsizing? Renovating? You Donate, We Pick Up!



1785 Stratford Ave., Stratford, CT 06615

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