



A Newsletter for Friends of Habitat CFC

## October 2015

### Greetings!

I recently met a couple who purchased a Habitat CFC home in 2001, when they were a young family in need of affordable housing. They purchased their house with the typical Habitat 0% mortgage after completing 500 hours of sweat equity and have successfully lived in their home since. The couple's children have now grown and have families of their own. Circumstances have led them to work fewer hours than they once did, and the couple decided to seek a smaller, less expensive home just for the two of them.



Today, Habitat CFC houses are sold with a deed restriction to ensure that they remain affordable, but this was not the case in 2001, so our couple was free to sell their home to any potential buyer. They chose not to do this, because they wanted another young, hard-working family to have the same opportunity that they had to purchase and raise their children in a safe, secure and loving home.

This week, that couple sold back their house to Habitat CFC so that we can sell it to another deserving family. At the same time, our couple was able to purchase a smaller home from Habitat CFC with a new 0% mortgage. There were many tears at the closing, as the couple contemplated leaving the home in which they had created many fond memories. There were also tears of joy knowing that they can now retire comfortably and affordably in their community, in yet another decent and stable Habitat home.

Thank you for making this possible!

Stuart D. Adelberg  
Chief Executive Officer

## News

**Wood Beams for Our 200th House Signed by Hundreds at 5K Race!**



Our 18th Annual Run for Home 5K hosted an enthusiastic and diverse running crowd at Seaside Park in Bridgeport earlier this October. The oldest runner was over 90 and the youngest in our main race was 7 years old! The Kid's Dash started the morning off and thanks to Donna Cramond and the Milford Road Runners Club each child proudly showed off their medal. The main race was off at 9am weaving runners along the Long Island Sound and through the park towards the finish line near the Christopher Columbus statue.

As part of Habitat CFC's 30th Anniversary celebration we invited each runner as they crossed the finish line to sign a wood beam sending messages of support and well wishes to future Habitat CFC homeowner, Rosalynn Hershiser, her two daughters, and 91 year old mother. Their Habitat CFC home will be the 200th home we have built! In the last 13 years, the Hershiser family has moved 6 times as Rosalynn coped with the high rents of Bridgeport. When asked what she is looking forward to the most about moving into her new home, she responded, "Just going into the front door, I'll be home at last. This is a dream come true. Our apartment is sparsely furnished, half my salary goes to rent. My goal has been to keep a roof over our heads and most of all, to keep my daughters and mother safe."

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### **What's it Like to Sleep Outside on a Cold Night? Our SHU Habitat Chapter Finds Out...**

Sacred Heart University's Habitat Chapter held its annual Sleep-Out on October 16th. The Sleep-Out was hosted on campus and open to the entire university. This annual 12-hour event occurred from 6:00pm to 6:00am allowing participants to discover some aspects of individuals living in poverty. Participants built houses out of cardboard boxes that they used as homes for the night. Throughout the brisk night, participants partook in educational activities about what Habitat for Humanity does as an organization and a future Habitat homeowner family spoke to the students to share their story.

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**World Habitat Day**

***1.6 billion people are in need of decent housing***

On October 5th, as in years past, Habitat for Humanity International joined with partners around the world to advocate for universal decent housing through raising awareness, educating and mobilizing individuals and communities to take action. World Habitat Day is the one day set aside annually to recognize the basic right of all humanity to adequate shelter, and to encourage grassroots action toward ending poverty housing. The United Nations General Assembly declared in 1985 that the first Monday in October would be World Habitat Day.



Here at Habitat CFC we had People's United Bank working with us. People's United Bank has 15 teams across 6 states focusing on World Habitat Day and World Habitat Month to raise awareness about the need for affordable housing. We are so grateful to People's United Bank for their efforts in helping Habitat.

### GE Blitz Time Once Again!

GE and Habitat CFC have had a long-term partnership working together to tackle the lack of affordable housing in Fairfield County. Each year hundreds of GE volunteers get their tool belts and hard hats out to help build with Habitat CFC during the company's United Way Campaign. Over the last 18



years GE employee volunteers have worked on 30 Habitat houses in the area which equals over 140 individuals served. This year, during the 2 weeks of volunteer days, over 300 GE volunteers worked on house 29 and 30 (30 - a fitting number as Habitat CFC turns 30 this year)! We thank GE for their continued efforts and look forward to seeing everyone next year!

### Welcome Danielle Todd, Our Newest AmeriCorps VISTA

**AmeriCorps VISTA** is the national service program designed specifically to fight poverty. The program was founded as Volunteers in Service to America in 1965 and incorporated into the AmeriCorps network of programs in 1993. VISTA members commit to serve full-time for a year at a nonprofit organization or local government agency, working to fight illiteracy, improve health services, create businesses and strengthen community groups.



Habitat CFC is fortunate to have **Danielle Todd** join us as our 6th VISTA in the last 4 years. Danielle graduated magna cum laude from the University of Connecticut in May 2015. She was in the Honors Program and received her B.A. in Psychology and Human Development and Family Studies. In her college career she found enjoyment being involved as a student leader for a program that tutors incarcerated men at a local prison and as a peer mentor for students struggling academically, primarily those on academic probation. A lifelong resident of CT, Danielle believes there is important work to be done right here in her community. She

chose to serve with Habitat because of the vital need for housing and the mission of Habitat to help break the generational cycle of poverty.

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### Did You Know:

Charitable contributions fill the gap between the actual cost of building a Habitat CFC home and the amount a hard-working, low-income family can afford.

## Upcoming Events



### Aitoro Gourmet Tasting and Fundraiser

Thursday, October 29th

6:00 - 9:00pm

Aitoro

401 Westport Avenue

Norwalk, CT

#### Welcome Culinary Hosts



#### and Celebrity Chef/Chopped Champion



Back by popular demand, Habitat CFC's Women Build is gearing up for our 7th Annual Gourmet Tasting Event featuring celebrity chef Silvia Baldini, the first woman in Fairfield County to be the Food Network's *Chopped* Champion. Funds raised from this well-attended and very special evening will support the building of a brand new home for a deserving, local family in need. We hope you will join us for a fun night out at the Aitoro showroom. Sample fantastic foods from area chefs/restaurants while enjoying great wine and conversation! **GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!**

[More information here.](#)

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**Double Home Dedication October 24th!**

Please plan to join us as we dedicate two more houses on Saturday, October 24th from 2:30 - 4:00pm at 665-667 Barnum Avenue in Bridgeport. We will be celebrating the completion of the our Women Build House #11 for the Alicia family and the house next door for the Santos family. Kindly RSVP to Liz Kemp at [ekemp@habitatcfc.org](mailto:ekemp@habitatcfc.org) or call (203)333-2642.

## More Ways to Get Involved



[DONATE](#)



[VOLUNTEER](#)



[APPLY](#)

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)



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1542 Barnum Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06610

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**Downsizing? Renovating? You Donate, We Pick Up!**



**1785 Stratford Ave., Stratford, CT 06615**

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