

Habitat for Humanity®

of Coastal Fairfield County



Maggie and Marlon Zepeda (2nd and 3rd from right), proud owners of a Habitat CFC house in Bridgeport dedicated to Pope Francis, are presented with a signed beam from Beacon Hill Church. Photographed here with Habitat CFC Staff.

Habitat CFC's November 2016 Newsletter



Dear Friends,

Imagine this story – Strong, hard-working families, feeling dissatisfied, for any number of reasons, with the life that they lead, decide courageously that it is time to make a change. They take a risk and put themselves out there when they learn of an opportunity to alter their lives in a dramatic, yet largely unknown way. The opportunity in front of them is exciting, but more than a little frightening. The families will enter uncharted waters and leave behind the comfort of the life they know, commit to hard work for an extended period of time, understand that the change they are about to make cannot readily be undone, all for the opportunity to live among strangers in a very different place with the hope that their new lives will be better than the old.

At the end of November, it would be safe to assume that the above is a retelling of the inspiring story of Thanksgiving, recognizing the success of the colonists we know as the Pilgrims, and celebrating the feast they shared with their new neighbors one year after arriving in the world known, even then, as America. And yet, this story could just as easily be about the families who seek to be homeowners through the Habitat CFC program. Though the distance traveled is certainly not as great, I can't help but see a correlation between the Pilgrims' quest for a new way of life culminating in the first Thanksgiving and a Habitat family's journey toward home ownership that ends with our traditional dedication ceremony and the first breaking of bread with donors, volunteers and neighbors in their new home. Please join us sometime soon at a home dedication - I promise you an inspiring and moving experience.

Though we all have many elements of our lives for which we appropriately feel extraordinarily thankful, we are

also blessed with the freedom and opportunity to dream, aspire and reach for something better. This is what drove the Pilgrims in 1620 and continues to drive our future homeowners almost 400 years later. Thank you for all that you do to make it possible.

I hope your Thanksgiving is a celebration of all that you cherish today and all that you dream for the future.

Sincerely,



Stuart D. Adelberg
Chief Executive Officer

November 29th is Giving Tuesday,
donations to Habitat CFC are always appreciated.

news

Beacon Hill Church Signs a Beam for the Pope Francis House Family



Kathy Vreeland of Beacon Hill Church

The students of Monroe's [Beacon Hill Church](#) Vacation Bible School (VBS) took up a mission this summer to raise funds for HabitatCFC's Pope Francis House. Over the course of a week, the students learned more about Habitat, the Zepedas (the future homeowners of the Pope Francis House) and collected \$2,500 to help the family.

"We decided to have all the students sign a beam with messages for the family. The kids really got into it," said Kathy Vreeland, a member of the church and coordinator of the VBS program. "I'm so proud of them for raising that much money and showing kindness to the Zepedas."

On a very happy day in November, the Zepedas closed on their new house and were also presented with the beam from the students which will be incorporated into the house so that the kids well wishes will remain with the family forever!!!

Franco Family Dedication



John Gomes, Chief Administrative Officer, City of Bridgeport, with the Franco family on the porch of their new home.



Xiomara Franco, a single mother, and her family had their Habitat house dedication earlier this month and will be moving into their new Bridgeport home before the cold winter begins!

The Francos have been living in substandard housing and are looking forward to moving into a Habitat Energy Star rated home. Their current apartment has had many problems, including a bathroom ceiling that caved in and dust in the apartment that has been problematic for one of the Franco boys, who suffers from chronic asthma. "We can't wait to be in a new environmentally safe home, that we can afford," said Xiomara Franco.

For more photos of the dedication, visit [here](#).

Meet our new AmeriCorps...



Help us welcome our three new AmeriCorps! **Matt Bewley** (AmeriCorpsVista, Construction Systems Development) center, **Emily Dreskin** (AmeriCorps Vista, Volunteer Development) right, and **Rachel Heiser** (AmeriCorps Direct, Construction CrewLeader) left!

Matt graduated from Harvard College in 2014, and came to Connecticut in 2015 for a year of VISTA service at the City of Bridgeport. Matt first started volunteering on Habitat builds in his hometown of San Antonio, TX, and was excited to find an opportunity to get more involved with Habitat in the community he's come to know over the last year. [Read more...](#)

Emily received her bachelor's degree from Purdue University in 2013 and began working at a trade association in Washington, D.C. After three years with the organization, she decided to make a change and returned home in search of an opportunity to continue in public service while preparing to attend law school. She hoped Habitat would be that opportunity and is excited to be here. [Read more...](#)

Rachel is originally from southern New Jersey. She has an Associate degree in Mathematics and recently graduated from Drexel University with a Bachelor's of Science, concentrating on Construction Management with a minor in Architecture. Over the past 3 years, Rachel has volunteered for Habitat with her college over spring break and was ecstatic to learn of the opportunity to volunteer for a longer period. [Read more...](#)

Youth United In Action...

Habitat CFC received a \$4,000 matching grant from State Farm for engaging youth in Habitat's important work. Our Youth United group has been busy raising the matching funds.... which will go towards the 5th Youth United Habitat house. Members raised over \$70,000 for the 4th Youth United house and hope to fundraise more for the 5th house! To learn more about Youth United and see a schedule of upcoming activities, check [here](#).



Sabrina and Naomi selling YU crafts at Habitat



Hannah, Colton and Alison at Sacred Heart University selling wooden items they made.



Meanwhile, YU members such as Kellie (L) and Emily (R) continue to work on Habitat projects.



Sarah (L) raised \$340 for YU with her lemonade stand and Paige (2nd from R) and Emma (R) raised \$460 at their Halloween party. Pictured with future homeowner, Michelle Hanson.

events



**2017 Benefit - Last year's event was off the charts
and you know we're going to top it this year!**

Saturday, February 25, 2017, 6:30 - 11:00 p.m.

**FAIRFIELD THEATRE COMPANY WAREHOUSE
70 Sanford Street, Fairfield, CT (Valet Parking)**

more info: www.habitatcfc.org/events/2017benefit

Stop By Our ReStore and See What's New

Multiple rooms covering over 40,000 sq. ft
displaying construction items, appliances and
home furnishings all for sale at discount prices!

1785 Stratford Avenue, Stratford

Just off exit 31 I-95
(store entrance is on Honeyspot Rd.)

ReStore Hours:

Tuesday-Friday 10am to 6pm

Saturday 9am to 4pm

Closed Sunday and Monday

Holiday Hours-

**Thanksgiving- Closed November 24, 25, 26. Reopening
Tuesday, November 29**

Christmas- Closed Saturday, December 24. Reopening
Tuesday, December 27

The ReStore accepts donations of furniture, appliances and home remodeling goods from companies and individuals. Call 203-383-4358 or email: donate@restorecfc.org if you need a pick up.

To stay up to-date on the ReStore happenings and daily inventory updates check the Restore Facebook page [here](#).



New items brought in daily!



visit our website

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