



Hartford Area
Habitat
for Humanity®

MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER

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Habitat for Humanity
North Central Connecticut

Karraine Moody with Mrs. Gail, Habitat's first homeowner and mission ambassador. This picture is from the North Hartford Renaissance Home Dedication in June 2024 (Barbour, Clark, Capen, Nelson and Westland Street homes).

DEAR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY NORTH CENTRAL CONNECTICUT COMMUNITY

As I prepare to step away from my role as Chief Executive Officer, I find myself reflecting on this incredible journey and all we have accomplished together. My time with Habitat began in Family Services, a role that allowed me to work closely with families, hear their stories, and witness their strength. It was here that I discovered the profound joy of helping families achieve the dream of homeownership—a mission that has fueled my passion for the past 20 years.

Over the past decade as CEO, I've had the privilege of leading HFHNCC through remarkable growth and transformation. Together, we:

- Increased the number of families served annually from 10 to 50 through innovative homeownership programs.
- Opened two ReStores (Bloomfield and Vernon) expanding resources and opportunities for our community.
- Grew our volunteer base from 2,000 to 4,500, fostering a stronger network of support.
- Revamped our infrastructure, creating a cloud-based system for greater efficiency.
- Became the first Habitat in Connecticut to build zero-energy homes, setting a new standard for sustainability.
- Expanded into Tolland County, extending our reach and impact.

These achievements are not mine alone—they belong to every volunteer, donor, partner, and staff member who has poured their heart into this mission. Together, we've also earned numerous accolades, including multiple Department of Energy Awards, recognition as a "Best Place to Work" for 10 consecutive years, and Charity Navigator's



Four-Star Charity rating since 2014. What amazes me most is not just the growth of our organization, but the lives we've touched and the communities we've strengthened. Supporting working-class families as they pursue the American dream has been the honor of my career.

As I transition to my next chapter, I leave knowing that HFHNCC is stronger than ever. Kris McKelvie, our previous Director of Construction was promoted to Chief Operations Officer and will become Chief Executive Officer in January 2026. Kris and I have worked together for 18 years and he will bring innovation and dedication to the mission. I am confident that this incredible community will continue to build hope, homes, and brighter futures for generations to come. Thank you for allowing me to serve alongside you.

In partnership and gratitude,

Karraine V. Moody
Chief Executive Officer
Habitat for Humanity North Central Connecticut

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As the New Year continues to unfold, the Habitat for Humanity North Central CT Board of Directors would like to extend our sincere appreciation to our sponsors, volunteers, staff, and families for your support throughout the past year. Whether through financial contributions, time spent volunteering, or simple acts of kindness, your involvement has been the driving force behind our ability to serve Hartford and Tolland Counties. Together, we have made a meaningful impact on the lives of those in need, and we are deeply grateful for your partnership in this mission.

A special note of thanks to Karraine Moody for her exceptional leadership over the past two decades. It has been a privilege working alongside you, and we are confident that Kris McKelvie's leadership will build on that legacy, advancing our mission and continuing to make a significant difference in the communities we serve.

As we look back on the past year, we also take a moment to honor the remarkable

legacy of Jimmy Carter. His lifelong commitment to affordable housing and service has left an indelible mark on Habitat for Humanity's mission, and his example continues to inspire us. We are deeply thankful for his contributions and remain dedicated to strengthening and uplifting communities in his spirit.

Lastly, we want to recognize our Board of Directors. This dedicated group, coming from diverse backgrounds, is united by a shared passion for Habitat's mission. Their guidance and commitment are critical to our ongoing work in providing safe, affordable homes for those in need.

Thank you for your continued support. As we embark on another year, we look forward to a year of hope, progress, and honoring the legacy of Jimmy Carter's service.

Crystal Floyd

President

Habitat for Humanity North Central Connecticut

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Crystal Floyd, President
- Donald Bates, Vice President
- Ellen Below, Treasurer
- Nakisha Farquharson, Secretary
- Cureene Blake
- Monica Blanco
- Sharon Cheeks
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- Max Cohen
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- Daniel Schilke



COO TRANSITION



I am excited to announce my advancement from Director of Construction to Chief Operating Officer (COO) at Habitat for Humanity North Central CT. This career shift represents a significant milestone in my 18-year journey with the organization. Over the years, I've had the privilege of leading innovative projects and cultivating strong, lasting relationships with our volunteers, donors, sponsors, vendors, and City/Town officials across Hartford and Tolland Counties. These connections will be invaluable in my new role, as I work to deepen our impact and continue advancing our mission.

During my career from an AmeriCorps National Member progressing to Director of Construction, I've had the privilege of working closely with our incredible team at Habitat. Having already built strong relationships with our talented staff and dedicated volunteers, I step into the role of COO with a deep understanding of our operations and a proven track record of collaboration. Together, we've prioritized sustainability, delivering Zero Energy Ready

Homes and earning multiple U.S. Department of Energy National Housing Innovation Awards. Through continuous improvements in building practices and waste reduction, we've made sure that our construction sites are not only safe and efficient but also welcoming and engaging for all involved.

As COO, I am eager to cultivate my relationships with City/Town officials, our trusted sponsors, and generous donors to continue to drive operational excellence and expand our reach. These long-standing partnerships will be key in creating opportunities for collaboration and our ability to continue our mission through tumultuous times. In addition to strengthening these relationships, I'm excited to hone my executive leadership skills and prepare to transition to CEO in 2026 following Karraine's departure. Together, with Habitat's faithful team, I look forward to building on our accomplishments and expanding our impact in the years ahead.

Kristopher McKelvie
Chief Operating Officer
Habitat for Humanity North Central Connecticut



550 BURNSIDE AVE PROGRESS

On June 15th 2023, HFHNCC celebrated it's 35th Anniversary with a groundbreaking celebration on Burnside Avenue. Immediately afterwards excavators started digging and setting footings, foundations, and slabs for the 10 new homes. By the end of Fall 2023, all 10 foundations were completed, backfilled, and covered to hibernate for the Winter. Volunteer engagement officially kicked off on May 1st, 2024, starting Habitat's annual month-long Women Build event. The teams of women framed 3 entire homes in 5 weeks!

Through the Summer and Fall, Habitat staff and dedicated volunteer crew leaders guided up to 30 corporate volunteers a day, 4 days a week. This included an extended Build-A-Thon event spanning from September into early November. Volunteers exceeded all expectations, framing walls, stairwells, porches, installing windows & doors, placing ductwork, and air sealing ALL 10 homes by the end of 2024. All the while subcontractors followed behind our volunteer teams installing the roof systems, vinyl siding, plumbing, electric, HVAC roughs, and even starting spray foam insulation, drywall, and flooring in some units. This Winter small crews are starting trim and finish work in half the units in the Spring of 2025 Women Build volunteers will return to help finish trim work, install hardware, landscaping, and wrap up

final details on a project they helped kick-off a year before. Over the Summer contractors will pave the driveways and complete finish electric and plumbing details setting up for final inspections in early Fall. We invite you to join us in November of 2025 when we formally celebrate the completion of Burnside Hope, a Zero Energy development and welcome the first-time homeowners!

Random Facts

- **1527 individual volunteers** have helped build on Burnside from May 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024.
- **19,000 hours of labor** from volunteers contributed to Burnside.
- **126 working days** on site.
- **65% of work completed** between May 2024 and December 2024.

Expansion to Tolland County - Looking for land referrals and qualifications!

Help us expand our affordable housing services into Tolland County! We are looking for buildable parcels throughout Tolland County, especially in Vernon and Stafford. If you own land or know of vacant property that could provide much needed housing, please reach out to construction@hfhnc.org!



Tom McGowan (Senior Construction Manager), Diana Gasca (Director of Construction), Nikki Bindell (Construction Supervisor) and Halsey Cook (Construction Supervisor)

7,566
Volunteer
Engagements

WOMEN BUILD 2024
325 Women Volunteers
2348.5 Hours of Volunteering
\$74,871 Raised

\$2,402,518
Raised for
Burnside Hope Build



OUR SPONSORS

- | | | | |
|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
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A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Volunteers!

As we reflect on the incredible progress we've made in 2024, one thing stands out above all—the unwavering dedication of our volunteers. You are the heart and soul of Habitat for Humanity of North Central Connecticut (HFHNCC). From laying foundations to sorting donations at our ReStores, your hard work, compassion, and commitment have made it possible for families to achieve the dream of homeownership.

"There's nothing quite like seeing the joy on a family's face when they walk into their new home for the first time. Volunteering with Habitat has been life-changing for me, and I'm grateful to be part of this amazing community."

Construction Volunteer

"Being part of Habitat's mission has given me a sense of purpose and connection like no other. Every day on-site is a reminder of how powerful teamwork and compassion can be."

Crew Leader

To each of you who gave your time, skills, and energy this year—thank you for being part of this life-changing journey. You've helped build more than homes; you've built hope and opportunity for families in need.

Save the Date

YOU'RE INVITED: VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST

06 | 04 | 25

We want to celebrate YOU and all you've done to make 2024 such a successful year! Join us for a special morning of gratitude, connection, and inspiration.

**MARRIOTT DOWNTOWN HARTFORD
200 COLUMBUS BLVD, HARTFORD, CT 06103**

Enjoy a delicious breakfast, hear inspiring stories, and connect with fellow volunteers and Habitat staff. This event is our way of saying THANK YOU for making a difference.

To all of our volunteers, past and present, thank you for making HFHNCC a place where hope grows and communities thrive. Your kindness, generosity, and hard work inspire us every day. Let's make 2025 even more extraordinary — together, we'll continue building brighter futures!

RESTORE UPDATES & PROMOTIONS

Here at our ReStores located in Bloomfield and Vernon, we look to not only raise funds for the mission, but to also help the community. Since October 2014, the Bloomfield ReStore has seen many great donations come in from both individuals as well as from companies like Lowes, Ashley Furniture, Huttig and so many more. Offered at discounted prices, these items help families get that couch, bed, or much needed appliances for well below retail prices. Thanks to our many great donations, we have multiple amazing customers that come in week to week, with some even popping in every day. Recently celebrating its 10th year, Bloomfield has helped support the community of Hartford County for a decade! Now with the addition of our Vernon ReStore, which opened in February 2022, we hope to do the same for the Tolland County community.

It's not only customers that help make a ReStore, though. Without volunteers, a ReStore wouldn't be able to function. Throughout 2024, both of our ReStores saw a total of 466 volunteers (individually or apart of a group) come in over 3,000 times! We have many great regulars who come multiple times a week. Those include the likes of Susan, Habitat Saints, Roger and Nick, Bill, Carol and Drew; all of whom are retired and want to help give back to the community. Corporate groups like Voya, Travelers and Cigna, as well fraternities,

sororities and school sports teams like the Hartford Hawks, come in throughout the year to help with everything from unloading trailers to organizing bulk donations. We see programs like Gengras (who have been coming in since day one in Bloomfield), FPC, FVTA, IEA and ASD come in one to three times a week, which not only helps the ReStore, but also helps give students real world experience and work skills. We would be nothing without our amazing volunteers, and we thank them so much!

With Matt's leadership, our generous donors, awesome customers and amazing volunteers, our ReStores will continue to help our communities for years to come. Our ReStores are located at 500 Cottage Grove Road in Bloomfield and 369 Talcottville Road in Vernon. Our hours of operation are Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 9-5 and Thursday 10-7. Donation drop-off and purchase pick-up hours end an hour before we close. For special hours or closures, keep an eye on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/HFHNCRestores/ to donate, please visit our website www.hfhnc.org/restore and fill out the donation form. If you have any questions, please give us a call at 860-519-0828 for Bloomfield and 860-541-2208 ext. 2213 for Vernon. For volunteer opportunities, please visit www.hfhnc.org/volunteer/



 **Habitat for Humanity**[®]
North Central Connecticut

ReStore 
www.hfhnc.org



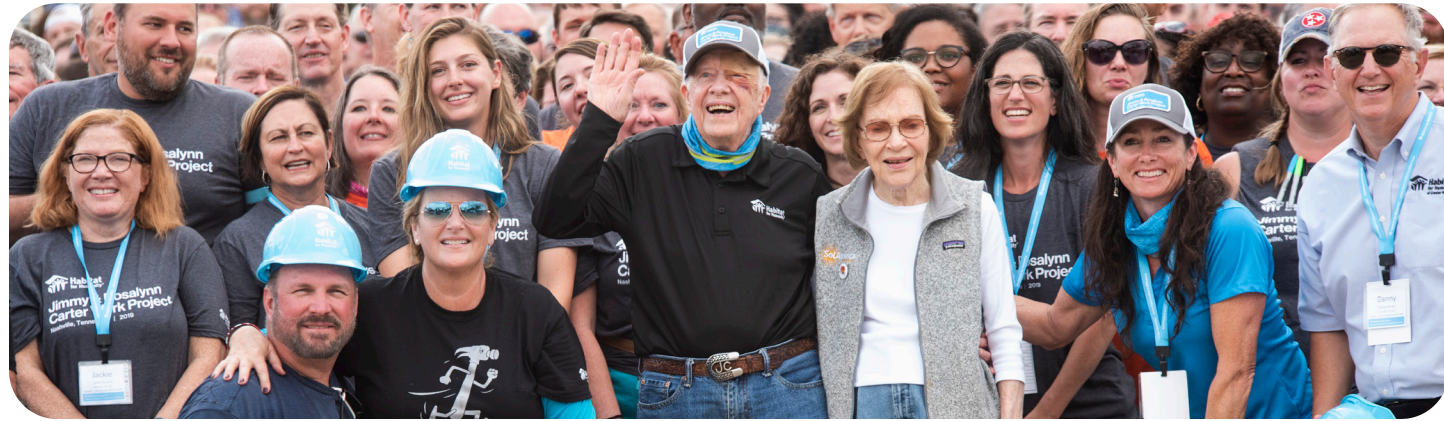
SHOP THE STORE THAT BUILDS HOMES



**369 Talcottville Road
Vernon Rockville, CT 06066**

**500 Cottage Grove Road
Bloomfield, CT 06002**

JIMMY CARTER MEMORIAM



In 2012, three years after a devastating earthquake, Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter hosted a Habitat Work Project in Leogane, Haiti. I volunteered on this trip along with local Habitat board members, Don Shaw and Tom Trumble. During that week 600 volunteers built 100 homes!

Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter built and ate alongside us each day. One evening, while I headed to the amphitheater to hear the Carter's speak, I stopped at the ladies' bathroom and ran into Rosalynn. She appeared to be overwhelmed by the array of pink and gray plywood stalls. I said, "Pick one, but make sure there's toilet paper!" Then I remembered that not all of them locked, so I said, "Use this one, the door locks." (Can you imagine the chagrin of some poor volunteer opening the stall door on Rosalynn Carter?) She chuckled and told me a story of visiting an elementary



Virginia deLima is a volunteer crew leader and remains active within the Habitat mission.

school. She used the girls' bathroom and got locked in a stall. I asked her if she had to crawl under the door and she told me there wasn't enough room, so she had to climb over the top!

When we were finished, she approached a sink, but there were no faucet handles. I opened the valve on the pipe hanging above the sink so she could wash her hands. She looked for the paper towels, but there were none. So I demonstrated how she could give her hands a good shake and then wipe them on her pants. She mimicked my moves and we had a good chuckle.

Between our giggles, I told her that I had supported the Carter Center almost from the beginning. My father had been very interested in international affairs and I contributed to the Center in his memory starting in 1987. When I started getting their literature, I was



so impressed that I have continued to support them ever since.

When we left the bathroom, Mrs. Carter grabbed me by the arm and dragged me over to where President Carter and his entourage were waiting. She said, "Jimmy, Jimmy, you have to talk to this woman, she's been a member of the Center since the beginning!" He asked me my name and where I was from. I told him, "I'm Virginia de Lima from West Hartford, CT and I have a question for you!"

During the presentation he described what he did "the other 51 weeks of the year" when not building for Habitat for Humanity. During the question and answer period at the end he shared, "I've already had one question. A lady accosted me on my way out of the men's room!" I will remember Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter not only for their great work with Habitat for Humanity, but for their great sense of humor!



Leave a Legacy of Hope with HFHNCC

Make a lasting impact by including Habitat for Humanity of North Central Connecticut (HFHNCC) in your estate planning. Legacy gifts ensure that future generations will benefit from safe, affordable housing and thriving communities.

We're proud to partner with the **Hartford Foundation for Public Giving** to offer an account for planned estate gifts. This trusted partnership ensures your generosity will support our mission for years to come.

Your legacy gift is more than a donation—it's a promise of hope, stability, and brighter futures for families in need.

Learn more about how you can leave a lasting legacy with HFHNCC by visiting <https://hfhnc.org/support> or contacting Suzanne Feola at suzanne@hfhnc.org



Volunteer Opportunities for 2025

As we look ahead, there are even more ways to make an impact in 2025!

- Build on-site
- Support the ReStore
- Join special events
- Advocate for Affordable Housing

Sign up to volunteer: hfhnc.org/volunteer



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North Central Connecticut

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Save the Date

JOIN US FOR THE BURNSIDE HOPE DEDICATION

