



# Leadership Update



Kris & Ryan with long-time Habitat volunteers and past board members at 2019 Carter Build. L-R: Don Shaw, Ryan, Kris, and Tom Trumble



Habitat for Humanity International celebrates its 50th anniversary this year! Habitat for Humanity was founded in Americus, Georgia with its roots built from Koinonia Farm, an interracial community where all people are treated equally, resources are shared, and great responsibility is placed on being wise stewards of land and natural resources.

Since its founding, Habitat for Humanity International has built homes, communities, and hope in more than 60 countries and has improved the living conditions of more than 62 million people. Habitat for Humanity affiliates, such as ours, are independent local non-profit organizations that further Habitat for Humanity’s mission on a community level.

As a donor, you can dictate where your donations should go. When you donate directly to Habitat for Humanity of North Central Connecticut your funds are used right here in Hartford and Tolland County. When you support Habitat for Humanity International, your funds are used globally. Both organizations use donations to help families secure safe and affordable housing.

If you want your funds to stay in your community, please make sure to make payments directly to Habitat for Humanity of North Central Connecticut. Visit our website for more information: [www.hfhnc.org](http://www.hfhnc.org)

Dear Habitat Friends and Supporters,

This past year marked a pivotal milestone for our organization as we completed a successful leadership transition. As I settle into the role of Chief Executive Officer, I am pleased to re-introduce Ryan Gorecki as our Chief Operating Officer. Ryan and I have worked closely alongside one another for 8 years, as program directors and Habitat advocates. We are excited to build upon our shared vision, deep institutional knowledge, and a strong commitment to Habitat for Humanity of North Central Connecticut’s mission.

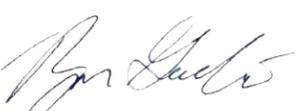
We extend our sincere gratitude to our board, staff, volunteers, donors, and partners whose dedication has ensured continuity, stability, and renewed momentum throughout this transition. Your collaboration has positioned our organization to move forward with confidence, intention, and presence as we enter our next period of growth.

As housing affordability and access challenges continue to expand across our region, our mission has never been more urgent. Families are facing rising costs, limited housing supply, and increasing financial instability—all conditions that demand both direct action and strong advocacy. In response, we have launched a comprehensive strategic planning process to ensure our programs, operations, and collective voices are aligned to meet this moment and the communities we serve.

While planning for the future, we remain deeply invested in what we do best. We continue to strengthen and grow our existing programs, from high-performance home construction and homeowner education, to our ReStores and community partnerships—all while expanding our role as an advocate for equitable housing solutions.

Looking ahead, not only are we committed to building homes, but to shaping the very systems and policies that make decent, safe, and affordable housing solutions possible for all. Thank you for standing with us; together, we will continue to build strength, stability, and self-reliance for families throughout North Central Connecticut.

  
 Kristopher McKelvie  
 Chief Executive Officer

  
 Ryan Gorecki  
 Chief Operating Officer

# A Message from the President

As we move further in to the New Year, the Board of Directors of Habitat for Humanity North Central CT extends our sincere gratitude to the sponsors, volunteers, staff, and families who made the past year possible. Your generosity —whether through financial support, hands-on service, or everyday acts of kindness—has been the driving force behind our work across Hartford and Tolland Counties.

Because of you, families have gained stability, communities have grown stronger, and lives have been changed. We are deeply grateful for your partnership in providing safe, affordable housing for those who need it most.

We are especially excited to welcome our new CEO, Kris McKelvie, whose vision, fresh perspective, and dedication will help us to build upon the strong foundation laid by past leadership and to expand our impact in the years ahead.

Looking forward, we are committed to developing a new strategic plan that reflects the evolving needs of families in Hartford and Tolland Counties. By listening closely to our communities, we will continue to adapt and respond thoughtfully to the housing crisis, ensuring our work remains relevant, effective, and rooted in real need.

I also extend heartfelt appreciation to our dedicated Board of Directors. United by a shared passion for Habitat’s mission and strengthened by diverse perspectives, their leadership and commitment remain essential to our continued success.

Thank you for being part of this mission. Together, we move into the year ahead with renewed purpose, shared optimism, and hope, confident in the lasting change we can create through partnership.

  
 Crystal Floyd, President  
 Habitat for Humanity North Central Connecticut



## 2026 Board of Directors

- Crystal Floyd, President
- Donald Bates, Vice President
- Ellen Below, Treasurer
- Nakisha Farquharson, Secretary
- Cureene Blake
- Monica Blanco
- Indrani Chakraborty
- Ian Cohen
- Douglas Elliot, Jr.
- Brian Romell
- Daniel Schilke



Crystal with colleagues from Fairview Capital Partners participating in 2025 Women Build

# Construction Updates

## 9 Mahl, Hartford | Interior Finishes in Progress

Build-A-Thon volunteers framed up this home in record time! By October, the house was fully weatherized, with windows, doors, and siding completed before the winter weather rolled in.

Work did not stop over the holidays, as our dedicated volunteers completed the “roughing in” of the plumbing, HVAC, and electrical systems. In January and February, insulation, air sealing, and drywall were installed, and now this spring we are focused the interior finishes. Completion of this project is on track with a dedication planned for June 16, 2026.



## 5 Mahl, Hartford Coming Soon



Right next door to our current project on Mahl, we are preparing to break ground on a new single-family home. This property will feature 4 bedrooms and 2 full bathrooms. Volunteers will begin framing in May 2026 during our annual Women Build.

## 60 Benham, Bristol A Warm Return



We are officially returning to Bristol! After completing two side-by-side homes in 2020, we are thrilled to announce that we have received permits to build a new 3-bedroom, 1.5-bathroom home. Join us on March 31, 2026, for a Groundbreaking Ceremony to mark the start of construction.

## 224 & 226 Main St, East Hartford Continuing Our Growth



Permits for two new single-family homes on Main Street are currently under review. Utilizing the same architectural style as the Burnside Hope Development, these side-by-side residences will each feature 4 bedrooms, 1.5 bathrooms, and an attached garage. We look forward to welcoming Build-A-Thon teams to start framing in September 2026.

# Meet the Construction Team

If you’ve stepped onto one of our construction sites since 2017, you’ve likely met Tom McGowan and experienced his goofy and welcoming presence. Tom has the unmatched ability to turn a daunting task into a teaching moment, patiently empowering volunteers of all skill levels, and making you laugh as you learn. We are beyond grateful for his kindness, support, and expertise helping to build and rehab more than 30 homes during his time with us. We wish Tom the very best and look forward to seeing him on site as a volunteer Crew Leader in the future.



**Tom McGowan**  
Happy Retirement!

“Reflecting on my first year as Director of Construction, I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to drive meaningful change in our community. Building upon the strong foundation laid by my predecessor, our focus remains on delivering energy-efficient housing and expanding our reach to serve more families. We are a new team, building on a long legacy, bringing fresh eyes and a deep-seated passion to the essential work of providing safe, dignified housing to our community.”

**Diana Gasca**  
Director of Construction



“I have been with HFNCC for 2 years. I pursued a job in construction because I have always loved building things and having done AmeriCorps, I was able to transition nicely into the role of Site Supervisor. My favorite parts of working in construction are the hands-on and problem-solving aspects of the job. My proudest moment on a build site has been seeing volunteers in the houses I’ve supervised. My advice for women thinking about entering the trades is to do what you love and don’t be afraid to be yourself.”

**Nicole Bindell**  
Site Supervisor



“I have been with Habitat North Central CT since March 2025. I used to volunteer for Habitat for Humanity in college, and I found it an incredibly gratifying experience to get to work with my hands and become fully immersed in a project. It’s hard to choose a favorite part of construction, but there is a certain artistry to the work that I really enjoy. There’s something very fulfilling about helping to create a beautiful house.”

**Julia Haynes**  
Assistant Site Supervisor



“I decided to start a career in construction mostly because of the mission of this organization. It was an opportunity for me to be able to put some good out into the world physically rather than from behind a screen. My favorite part of this job is getting to interact with so many like-minded individuals and teach the volunteers/homeowners the skills they need to perform home repairs, while inspiring them to be proactive in their own humanitarian beliefs.”

**Juan Nieves**  
Assistant Site Supervisor



“My inspiration to pursue a career in construction came from my experiences and journey with working with my hands and being in these spaces. I learned that I could use this gift to serve the community, which is a very special thing I think God gave me and I’m so happy I can be a vessel to help fulfill something so beautiful. I love seeing the finished product! One moment there’s nothing and then BAM! There’s something. Creation is so beautiful.”

**Vanina Perry**  
Assistant Site Supervisor



**Did you know?**  
All new homes are built to Zero Energy Ready & Fortified Roof standards!



# Family Services

## Congratulations & Welcome

In November 2025, we proudly welcomed the Burnside Hope families home to the East Hartford community. This milestone project represents the very best of our mission: a thoughtfully designed, Zero Energy Ready, 10-home development made possible by the dedication of so many generous partners and volunteers. As winter set in, these families now have warm, affordable, and comfortable homes to call their own, turning a shared vision into a lasting reality.



### Applicant Information Meeting (AIM) - Coming Soon!

Anyone is welcome to attend an AIM session to learn about our homeownership program and pick up an application. The homeowner application process is designed to ensure fair access and long-term success. Interested families complete an application that is reviewed based on need for housing, ability to partner with Habitat, and ability to pay an affordable mortgage. Check our website to join our next AIM: <https://hfhnc.org/homeownership/>



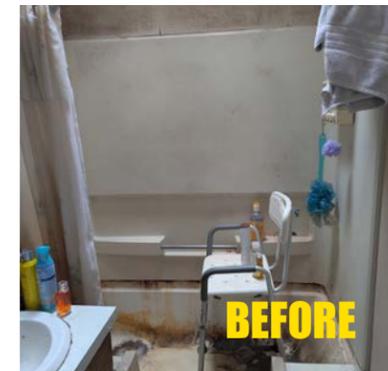
## A Brush with Kindness (ABWK) Program

A Brush with Kindness is a program that assists low-income families in repairing and renovating their homes so they can continue to live in their home safely.

ABWK focuses on assisting the elderly, veterans, and those with limited mobility by providing a 0% interest loan for the repairs. Download an application from our website: <https://hfhnc.org/a-brush-with-kindness/>

### 2025 Highlights

- Completed 8 home repairs for local homeowners.
- Two homeowners paid off their repair loans in full.
- 2 HVAC systems were replaced in West Hartford and Hartford.
- 1 accessible bathroom remodel completed in East Hartford.
- 4 roof replacements: 2 in Bloomfield, Ellington, and Bristol.
- 1 deck/porch rebuild in Hartford



"I am committed to ensuring every family has access to a decent place to call home. Guided by compassion and community, I work carefully alongside families and partners to build pathways towards homeownership, creating lasting hope and communities where every family can flourish."

**Tracy Thomas**  
Director of  
Family Services



"Everyone deserves the dignity of growing older in the place they call home. I'm committed to helping vulnerable seniors and homeowners with disabilities age safely and comfortably in their homes. By connecting them to resources, coordinating repairs, and opening doors to interest-free financing, they can thrive in their homes and communities."

**Guirlene Morales**  
Community  
Engagement Manager



## Building Strength, Stability, and Self-Reliance—Together

In 2025, Habitat for Humanity of North Central Connecticut continued its mission of bringing people together to build homes, communities, and hope. We are reminded that safe, affordable housing is more than shelter—it is the foundation for opportunity and a stronger future.

This work would not be possible without our dedicated volunteers. Last year, 1,800 individuals supported our mission by assisting in our ReStores, supporting events, and helping complete the 10-home Burnside Avenue development in East Hartford.

Together, we continue to:

- Expand access to affordable homeownership
- Support ReStore operations that help fund our housing mission
- Engage corporate, student, faith-based, and individual volunteers



### Our volunteers say

“Excellent support and teaching. Everyone involved is friendly and positive.”

“Friendly environment, feel welcomed and appreciated.”

“Provides us with organized work for the day and tries to keep all volunteers engaged in the activities of the day. Also, a safe work environment.”

“Habitat makes sure that the volunteers are comfortable performing the tasks that are assigned to them, making sure that they are safe and that the task is done correctly.”

## Thank You to Our Volunteers:

Dear Habitat Volunteers,

Thank you for the time, energy, and heart you share with Habitat for Humanity of North Central Connecticut. Your commitment to our mission makes a lasting impact on the families we serve and the communities we build together.

Whether you support us on construction sites, at our ReStores, through administrative support, or by lending your skills behind the scenes, your efforts are essential to our work. Because of you, we can create safe, affordable housing and help families build strength, stability, and self-reliance.

We are deeply grateful for your generosity, flexibility, and dedication. Habitat’s success is made possible by volunteers like you, and we truly could not do this work without your support.

Thank you for being part of the Habitat community and for all that you do to help build a better future in North Central Connecticut.

With sincere appreciation,

*Marisa Wilson*  
Marisa Wilson  
Volunteer Manager



### In 2026 and beyond, we plan to

- Expand volunteer opportunities across construction and ReStores
- Enhance training and volunteer support
- Deepen partnerships with corporate and community groups
- Continue to create meaningful, mission-driven experiences

## Builds & Events 2026

<b>March 31</b> <b>9am</b>	60 Benham St Groundbreaking
<b>May 6</b> <b>9am</b>	5 Mahl Wall-raising
<b>May</b>	Women Build
<b>June 16</b> <b>9am</b>	9 Mahl Dedication
<b>Sept/Oct</b>	Build-A-Thon
<b>Oct 26</b>	Golf Tournament



## Where We're Building in 2026

9 Mahl Ave, Hartford  
5 Mahl Ave, Hartford  
60 Benham St, Bristol  
224 & 226 Main St, East Hartford



## Honor a Lasting Legacy



Legacy gifts and donations made in memory of loved ones are powerful ways to honor those who have shaped our community. These meaningful contributions ensure that their compassion and values live on through safe, affordable housing for future families.

To learn more, visit our website:  
<https://hfhnc.org/ways-to-support/>

# Development Updates

## Women Build

Last year, 288 women volunteers brought energy, skill, and heart to Women Build, helping us complete the Burnside Hope Project in East Hartford. Their dedication and joyful spirit made a meaningful difference in this new community.

Women Build returns this year from April 29th through May 30th, helping to launch construction of 2 new homes. We invite groups of eight women to join us for a day of hands-on work, learning alongside our experienced construction team, and making a tangible impact in support of our mission.

## Golf Tournament

Join us for a day of golf, goodwill, and giving back on October 26th at The Hartford Golf Club. Register by emailing [golf@hfhnc.org](mailto:golf@hfhnc.org)



## Build-A-Thon

The 2025 Build-A-Thon was an outstanding success, with 310 corporate volunteers coming together to frame a new home on Mahl Avenue in Hartford. In just two months, the teams exceeded expectations by completing the exterior of the home, an incredible demonstration of teamwork and commitment!

We welcome our corporate partners back for the 2026 Build-A-Thon beginning September 2nd. Schedule your build day and make an impact again this year!



## The Playhouse Build Program

A unique opportunity for a small team to help sponsor a Habitat home while engaging in a meaningful, fun, hands-on team building experience. In just one day, your team will build, paint, and decorate a playhouse to match a child's preferred theme. The playhouse is donated to an excited young child and their family or a local non-profit serving children (daycare, library, school). Reach out today to learn more and to schedule your Playhouse Build experience!



## Interfaith Community

The Interfaith Community is made up of teams of all faiths, denominations, and walks of life united to support Habitat's work and make a meaningful difference in the local community.

Teams bring incredible energy and enthusiasm throughout the year, always ready to step in and help when needed. These steadfast partnerships continue to be a source of strength and inspiration for our mission.



If your faith group is interested in engaging with us, please reach out to [ryan@hfhnc.org](mailto:ryan@hfhnc.org)

Contact Suzanne Feola to schedule or inquire about any of these events at [suzanne@hfhnc.org](mailto:suzanne@hfhnc.org)

**Suzanne Feola**  
Director of Development



# Corporate Recognition

In a year marked by uncertainty, our mission and the homes we build would not have been possible without the unyielding support of our corporate donors and volunteers. Their generosity, both financial and hands-on, has made a meaningful and lasting impact for the families and communities that we serve.

Thank you to all of our incredible Corporate Partners who have helped hardworking Habitat families move closer to the dream of homeownership.

Is your organization looking for an impactful opportunity to support your local community?

Please reach out to Suzanne today to help us build affordable and sustainable homeownership solutions! [suzanne@hfhnc.org](mailto:suzanne@hfhnc.org)

**In 2025, our Corporate Partners helped us achieve the following milestones:**

**110** Corporate & Foundation Partnerships

Over **\$1.5 million** in critical funding raised

Over **\$60,000** in employee giving, matching, and peer-to-peer fundraising donations

**950** Volunteer Supporters

Over **8,000** volunteer hours



# ReStore Director Handoff



After 12 remarkable years, Matt Boyne is retiring from his role as Director of ReStore Operations. We are deeply grateful for his leadership, dedication, and the lasting impact he has made on our organization and community.

We are excited to announce that on July 1, 2026, Jahaira Rivera will step into the role of Director of ReStore Operations. A trusted leader and valued member of our community, Jahaira understands not only what we do, but why we do it. As a Habitat homeowner herself, she brings firsthand insight into the power of homeownership and the meaning of hope. She has worked closely with Matt for the last 12 years and they have planned this transition process together.

Please join us in thanking Matt for his years of service and welcoming Jahaira as she leads our ReStores in Bloomfield and Vernon into their next chapter of growth.



**We sell and accept gently used:**

- Appliances
- Lighting & Plumbing Fixtures
- Kitchen & Bath Cabinets • Counters
- Doors • Windows • Furniture (Home/Office) • Tools... and more.

**To make a donation, please scan or visit:**



[hfhnc.org/restore](https://hfhnc.org/restore)

or call 860-519-0828 for more info

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**ReStore VOUCHER**

**10% off your entire purchase**

Please cut out voucher and present at Bloomfield or Vernon ReStore at the time of purchase

Only valid at the Habitat for Humanity of North Central CT ReStores located at:

<p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">Bloomfield</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">500 Cottage Grove Rd 860-519-0828</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">Vernon</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">369 Talcottville Rd 860-454-6305</p>
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Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday 9-5 and Thursday 10-7  
Check Google listings for closures

Expires: June 30, 2026



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# SAVE THE DATE

## 6.16.2026 • 9 Mahl Ave

### Dedication Ceremony



Join us for a heartwarming ceremony at 9:00am to welcome home the Lopez family. Followed by an open house and refreshments.



Funded in partnership with  
The City of Hartford and Travelers



**Habitat for Humanity**  
North Central Connecticut

HFHNCC.ORG

**BEST PLACES  
HBJ TO WORK  
IN CONNECTICUT**

**2026 AWARDS**

Together We Build Hope.