

November 2017



Last 2 Years

Dear Friend,

In 1987 in New London County and 1994 in Eastern Windham County, volunteers with a vision and incredible passion, formed Habitat for Humanity affiliates to address the poverty housing situation in their respective areas. Today, the vision and passion are still alive and still making a difference thanks to you.

The service area stretches some 50 miles from Woodstock to New London, includes 30 towns and an estimated 329,000 residents. Of these residents, 1 in 10 live in poverty and 1 in 4 struggles with affording the basic things that make life healthy, safe and full of potential – food, education, healthcare and a stable, secure shelter.

Addressing the need at the heart of a thriving life, stable safe shelter is the work undertaken so long ago and continued today. Has it made a difference? We will share some snapshots with you, and you can decide if it has. If you agree the work matters, we hope you will continue to help us reach more families with a gift today.



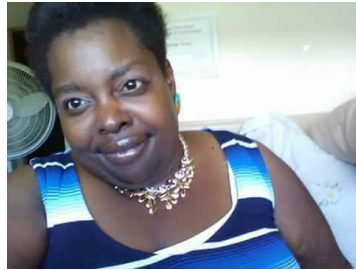
2009 - When Stacey applied she and her son were living with family in an overcrowded two bedroom home. Her brother slept on the sofa, her parents had the other bedroom. She was our youngest applicant ever, but she was determined and the board voted to give her a chance.



2017 – Asked recently what she is most proud of since purchasing her home – “I went back to school to get my associates in early Childhood education.”



In 1987, sisters Lois and Phyllis helped renovate their home, moved in, raised their children and grandchildren; now their grandchildren are having children.



Their home is paid off. Sadly Phyllis passed away last year, but her unit is still home to yet another generation. Habitat's solution creates a tangible, long lasting community asset affecting generations.

When Guerrina was approved to purchase a Habitat home in 2005 her goals were "to find safety, security, freedom, pride, and a place where she can welcome others in."

Asked recently about her ownership experience she shared these thoughts. "There is a continued sense of safety, stability, and hope, as well as feeling in control of our living situation and not at the whim of someone else's choices for us. Our family has a shared focus of taking care of our property and home. It has given us a chance to host a single mom's group, family get togethers, and my grandson does not have to wonder where he will live or go to school.



Sounds like she achieved her goals! We then asked her what she would like others to know about the Habitat for Humanity program. "Working with Habitat is an amazing opportunity; to not only own your own home, but to gain many skills: life, relationship, team-building. Habitat says you're worth it even when you don't believe that of yourself."

These three households worked hard for the opportunity to own a simple decent home that you made possible. They make mortgage payments, pay property taxes and maintain their properties with a sense of pride. Together they have already contributed \$123,423 in

mortgage payments helping families that follow them realize the same opportunity they were provided.

Your gifts combined with their payments transform not just a construction site or piece of property; they transform people, those who are the beneficiaries as well as those who come to help.

Working with Habitat is an incredibly rewarding experience. It is spiritually rewarding. It allows us to work side by side with individuals who, no matter who they are, where they come from, what their economic, religious, educational background is, they are able put aside differences to help others, to put their love of humankind into action.

This love is so powerfully demonstrated, that it creates events that tend to transform our work. Like the time when we wished out loud for the donation of homes to renovate that were built in the 1950's or later. The following week we received three private donations of 1950's ranches. Or more recently, when we decided to build a new version of a duplex, something we had not done in more than a decade, the next week we received an offer of a 13 acre parcel of land pre-approved for multifamily housing. When we decided to accept this 13 acre parcel with the potential to build 28 homes, the next call we received was about a parcel even larger.

I have learned to pay attention to these events as they lead us in the direction of helping still more families. Please stay engaged with us, the need is great and the opportunity to do more is at our doorstep.

The key is you. Please be as generous as you can, thank you,



Sincerely,

Terri O'Rourke  
Executive Director and CEO

**Since 1987, 278 individuals have been sheltered locally, an estimated 333 sheltered internationally, and more than 300 individuals have been assisted through referrals to local agencies.** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XQZ-DADyKys>

**please give locally**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I would like to help families build a better future through Habitat for Humanity of Eastern Connecticut's shelter program.  
Count on me for the following:

- \$250    \$100    \$50    Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 Enclosed check    10% for Hurricane Relief  
(check for yes)  
 Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_ CSC \_\_\_\_\_ (3 digit code on back)



You can also make an immediate "secure" donation at [www.habitatct.org](http://www.habitatct.org)

 **Habitat for Humanity**  
of Eastern Connecticut

**thank you**



Christmas Cards for holiday mailing or a great alternate gift idea, please order by Dec 5.

4 Design options

10 cards per bundle

\$5.00 donation per bundle suggested

How many bundles of 10 cards \_\_\_\_\_

Which Card Design # \_\_\_\_\_ (1, 2, 3 or 4)

For more information on the cards please go to [www.habitatct.org](http://www.habitatct.org)

