

March 2020



Habitat News

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have temporarily closed our office to the public, suspended all volunteer activity, and closed ReStore until April 7. However, as much of the world comes to a standstill, our staff and partner families continue to work diligently at our build sites -- building safe, decent shelter in which these families can thrive.



At Habitat, we believe that everyone deserves a safe, decent, affordable place to call home -- and if you've been staying home lately, you know what we mean. But, consider that many families in Hampden County cannot take shelter in a safe and secure place during these trying times because, to them, the cost of a decent home remains too far out of reach. That is unacceptable.

Furthermore, 1 in 6 households in Massachusetts are paying half or more of their income on housing, putting them at risk for eviction or foreclosure during the COVID-19 pandemic. That is why we are asking you to join us in asking Congress to support housing stability and nonprofits working to serve these families during this critical time. Raise your voice [HERE](#).

Together, we can make the cost of home something we all can afford.

International Women Build Week

We'd like to thank everyone who volunteered with us during

International Women Build Week.

Habitat for Humanity's International Women Build Week is an annual week-long event created by Habitat's Women Build program in partnership with Lowe's and is held March 1-8, the week leading up to International Women's Day.

The event calls on women across the globe to raise a hammer to spotlight the need for safe and affordable housing and provides the tools for women to empower and educate themselves on skills used when repairing and restoring homes.

This year, approx. 6,000 women volunteers united in more than 235 communities in the United States, India and Canada to build and improve 500 homes while raising awareness of housing issues facing women and their families.

Thank you to members of the Springfield Thunderbirds front office, and the many individuals who participated with GSHFH this year. Thank you, Foster Memorial Church, for providing volunteer lunches.



Welcome, New Board Member

GSHFH is pleased to announce the appointment of Janet Rosenkranz to its board of directors. Janet is currently a Vice President/Credit Officer at Greenfield Cooperative Bank and brings with her a wealth of knowledge in the credit industry.



2020 Census

By April 1, 2020, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. You will have three options for responding:

- Online.
- By phone.
- By mail.

The results of the 2020 Census will help determine how federal funding flows into communities every year for the next decade. That funding

affects many different aspects of every community, including affordable housing.

Learn more at

<https://2020census.gov/en.html>



Homeownership Applications

Due to the disruption the COVID-19 pandemic has caused to operations, we are suspending all new homeownership applications until further notice. Please check our website

www.habitatspringfield.org for updates as conditions may change.

Thank you for your continued support

We continue to need your moral and financial support as we navigate this current public health crisis together and continue to serve those in need. We look forward to the day when we can have volunteers out at the build site again, and work face-to-face with our many community partners to help those in need.

Until then, if you are able to support GSHFH with a donation, please do so [HERE](#).



Follow GSHFH on Facebook and Instagram.



ReStore Update

You never know what you'll find at ReStore...

Amid the recent school closings, many children are forced to do



their learning from home. Last week, we happened to receive several school desks from a donor. A local shopper, who needed desks for her children at home, saw them and purchased them right away! THANK YOU DONOR AND SHOPPER! Here's hoping for good grades!

We look forward to serving the community again soon - as of

now it looks like ReStore will reopen on April 8!

ReStore is located at 301 East Main St., Westfield, Mass. All proceeds support GSHFH programming designed to help local families in need of safe, decent, affordable shelter.

*We appreciate your cooperation in not dropping off any items while we are closed, as we do not have a drop off container.

Learn more about ReStore at www.habitatspringfield.org/restore